



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*

*“Bible study
without Bible
experience is
pointless.
Knowing
Psalm 23 is
different from
knowing the
Shepherd.”
–Kingsley
Opuwari
Manuel*



Sunday May 3rd, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pastor

• Allan Lane

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, or pangender
You Are Welcome Here!*

*If you are fully abled, 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!***



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

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

May 3rd, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

“We’re lazy when it comes to doing things that are good for us; we also want someone to follow - someone to go first, for them to take the risks thereby smoothing our path; a sort of guarantee that we won’t stumble. Ironically, we also want to be followed in some way; we are both sheep and shepherd.” –Renée Paule, *Stepping Out of Time*

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Syrinx
[Emmanuel Pahud, flute]

Debussy

Syrinx: the lower larynx or voice organ in birds, situated at or near the junction of the trachea and bronchi and well developed in songbirds

Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: It is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep.

People: It is the Good Shepherd who was raised from the dead for his sheep.

L: It is the Good Shepherd who watches over his flocks in every nation in every age.

P: It is the Good Shepherd who has called us to be a part of this flock on this day.

Let us worship God in Christ, who shepherds every flock and loves every sheep!

Hymn of Praise

Sing Praise to God
Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice -- organ and trumpet and voice --
joining God's great congregation.
2. Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?

3. Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.
Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

*** Prayer of Approach and Confession [Unison]**

O God, we come before you in all your majesty for sundry reasons; we come because we want something from you and we come because we owe everything to you. We come because we seek more from this life and because we seek eternal life. We come because we need you, and we come because we love you. Some of our reasons are more noble than others, but all of them are in accord with the promises you have given us in your Word. We have come as a community to create a life before you, a life where sin is forgiven and mercy and grace rule, a life where the strong help the weak, a life where love of you, O God, and of our neighbor shapes our very being. As we worship, forgive our sin, enrich our discipleship, change our hearts, empower our service, and draw us nearer to Christ. Amen

Words of Assurance

L: The Apostle John wrote, "If we say we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins to God, then God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins."

P: The good news of the Gospel is that, in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

The Old Testament

Psalm 23:1-6

Pew Bible, page 501

Contemporary Reading

Frederick Buechner, *Telling the Truth: the Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale*

The New Testament

John 10:1-21

Pew Bible, page 103

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering	You Are My Shepherd <i>[Performed by Tricia Brock]</i>	J. L. Riddle/J. Lee
Sermon	<i>The Shepherd's Gate</i>	Pastor Allan Lane
Hymn of Reflection	Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows	Dykes

1. Such perfect love my shepherd shows, whose goodness fails me never,
Whose hand all things I need bestows and watches me forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, my loving Shepherd leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow with food from heaven feeds me.
5. You spread a table in my sight, your gifts of grace bestowing;
And from your chalice I delight to taste your mercy flowing.
6. And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever.
Henry W. Baker, 1868; alt.

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer *[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to One's Theological understanding]*

**...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.**

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

It is a gift of God to have enough to give. It is a privilege to be the one sharing, not the one needing to have something shared. Let us exercise our gifts and privileges in the presentation of our offerings.

Offertory

***Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

O Good Shepherd of all the sheep everywhere, may the gifts of this flock find their way to the sheep who need them most. Amen

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

1. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
O Savior, stay with us and spread your table in our heart.
2. Here share with us in love divine, your body and your blood;
That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.
James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

The Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

It is bread. It is wine. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is the body and blood of Christ for us, a gift of inconceivable generosity from God. All glory, thanks, and honor be to you, O Holy One, for joining us to yourself, and to each other, through this sacrament. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Go, My Children, with My Blessing Trad. Welsh melody

1. Go, my children with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

2. Go, my children fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.
Jaroslav Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

*Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

*Circle of Community - Caribbean melody

*As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah.** 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.*



Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in B-flat Major
[Hugo Lepnurm, organ]

Handel

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Max Roha, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Don Seager, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today.

EDNA HOUSE OFFERING – MAY 10 BUCC and Our Church's Wider Mission we will be taking an offering on May 10 to benefit Edna House in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of Edna House is to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and to give them a chance at a new life by providing a safe, sober place to live. Edna House is independent of government funding and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities they serve. In addition to cash donations, items needed and appreciated at this time are postage stamps, gift cards to Office Max (for office supplies), and gift cards to Save a Lot, Marcs or Walmart which help with incidental food needs. Please consider contributing to this amazing organization on May 10.

THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY is charged with organizing the Pastor Search Ministry by the end of May. We are looking for 7 church members who desire to serve on this temporary ministry. We need a broad cross-section of our membership: youth, aged, single, married, straight, gay, parents, long-time members, and newer members. Please realize that this commitment will last a year or two. It will take time and dedication. It is a big responsibility, but it is one that is important and necessary. Our plan is to ask for volunteers as soon as possible, then see if we have a good mix of our membership or if we need to seek out others. Please send an email soon expressing your interest and why you want to serve to Bridget Sproul, Leadership Development Chairperson, at sproulbridget@yahoo.com. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this crucial ministry.

STAFF CONGREGATION RELATIONS is creating a team of member volunteers who might be willing to perform small office tasks on an occasional basis in order to help Jeannette during busy times or when she is out sick or on vacation. These tasks might include answering phones during office hours, copying, folding, stapling, typing, mail distribution, preparing the weekly bulletin, or assisting with the monthly pillar.

If you are willing to be called on occasion to perform one or more of these tasks, please contact SCR Chairperson Evie Novak at 440-479-9743 or evienovak1@gmail.com.

Thank you to David Ritchey, Marge Culver, Jan Renovetz and Jim Duffy who are currently assisting with office responsibilities as needed. We would like to have a few more volunteers, if possible.

Readings

The Old Testament - Psalm 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]

he restores my soul.^[b]

He leads me in right paths^[c]
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.^[g]

Contemporary - Frederick Buechner, *Telling the Truth: the Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale*

“God is the comic shepherd who gets more of a kick out of that one lost sheep once he finds it again than out of the ninety and nine who had the good sense not to get lost in the first place. God is the eccentric host who, when the country-club crowd all turned out to have other things more important to do than come live it up with him, goes out into the skid rows and soup kitchens and charity wards and brings home a freak show. The man with no legs who sells shoelaces at the corner. The old woman in the moth-eaten fur coat who makes her daily rounds of the garbage cans. The old wino with his pint in a brown paper bag. The pusher, the whore, the village idiot who stands at the blinker light waving his hand as the cars go by. They are seated at the damask-laid table in the great hall.

The candles are all lit and the champagne glasses filled. At a sign from the host, the musicians in their gallery strike up ‘Amazing Grace.’”

The New Testament - John 10:1-21

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes^a it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?” Others were saying, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

PARTICIPANTS

MAY 3, 2020

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Sue Maier

MAY 10, 2020 - Mother's Day

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Responder: Diane Gressley