

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2nd, 2021

“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it.
Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.
Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr., *A Testament of Hope*

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

COVID VACCINE: If you are eligible for a COVID vaccine and want to be vaccinated, but are struggling to secure an appointment, you can contact **Evie Novak** at **440-479-9743**, **Nancy Stella** at **440-724-3101**, and **Kim Wallis** at **440-655-7267** for assistance.

AS WE LOOK TO RE-OPEN -- AND MORE! There have been some great ideas for additional services and events, but the Spiritual Life committee is a very small group right now. No one has (as of yet!) volunteered to help, and even the smallest amount is welcome, as this lack of support will inhibit our ability to do special services. Please reach out to Sue Maier at Eyerienne@aol.com, or Betsey Wilson at betseywilson10@gmail.com, so we can talk about how you can participate in this ministry. Help us make 2021 the year that we come back stronger and better than ever!

OCWM - Once again we are collecting donations for **Edna House** - a place for women to recover from drug and alcohol addiction, learn life skills and maintain a lifetime of sobriety. You may make monetary donations either through BUCC (if by check, be sure to include “Edna House” in the memo), or directly through their donate links, on their webpage: <https://ednahouse.org/donate> .

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

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

OCWM / EDNA HOUSE (continued) - If you wish to donate specific items*, please see the list below (by priority):

- ★ ▪ Women's clothing and shoes (clean and in season please)
- ★ ▪ Canned food, condiments, and non perishable snacks, coffee, creamer and sugar
- Big Books (Alcoholics Anonymous) and 12 x 12 Books (no paperback novels, please)
- Cleaning products such as Murphy's Oil Soap, floor cleaner, bathroom cleaner, bleach, sponges, spray bottles, mops, and large black garbage bags
- Paper towels, toilet paper, and tampons
- Gift Cards, Bus Passes, Postage Stamps
- Flash drives, resume and copier paper (for Job Development)

***PLEASE NOTE: They do not mend, repair, or launder donations. They cannot accept donations of luggage, bedding or furniture.**

Items may be brought to the church and left inside the back doors with a note (contact **Anne** at **330-635-2106** to unlock doors), or you can arrange a pickup through **Kate Klonowski**, by calling/texting **(216) 534-3498**, or by email at **keightykay@gmail.com**. Physical donations will be delivered the week following Mother's Day (May 9th) -- Thank you in advance for your kind generosity!

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB: Book Club returns this Thursday, May 6th! We are continuing our discussion of *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, by Jose Antonio Vargas. For chapter assignments, please contact Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or email at keightykay@gmail.com. All are very welcome!

YOUR VIDEOS: The Stewardship committee is looking for anyone who wants to contribute a "Mission Moment Movie Minute" for our virtual church services. A 30-60 second video clip of anything related to mission, stewardship, giving or receiving. Make a quick video of something wonderful that someone has done for you or the community. Have your kids make a mini-movie of themselves helping a neighbor or picking up trash in the neighborhood. Or just tell us why you love the BUCC! Send it in to the **church email (buccoh@sbcglobal.net)**, and we'll put it in an upcoming virtual service – thanks in advance!

LENTEN FUNDRAISER – This year's CE Lenten project (handpainted/colored key chains) is raising money for the Cleveland Foodbank. If you're interested in supporting this effort, our kids' creations are available during the "Still Speaking Events" (details in next announcement). If you're interested but not able to attend a parking lot meeting, call **Anne** at **440-526-4364** to make other arrangements. Our kids have been working on these since February, so please consider supporting their fundraiser - thank you!

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS* - Weather permitting, we will have parking lot meetings at the church this week – they are scheduled for Tuesday (5/4) at 10am, and Thursday (5/6) at 5pm. This is a chance for members and guests to safely share time together.

***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.

Announcements (continued)

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11am 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** for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or assist in other ways with our virtual services (it's very easy!), 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 your generous donations of time, money,
and talent that you give to our Church!*

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ Leader (Leroy): The Apostle John wrote: “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent God’s Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.”
- ◆ People (Rose): John continued: “**God sent God’s only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**” Thanks be to God for the life we have because of the love of God for us in Jesus Christ. Amen

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:

Psalm 22:25-31 *All turn to God in love*

“From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear God. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before God. For dominion belongs to the LORD and God rules over the nations. To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before God shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for God. Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about the LORD, and proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that God has done it!”

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan):

1 John 4: 7-21 *Love and hate*

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

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Second Reading (continued):

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first.

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

Contemporary Reading:

From *God is love*, by Wayne Northey

The Gospels indicate that the test case for love of God is love of neighbor. The test case for love of neighbor is love of enemy. Therefore, to the extent we love neighbor and enemy, to that extent we love God. And to the extent we fail to love neighbor and enemy, we fail to love God. 'Love' (Greek agapao) is a New Testament action verb that constantly reaches out to embrace as friends, to draw a circle of inclusion around, neighbor and enemy. Agape is the noun form, almost invariably referencing God's unconditional love in the New Testament. Therefore, the ultimate theological bottom line is: God is all-inclusive love. Period.

Musical Offering:

Love God Love People Gokey
 Danny Gokey & Michael W. Smith, vocalists
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-29WLQ3trA>

Sermon:

Love and Hate

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Help Us Accept Each Other Wesley

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
 teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
 Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
 we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
 we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
 Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
 to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
4. God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
 who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
 Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
 renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

(Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

David Pastor, Bill Toneff, Lenore Harris, Cindy Burton, Joe & Betsey Wilson and family, Ann Roha, Ann Klonowski, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Sheila Day, Joanne K. and Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), 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): God's love makes the stranger a friend and the friend like a brother or sister. God's love makes the neighbor a part of the family. Let us show the love of God to strangers and neighbors through our gifts and offerings.

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 (Rose): **As Creator, God gives us earthly life. As Redeemer, God gives us eternal life. As Sustainer, God gives us our present life. Out of the gifts of God, we share our lives with others through our gifts and offerings. Receive these gifts of love from your people, O God, giver of life. Amen**

Holy Communion

- † The Invitation
- † Prayer of Consecration
- † Words of Institution
- † Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- ◆ People (Rose): What love is this, O God, that in the bread and the wine you have given yourself to us once again? May we abide in Christ as the grains abide in the loaf, as the grapes abide in the wine. May your love for our neighbor, and even for our enemy, be transferred to us through the sacrament as we abide in you. Amen

Hymn of Departure: *God Our Author and Creator* Southern Harmony, 1835

1. God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
Make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.

2. Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve:
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still;
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.

3. Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,
with all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.
(Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Circle of Community

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Going With God's Love". The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The chords are indicated above and below the notes. The first staff has chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff has chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† Benediction

Postlude:

The People That God Gives You The Bowling Family
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBEdGDWeN-A>

Special Thanks:

May 2, 2021

Lay Reader Leroy Ford
Responder Rose Kaval
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host David Pastor

May 9, 2021

Lay Reader Jon Thompson
Responder Julie Bernard
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host Jim Duffy

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK

