

October 11th, 2020

“God gives us the boat and the oars, but then tells us, ‘It’s up to you to row.’ Making ‘positive acts of faith’ is like training this faculty; it is developed by training, as the muscles are developed by gymnastics. -- Carlo Carretto, Letters from the Desert

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshipping with us today in this Zoom format! We are doing everything we can to keep the service open to all, yet secure. In the eventuality of a disruption of the service, we will email information on how to re-enter the service with a password.

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

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

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

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!*

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - We encourage you to share this service with your children, as well as take part in the virtual activities with Ms. Mindy at 9:30 (1/2 hour before every service). The link for this can be found in the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website: <https://brecksvilleucc.org>.

LITTLE FREE ANTI-RACIST LIBRARY- We are so grateful that Gina Thomas chose us to be the site for Brecksville’s very own Little Free Anti-racism Library, and for giving the BUCC this opportunity to encourage the community to read books about anti-racism. The book inventory is very low at this point, so please consider donating a book towards the success of this mission. If you’re able to donate, the wish list can be found on amazon.com - you can either search the wish list for “Anti-racist Free Little Library of Brecksville”, or access it through this link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36F1K25B50O1N?ref =wl_share

Gina is happy to answer any questions you may have, so feel free to contact her at ginamthomas@gmail.com.

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS* - As Cuyahoga County holds strong at the “orange” level, we are happy to schedule our next “Still Speaking” events on the grounds of the BUCC! Please join us on Tuesday (10/13) at 9:30 am, and/or Thursday (10/15) at 5:30pm. Pastor Allan will facilitate the discussion for all of us as a congregation.

***NOTE: All are welcome to join us and follow the guidelines below for a safe but enjoyable event:**

- **Masks are required for participation.**
- **Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating.**
- **You may bring a beverage or snack, but please no sharing with other households.**
- **Restrooms will not be available and the BUCC building will be closed.**
- **Please enjoy each other’s company but remain 6 feet apart.**
- **Please stay home if you are not feeling well.**

Announcements (continued)

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - OCWM and Christian Education (CE) are co-sponsoring a Social Justice Book Club! Our first title is "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo. We meet via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7:00, and the next meeting will be on 10/15. Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at keightykay@gmail.com or 216-534-3498.

AUTUMN MUSIC INVITATION* - Because of ongoing precautions due to COVID-19, our choirs and instrumental groups will continue to refrain from rehearsing and presenting music. Therefore, the opportunity for volunteers to sing or play instruments for our musical offerings remains available! If you'd like to share your musical gifts with the congregation during our on-line services, please let Dave D. know -- he is glad to help you find music and rehearse before recording. Dave can be reached either by email at buccmusic@sbcglobal.net, or by phone at 216-408-7949. High school students are welcome to participate!

***NOTE: Social distancing is practiced and masks are worn during these rehearsal/recording sessions.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Christian Education is checking in to see who would be interested in a virtual Adult Bible Study while the church building remains closed (or even after reopening)! Please weigh in with your responses here: <https://rb.gy/ywjarw> - type this web address in the top bar of your internet browser, fill out the response form, and your answers will be automatically sent to Kate! If you have any questions, please reach out to CE Chair Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

BUCC MASKS - If you would like your very own "still speaking" mask, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or email at keightykay@gmail.com and she will mail or deliver (contact-free) one to you! Suggested donation \$10 (proceeds go toward the BUCC general fund).

OCWM SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY – The BUCC has a special collection for the **UCC Neighbors in Need** program today. Neighbors in Need is a church mission that supplies small grants to local UCC churches to help build or maintain outreach ministries in their community. These types of uplifting missions are important now more than ever - please give to support this amazing program if you are able! You may donate with your regular church offering and simply include a note, or contact Joy Garapic to indicate the funds that you are designating for the Neighbors in Need program.

WEEKLY COLLECTION is still happening! Please don't forget to send in your pledges to the church by mail or (preferably) PayPal! Check out BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or the Slide Runner, (both very easy and done from the comfort of your own home!), please reach out to Heidi Spangler at heidi@heidihoonthego.com. We'd love to teach you.

COFFEE HOUR! After the service, we welcome all attendees to stay on Zoom to enjoy some time and fellowship with each other. Brew your favorite fairly-traded coffee or tea and a snack and catch up with friends!

Many thanks for all the donations of time, money, and talent that you provide to the Church!

Prayer of Approach & Confession

- ◆ **People (Julie):** God, when the Children of Israel committed idolatry at Mount Sinai in the desert, you forgave them. We also stand in need of your forgiveness. We have not turned away from our own modern idols. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to help those in need. We have not helped you in the redemption of the world. Forgive us and help us to be instruments of your peace so that we may feast with you in the Heavenly Banquet here on Earth. Amen

Words of Assurance

- ◆ **Leader (David):** God has shown us through the example and teachings of Jesus Christ that God is in solidarity with us because, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."
- ◆ **People (Julie):** You do not call the righteous, but the sinners. Thank you for being in solidarity with us. Help us to be in solidarity with you. Forgive us of our sins both individual and social. All praise to God who redeems us through Jesus Christ. Amen

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, for God loves us all.

Readings

Old Testament - Isaiah 25:1-9

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Gospel - Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' But they paid no attention and went off — one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Continuing Testament - from *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Newmarket Press, New York 1987 by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The belief that God will do everything for man (sic) is as untenable as the belief that man (sic) can do everything for himself (sic). It, too, is based on a lack of faith. We must learn that to expect God to do everything while we do nothing is not faith but superstition."

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:

- ◆ Leader (David): Doing God's work in this world does require our money as well as our time and effort. This is how our faith community is able to continue so that some day we will sit together in the Wedding Banquet in the Rule of God.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

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:

- ◆ People (Julie): "Take our offerings, take our gifts, take our wills, and take our selves, and bless this world with all of them, O God our Savior, Amen."

Hymn of Departure:

God Be With You

Tomer

1. God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.
(Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World:

Circle of Community

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A

Benediction

Postlude:

Laudate Dominum
Ensemble vocal l'Alliance

Berthier (Taizé Community)

Translation:

Sing praise and bless the Lord, peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxbJ_YpKej0

Thank You for Joining Us!



October 11, 2020

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Responder: Julie Bernard
CE: Mindy Harris Wade
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski

October 18, 2020

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Responder: Jill Zedan
CE: Mindy Harris Wade
Zoom Host: Jim Duffy
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski