

BRECKSVILLE

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Divine Source of our lives and our world, you invite us to be open and honest about our thoughts, feelings, and motivations; yet sometimes we are afraid and ashamed. Help us to bravely face our weakness and failings, trusting that the abundance of your love and grace will always uphold us and sustain us. Amen.



Fourth
SUNDAY
IN
LENT

Sunday March 11, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are male, female, or transgender,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,

Or a life-long member of the UCC,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place,

Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!

WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS

We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour:

- ✧ Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery.
- ✧ Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers.
- ✧ Crayons and paper for children are also available from ushers.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

March 18, 2018 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we lift up our hearts to you, giving thanks for your steadfast love that saves, restores, and redeems us. Open our minds and our spirits to new insights and inspiration, so that we might be able to live according to your loving purposes. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Lifted High

Scottish folk melody, arr. Bell

"Lifted high on your cross,
drawing all folk, drawing all folk;
lifted high on your cross,
drawing all folk to you."
Ian Cowie (1923-2005)

* Call to Worship

Leader: In this season of Lent, as we journey toward the Cross,

People: We remember that the Holy One goes with us on our journey.

L: Even when we find ourselves wandering in the wilderness,

P: Divine Presence and Power will sustain us.

L: For God so loved the world,

P: That God sent Jesus to show us the way.

L: For God so loved the world,

P: That God has promised to never abandon us.

L: For God so loved the world,

P: That God found a personal way to express it.

L: In Jesus the Christ, we see and receive the fullness of Divine Love and Grace!

All: Thanks be to God!

* Hymn of Praise

God Is Truly with Us

#68

* Prayer of Invocation [unison]

Divine Source of Grace and Glory, when troubles and dangers surround us, when we seem to have lost our direction, when our path is rocky and our future unclear - come to us and surround us with your Holy Peace. Help us to remember that there is nothing in life or death that can ever separate us from your love, which is revealed to us fully in Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Guide, and our Friend. Amen.

* The Song of Praise

Gathered Here - #742 [sung 2 times]

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two measures of the melody, with a '1' above the first measure and a '2' above the second measure. The second staff contains the next two measures, with a '3' above the first measure and a '4' above the second measure. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Gath-ered here in the mystery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong
bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

The Old Testament

Numbers 21:4-9

Pew Bible, page 139

The New Testament

John 3:7-17

Pew Bible, page 93

The Continuing Testament

from *God's Offensive Love*

by David Lose

Youth Anthem

Thank You, God, for Sending Jesus
[Joyful Noise Choir]

Traditional

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

The Power of Your Love

Bullock

Sermon

Why Did It Have to be Snakes?

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

#605

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

[we use "Mother" to reflect our theological understanding of the Inclusive Nature of The Holy One]

...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Theme Jannequin

setting Alain

*** Offertory Hymn**

**We now are in the time of Lent,
To learn again what Jesus meant.
His life and message are so great,
We send these gifts to celebrate. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

Faithful Holy One, your love comes not only in word, but also in the person of Jesus Christ. As Christ brought hope and healing to the world through his acts of kindness and self-giving, so may our kindness and our giving bring hope and help to our world today. Bless these offerings presented here, that they may be used to strengthen and advance the work of your Church. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Surely No One Can Be Safer

#487

*** Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

Acolyte

*** Circle of Community**

Hear Our Prayer, O God - sung twice

*As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Hear our Prayer, O God.** After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The music consists of simple chords and single notes, suitable for a congregational hymn.

***Benediction**

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Stan McCain, Lou Borzy, Donn Whyte, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, Shirley Duncan, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)

Attendance March 4, 2018 – Adults: 79 Kids: 19 Total: 98

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

WE WELCOME VISITING PARENTS -We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour: Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery. Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers. Crayons and paper are also available from ushers for children.

A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION within the Christian Church is to "put away" hymns or verses which contain "Alleluias", and to set a more reflective tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday, our "Alleluias" and praise can ring-out with renewed freshness and vigor, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different Song of Praise and concluding hymn for the benediction today.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – Let us be good stewards of the blessings we hold. Next Sunday, March 18th, we will take up our **One Great Hour of Sharing** collection. This Offering goes towards funding health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, and refugee ministries. Please give as you would want to receive.

THANK YOU TO ALL who participated in the hunger meal at Bethany last Sunday. Several people showed up and provided all the man (and woman) power needed. Only about 30 persons came for the meal (about 60 were anticipated). The cookie response was overwhelming – we were impressed by the gross tonnage of cookies. As you might guess, many, many cookies were left, even after we gave out as many cookies as we could. Thank you again to all who participated.

TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY“**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**, for they shall be called children of God.” This Tuesday, from 7:00-8:15 pm in Pilgrim Hall, we will be discussing ways in which you and I, as Children of God, can be peacemakers in our community and in our world today. This is part of this year’s Lenten Study,. ***How on Earth Can We be Spiritual?*** For this series, we’ve been looking at *The Beatitudes* which are found in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in *Matthew*, and in Jesus’ “Sermon on the Plain” in *Luke*. In addition we are utilizing some intriguing insights from a set of daily devotional readings by Franciscan priest Richard Rohr. Plus, we share the issues, questions, thoughts and ideas that each of you bring to the table!

Our final topic next week, March 20th, will be *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake*.

MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: www.brecksvilleucc.org. It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

NAME TAGS are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and new members to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the ***Monthly Pillar***.

THE BLESSINGS JAR is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

THE PEACE CANDLE is placed up front every Sunday to remind us of Jesus’ teachings on peace and peacemakers. We pray that peace between nations, within our country, community, families, and ourselves will become a priority for all.

DID YOU MISS last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.

ALTAR FLOWERS are a good way to celebrate an event or person or to remember a loved one. Our flower chart in the narthex has many open slots awaiting your name. Please select the date you wish to reserve now. Please fill out the dedication sheet from the pocket and drop it into the collection plate or leave it in the office.

AFTER WORSHIP LUNCH BUNCH - All are welcome to join this spirited group of BUCC worshipers after coffee hour for brunch and some great conversation. We meet at a restaurant most Sundays around Noon. If you are single, widowed, a couple, or a family – anyone that just doesn't want to cook or dine alone, please join us. You'll be glad you did! We usually call in reservations around 11:30, to give the restaurant fair warning. Jon Thompson, Susan Snyder, Dave Debick, Bridget & Chad Sproul, Kathy Smith, Pastor Dave, and Marge Culver are regulars. Ask any of us how much fun we have!

Readings

The Old Testament - Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Holy One sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against God and against you; pray to the Holy One to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And God said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The New Testament - John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

The Continuing Testament - from *God's Offensive Love* - by David Lose [edited]

The kind of self-sacrificing love Jesus offers is frightening to many people in the world. No wonder some of us run and hide, as it requires us to trust nothing other than God. And it's frightening to be so utterly dependent on God.... Only when we've died to all of our delusions of actually being in control, do we realize that such loss of perceived freedom and power is actually Life. God's love, you see, is tenacious. And so God's love will continue to chase after us, seeking to hold onto us and redeem us all the days of our lives - whether we like it or not!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 11	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	CE Ministry – Library
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
Monday, March 12	7:00 pm	Welcome & Growth Task Force
Tuesday, March 13	7:00 pm	Lenten Study
Wednesday, March 14	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/ Guitar
	7:00 pm	Council - Parlor
Thursday, March 15	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Friday, March 16		*Office Closed*
Saturday, March 17		Happy St. Patrick's Day! 
Sunday, March 18	10:00 am	Worship Service/OGHS Offering
	11:00 am	St. Patrick Day Potluck

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 11, 2018

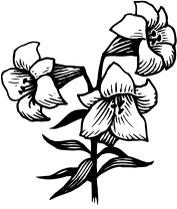
Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Jan Renovetz,
Diane Gressley, Jim Pay
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Caroline Chandler
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: Kathleen Stewart
Counters: Marge Culver, Jon Thompson
Servers: Julie Bernard, Betty Kaul
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Diane
Gressley
Snow Herder: Matt Wolbert

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 18, 2018

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: David Ritchey, Ben
Tomlinson, Matt Wolbert,
Jess Barnes
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling
Counters: David Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: CORNED BEEF &
Snacks: CABBAGE POTLUCK
Snow Herder: Chad Sproul

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

DEADLINE – SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

I Enclose \$12.00_____ for an Easter Plant

In Memory of _____

In Honor/Or Other of _____

Your Name

I will keep the Flowers _____

I will NOT keep Flowers _____

I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter _____