

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, or 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., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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

MAY 18, 2014 – FIFTH SUDAY OF EASTER DAY

Meditation Music

Divine Source of Hope, when we are faced with adversity, grant us courage. Stir-up within us the best of who we are, so that we may be faithful to your Truth in the presence of prejudice and ignorance. Help us to bring-forth the light of your grace, especially in those dark places of intolerance and injustice. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

In Love You Summon

Bell

“In love you summon, in love I follow,
living today for your tomorrow.
Christ to release me, Christ to enfold me,
Christ to restrain me, Christ to uphold me.”
John L. Bell, 1998

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship** - from Psalm 113

L: Blessed be the name of God from this time forth and for evermore!

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of God is to be praised.

L: It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to the Most High.

P: To declare God's steadfast love in the morning and God's faithfulness by night.

L: People of God, let us praise God together:

All: Glory be to God on high!

*** Hymn of Praise**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

#27

*** Prayer of Invocation** [unison]

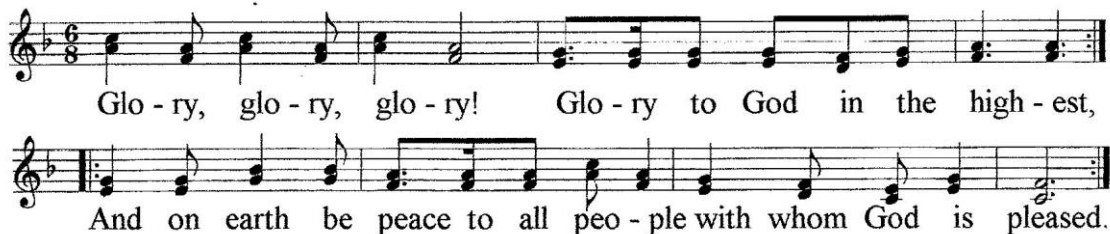
Divine Source of Life and Love, we seek your Presence here today. Fill us with a sense of your Being; move us with the power of your Spirit; touch us with your compassion and grace. Come to us and abide with us, that we may worship you in this place, and then be prepared to serve you in this world. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Example and Friend. Amen.

Time with Young Worshipers

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism bears witness to the Divine Love and Grace that is extended to each of us at every stage of our lives.

P: Today we celebrate God's love for this child, and offer ourselves as instruments of that love in her life.

L: When parents brought their children to Jesus so that he might touch them, his disciples rebuked them; but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

P: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Realm of God.

L: Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Realm of God like a little child, shall not enter it."

P: Then Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is an outward and visible sign of Divine Grace. Because the promise of the Gospel is not only to us, but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's Church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith.

P: Out of the Water of Holy Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiveness and grace as members of the One Body of Christ.

Promises of the parents and Godparents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage her to resist the power of evil, and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach and encourage her that she may be inspired to know and follow Jesus Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow with her in the Christian faith, to help her be a faithful member of the Church - by celebrating Christ's presence here, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering her the on-going nurture of the Church?

All: We do, with the help of God.

The Congregational Promise

Pastor: Members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ: Are you prepared to welcome, encourage and pray for Gabriella as she grows in faith among us?

People: We promise her our love, our support and our care as she lives and grows among us as a child of God.

Baptismal Act and Presentation

The Old Testament	Isaiah 42:1-7	Pew Bible, page 670
The New Testament	Matthew 3:13-17	Pew Bible, page 3
The Continuing Testament	from <i>The Power of a Good Name</i>	by David Lose

Musical Offering	The Way Is Jesus [Assisted by Percussion Group]	Kinga tune (Tanzania)
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Sermon	<i>A Family Resemblance</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
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Hymn of Reflection	I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry	#351
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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.**

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Intermezzo (from *Mikrokosmos*)

Bartók

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all Blessings flow
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Marvelous and Majestic Holy One, we are thankful that you have created us all
in your image and proclaimed that each of us is precious in your sight. Bless
these gifts that we offer, that our giving may promote the proclamation of your
compassion and grace, justice and peace throughout the world. This we pray in
Christ's name. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

The Long and Winding Road

McCartney/Lennon

“The long and winding road
that leads to your door
will never disappear.
I’ve seen that road before.
It always leads me here.
Lead me to your door.”
Paul McCartney, 1970

The Blessing

Going with God’s Love

* Hymn of Departure

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

* Circle of Community

*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.*



*Benediction

Postlude

Sortie

Tournemire

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Lee Sanderson, Jill Black (Jim Duffy's Aunt), Jim & Betty Kaul, Ruth Thorpe, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, 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 Sunday, May 11, 2014 – Adults: 96 Kids: 12 Total: 108

