

# January 10th, 2021

## Third Sunday in Christmas

*“Rather than turning the page,  
it’s much easier to just throw the book away.”*  
–Anthony Liccione

### Announcements

**WELCOME** to all guests or visitors worshiping 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.

**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 either the email you may have received, on our Facebook page, and/or on our church website:  
<https://brecksvilleucc.orghttps://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

**HUNGER MEAL:** Our next hunger meal will be served on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. At the last meal at this site, the church opened its kitchen to us so that we could serve a hot entrée (the usual mostaccioli). The rest of the menu was salad, trail bars, bananas, and bottled water. The meal was placed in a plastic clam shell then inside a plastic bag, and the bags were “dispensed” at the side door of the church. Due to the pandemic, the logistics of preparing and serving the meal are still uncertain -- our hope is that the details for this meal will be discussed with the BCCM (Brookside Cluster Community Meal) resource person very soon. If the kitchen is open, we could prepare another hot entrée - if not, we will prepare sandwiches, etc. Depending on what the BCCM decides to do, volunteers might be needed, so here’s your chance to start the new year right! If you’re interested, contact **Bob Chandler** at **330-416-5733(cell)** or [rchandler@zoominternet.net](mailto:rchandler@zoominternet.net).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** – OCWM and Christian Education will be co-sponsoring the next installment of the Social Justice Book Club! The first meeting for the new book will be on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:00 PM in the BUCC “Zoom Room”. We will be starting ***Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times***, by Bishop Michael Curry. You may purchase a copy here or anywhere books are sold!

***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!***

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## **Announcements** (continued)

**BOOK CLUB (cont.):** For our first meeting, please have read the introduction and first chapter. We will create a reading schedule for the remainder of the book, and assign weekly discussion leaders at our first meeting. Even if you haven't had time to read, please feel free to join in and listen to the discussion - we'd love to have enough folks involved to need breakout rooms! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at **keightykay@gmail.com** or **216-534-3498**.  
(text ok).

**PASTOR SEARCH AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Over the next few weeks, the PSNC will be calling everyone from the BUCC and asking for your participation in a brief survey about our Church. Your input is essential in the process of selecting a new full-time pastor. You will be contacted by one of the following members of the committee: Beth Rehling, Ben Rehling, Jon Thompson, Cliffs Cribbs, Joy Garapic, Sherrill Witt and Alan Klonowski. For more information, call Sherrill Witt at **216-244-6916**, or Cliff Cribbs at **216-970-6347**. Thank you in advance for your insights!

**THE PASTOR IS IN** – Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11 am and noon. You can contact him either by mail, email or phone - feel free to call either the church or his cell phone directly. You can also catch him online, by clicking on the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday services. He'd love to hear from you! Here's his contact information:

- BUCC address: **23 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141**
- Email: **buccpastor@sbcglobal.net**
- BUCC office phone: **(440) 526-4364**
- Pastor Allan's cell phone: **(513) 417-1537**
- Zoom link: **<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>**

**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](https://BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving)** for more info.

**2021 PLEDGE COLLECTION ENVELOPES:** The small collection envelopes for this year are available! Joy has placed them on the pew bench just inside the back doors. To pick them up, please call the church office to make arrangements for the doors to be unlocked. If you can't pick them up, call 440-526-4364, and Anne will mail them to 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!*

## Gathering in God's Presence

**Meditation:** "When someone puts an end to something, it doesn't mean that they gave up, it means that thing is not taking them anywhere."  
 –Michael Bassey Johnson (inclusivized)

**Prelude Music:** *Roll Jordan Roll* African American spiritual melody  
 Topsy Chapman, Chiwetel Ejiofor & movie cast from 12 Years a Slave (2013)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAZhQQN758g>

### **Call to Worship:**

- ◆ Leader (Leroy): The clouds float above us, the rain falls, and the streams flow. The water of life is everywhere.
- ◆ **People (Diane The water of baptism is the water of life for the church.**
- ◆ Leader: Today we celebrate Jesus' baptism, and our own.
- ◆ **People: Today we celebrate being joined to God and to each other.**
- ◆ Leader: Let the water of life in Christ be as abundant as the water of life outside our doors. Let us worship God!

**Hymn of Praise:** *Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering* Bourgeois

1. Mark how the Lamb of God's self-offering our human sinfulness takes on  
 In the birth-waters of the Jordan as Jesus is baptized by John.  
 Hear how the voice from heaven thunders, "Lo, this is My beloved Son."  
 See how in dove-like form the Spirit descends on God's Anointed One.

2. From this assurance of God's favor Jesus goes to the wilderness,  
 There to endure a time of testing that readied Him to teach and bless.  
 So we, by water and the Spirit baptized into Christ's ministry,  
 Are often led to paths of service through mazes of adversity.

3. Grant us, O God, the strength and courage to live the faith our lips declare;  
 Bless us in our baptismal calling; Christ's royal priesthood help us share.  
 Turn us from every false allegiance, that we may trust in Christ alone:  
 Raise up in us a chosen people transformed by love to be Your own.  
 (Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990)

### **Prayer of Approach & Confession:**

- ◆ **People (Diane): Why are we waiting when a new year is dawning? We're coming, God, to start the new year fresh. We want to put the past behind us, put our misdeeds astern, and sail on into a clean and pure future with You. Renew us as we confess our sinfulness to You; restore us when we have laid our lives bare before You; bestow us with Your mercy as we lean on the grace of Christ. Help us live this new year for You and for others, not only for ourselves. Amen**

## Words of Assurance:

- ◆ Leader (Leroy) The waters of baptism cover over the penitent, and a new person arises, joined to Christ forever!
- ◆ **People (Diane): As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” We are new in Christ! Thanks be to God!**

## Song of Praise:

Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!  
 Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!  
 And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.  
 And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.



## Readings

### **First Reading: Acts 19: 1-7** *The Spirit comes to Ephesus*

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

### **Second Reading: Mark 1: 1-11** *In the beginning was the Word*

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send My messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way— a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.’” And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

And this was his message: “After me comes the One more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.”

## Readings (continued)

### **Contemporary Reading:** From *“Who you are”* by William Least Heat Moon

“What you’ve done becomes the judge of what you’re going to do—especially in other people’s minds. But when you’re traveling, you are what you are right there and then. People don’t have your past to hold against you. No yesterdays on the road.”

## Welcoming Allison Colbert as a Member of the Church

The Constitution of the BUCC states that: “Members of this church shall be persons who affirm publicly with God and with one another the following covenant.” Allison Colbert has indicated her desire to be a member of this church, and her willingness to affirm the covenant that the church constitution requires. Let all the members join Allison in affirming the covenant together:

**Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we dedicate ourselves and our Church to the service of God's realm. Depending, as our forebears in the faith, upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth, we covenant with God and one another to worship, work and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives the love and faith of Jesus Christ.**

### **Musical Offering:**

***Take Me to the Water***

Arr. Dilworth

Brockton High School Concert Choir, MA  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKI9aCGVuoQ>

### **Sermon:**

***The Baptism of the Lord***

Pastor Allan Lane

### **Hymn of Reflection:** ***I've Got Peace Like a River*** African American spiritual

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul. **(repeat)**
2. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. **(repeat)**
3. I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul. **(repeat)**
4. I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor,  
I've got faith like an anchor in my soul. **(repeat)**

## The Church at Prayer

Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day (friend of the Sniders), Joanne K. and Jim C. (friends of Ed & June Puwal), Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (niece of Kathy Smith), Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

### ❖ **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:**

- ◆ Leader (Leroy): Whatever the gift may be, O God, we give You but Your own, for all things come from You. We thank You for Your bounty to us, and we present this portion of it back to You in gratitude.

**[BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving](http://BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving)**

### **Offertory Hymn:**

**Winter has come, it's taken hold.  
The days are short, the nights are cold.  
The poor need food and help and heat.  
We send our gifts, their needs to meet. Amen!**

### **Prayer of Dedication:**

- ◆ People (Diane): Receive these gifts, O Generous God, and receive the love we have for You along with these gifts. May our love and our generosity make a difference in the lives of others. Amen

**Hymn of Departure: *Crashing Waters at Creation***

Attrib. to C. F. Witt

1. Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
First to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death.
2. Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,  
Washing off the chains of bondage—  
channel to a life made new.
3. Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,  
Opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.
4. Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, Source of life eternal,  
drench our dryness, make us whole.  
(Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991)

**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.

**❖ Benediction****Postlude:*****Water Song***

Akwesasne Women Singers (Mohawk Nation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MvNaFWcQf4>**Special Thanks:****January 10, 2021**

**Lay Reader** Leroy Ford  
**Responder** Diane Gressley  
**CE** Mindy Wade  
**Slide Runner** Kate Klonowski  
**Zoom Host** David Pastor

**January 17, 2021**

**Lay Reader** Jill Zedan  
**Responder** Sue Stenzel  
**CE** Mindy Wade  
**Slide Runner** Kate Klonowski  
**Zoom Host** Jim Duffy