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WELCOME, *Gabriella Grace Gagliano*, daughter of Joe and Nora Gagliano, into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A special welcome also to her Godparents, Courtney Kordiac and Even Smith, and other family and friends visiting with us on this special day. We ask God's continuing blessings on Gabriella and her family, and on our entire BUCC Family of Faith!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given in Honor of the Baptism of Gabriella Grace.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH MINISTRY is making some final touches (and continual updates) to our website at www.brecksvilleucc.org. One of the suggestions that we are looking forward to implement is to populate the current pictures (especially on the home page) with pictures/photos from our own church family. In order to do that, we are requesting that you review the social media policy and release form. We want to be sensitive to people's privacy but also celebrate all the wonderful happenings that occur every week at our church. **Please complete the social media photo/video release form, copies are in the office.** Thanks for your cooperation. If you should have any questions, call Diane Gressley @ 440.417.2675 or digressley@gmail.com

WHAT A GREAT PROBLEM TO HAVE! Even with a good number of us regularly parking at Central School, we continue to have a bit of a parking "problem". In an effort to remain hospitable to our visitors and help those arriving late, we ask that others of you who can readily do so, park in the school lot next door. This is just another way in which we can signal our desire to be accessible and welcoming to all.

PILLAR EMAIL Please consider getting your Monthly Pillar through email. Our number of printed/mailed copies is going up. Please join the effort to help us conserve our resources. Please call or email Jeannette at the office if you are willing to switch from Paper to email. 440-526-4364 or buccoh@sbcglobal.net - Thank you.

LADIES OF THE CHURCH There have been a thought going on in our hearts and minds that this phenomenal church needs a women's group. Interested? Join us in the parlor on Wednesday, May 21st at 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. We will provide coffee or tea. If you can't make that date, just call Caroline (440-526-9714) or Dorie (440-237-9447) to let them know that you are interested. We welcome your thoughts and input. Caroline Chandler & Dorie Gabor.

THE PLOT THICKENS! *Attention All Gardeners:* There has been conversation about using a little plot of our land in back to grow some vegetables, flowers, and herbs. If you are interested in making this happen, please contact Marla Corrado at marlacorrado@hotmail.com or 440-382-5493. It would be great to put that space to good use, and to come up with a plan for using some of the goods grown to spread the love!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY IS COMING! Saturday, May 25, is our first pickup of the year. If you are even remotely thinking of joining our group at any time this year, **it is necessary that you read ODOT's Safety Briefing and sign up NOW.** Please see Jane Cribbs at Fellowship Hour this Sunday or May 18th. We will be alternating Saturdays & Sundays. The more the merrier--please join us!

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.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedules 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.

MAY FOOD PANTRY Items are Infant Formula, Baby Food, and Diapers.

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

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says the Holy One, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Holy One, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

The New Testament - Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan River, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Child, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Continuing Testament - from *The Power of a Good Name* - by David Lose [edited]

In the Gospels, Jesus' baptism precedes the commencement of his public ministry. The theme is clear: the gift of identity precedes mission. We might even go further and say that only by having a clear sense of God's affirmation and identity can Jesus take on the enormous mission in front of him.... This is where these stories of Jesus' baptism intersects with the stories of our own. For we, too, can only live into the mission that God has set for us to the degree that we hear and believe the Good News that we, too, are beloved children of God.

As with Jesus, we discover in baptism who we are by hearing definitively *whose* we are. Baptism is nothing less than the promise that we are God's beloved children. That no matter where we go, God will be with us. That no matter what we may do, God is for us and will not abandon us. In baptism we are blessed with the promise of God's Spirit and given a name. That name is *Christian*, one marked with the Cross of Christ and named a beloved child of God forever.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 5/18/2014	10 am	Worship/Baptism
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
Tuesday 5/20/2014	7 pm	Stewardship
Wednesday 5/21/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	11:30 am	Women United - Parlor
	5 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
	7 pm	Council
Thursday 5/22/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	4:30 pm	C4C
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday 5/25/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am	Adopt-A-Highway
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

MAY 18, 2014

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Max Roha, David Ritchey
George & Carole Snider
Acolyte: Ben Rehling
Peace Cndl: Carli Began
Sound: David Pastor
Commons: Ann Kelly
Narthex: Joanne Cook
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Kara Reese
Counters: Carole Snider, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Dottie Farwell
Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Dottie Farwell & Bridget Sproul

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MAY 25, 2014

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Spencer Whyte
Jill Zedan Joanne Cook
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Cndl: Indira Bigelow
Sound: Dave Bernard
Commons: Stu Bailey
Narthex: George Snider
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Bruce McCain, Betty Kaul
Servers: Darlene Kelly, Carole Snider
Clean Up: Jill Zedan, Lynne Struck
Snacks: Jane Cribbs, Pat Bailey