

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

MARCH 15, 2015 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Meditation Music

Divine Source of our lives and our world, you invite us to be open and honest about our thought, feelings, and motivations. May we not be ashamed our weakness and failings, but rather trust ever more deeply in your steadfast love and grace. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Day by Day
[Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble]

Ahnfelt

“Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.”

Carolina Sandell Berg (1832-1903); tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

L: In this season of Lent, as we journey toward the Cross,

P: We remember that the Holy One goes with us on our journey.

L: Even when we find ourselves wandering in the wilderness,

P: The Divine Presence and Power will sustain us.

L: For God so loved the world,

P: That God sent Jesus to show us the way.

L: For God so loved the world,

P: That God has promised to never abandon us.

L: For God so loved the world,

P: That God found a personal way to express it.

L: In Jesus the Christ, we see and receive the fullness of Divine Love and Grace!

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Hymn of Praise**

God Is Truly with Us

#68

*** Prayer of Invocation** [unison]

Divine Source of Grace and Glory, when troubles and dangers surround us, when we seem to have lost our direction, when our path is rocky and our future unclear - come to us and surround us with your Holy Peace. Help us to remember that there is nothing in life or death that can ever separate us from your love, which is revealed to us fully in Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Guide, and our Friend. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Gathered Here [sung twice]

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Gathered Here'. The first staff is marked with a '1' and the second with a '2', indicating two different parts or verses. The melody is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Gath-ered here in the mystery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong

bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

The Old Testament	Numbers 21:4-9	Pew Bible, page 139
The New Testament	John 3:7-17	Pew Bible, page 93
The Continuing Testament	from <i>God's Offensive Love</i>	by David Lose

Youth Anthem	Step by Step <i>[Joyful Noise Choir]</i>	Beaker
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Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering	God so Love the World	Stainer
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Sermon	<i>Good News Among the Bad</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
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Hymn of Reflection	As Moses Raised the Serpent Up	#605
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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

Waltz

Schumann

*** Offertory Hymn [Unison]**

**We now are in the time of Lent,
To learn again what Jesus meant.
His life and message are so great,
We send these gifts to celebrate! Amen!**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Faithful Holy One, your love comes not only in word, but also in the person of
Jesus Christ. As Christ brought hope and healing to the world through his acts of
kindness and self-giving, so may our kindness and our giving bring hope and help
to our world today. Bless these offerings presented here, that they may be used to
strengthen and advance the work of your Church. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

The Blessing

Communion Music

Pastorale and Communion

Hollins

Going with God's Love

* **Hymn of Departure** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
[verse 1]

#77

* **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 **Hear our Prayer, O God.** 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

Fabordones del séptimo tono

Cabezón

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Nancy Allenson, Dan Renovetz, G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, 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, March 8, 2015 – Adults: 75 Kids: 12 Total: 87

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

CORNED BEEF POTLUCK.....is today!! Join us for a traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage potluck after worship.

A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION in the Church is to “put away” hymns or verses that contain “Alleluia”, in order to set a more solemn tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday our “Alleluias” can ring-out with renewed power and glory, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different “Song of Praise” and concluding Benediction hymn today.

OUR TUESDAY LENTEN STUDY, *THE ABC'S OF OUR FAITH* continues March 17th from 7:15-8:30 pm in Pilgrim Hall. This week we look at *The Christ, Jesus*. “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name! It is the Greek word for “Messiah”, meaning “God’s Anointed One”. Our study will explore the tremendous power this title carried for the ancient Hebrews and for the people of Jesus’ day. We will also consider how Jesus - as the Christ - continues to touch, inspire and impact our lives and our faith today. Since each week’s session “stands alone” feel free join-in and participate!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – Today we are receiving the offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. The funds are used for disaster relief, refugee relief, education, provision of clean water, food and medicines in the US and internationally.

WOMEN UNITED The monthly meeting of WU will be Wednesday, March 18th at 11:30 a.m. Jan Renovetz will teach us how to make greeting cards with stampers and other embellishments. Come have fun together.

USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES We collect used printer cartridges and Recycle them to turn in to Office Max for credit toward our office supplies. Please put your empty cartridge in the Office in a basket marked “**Max**” We appreciate your help!

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY will be making a video presentation of our Affirmation of Welcome along with some testimonies from parishioners about why they love BUCC on Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday! We will be using these for our website. No need to sign up...just be at church and be your amazing self. You will not be included unless you have signed a media waiver (available in the narthex or from the office) Look for Kate Klonowski (she will have forms available as well) and her trusty iPhone to become an internet ambassador for our great community!

MOTHER'S DAY COLLECTION on Sunday, May 10th, 2015, we will be collecting donations for Womankind, an organization who provides comprehensive prenatal care to pregnant women in need. Your family can pick up a baby bottle in the narthex to take home and collect loose change (or a check would be lovely!) Your financial donations go a long way!

Other "wish list" items include:

Helpful donation items in high demand include: Office Max/Giant Eagle/Sam's Club gift cards; Diapers-all sizes; Baby Wipes; Similac Advance with Iron (this type of formula only please); "Forever" postage stamps; baby clothes; maternity clothes and furniture (no toys, please!). Womankind provides all of their services at no cost. Thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions, concerns or need to arrange a large pickup, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

The Readings

The Old Testament - Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Holy One sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against God and against you; pray to the Holy One to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And God said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The New Testament - John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

The Continuing Testament - from *God's Offensive Love* - by David Lose [edited]

The kind of self-sacrificing love Jesus offers is frightening to many people in the world. No wonder some of us run and hide, as it requires us to trust nothing other than God. And most of us find it impossible to embrace Jesus' example...except when we ourselves have been brought low by illness, or loss, or a broken relationship, or disappointed hopes or some other way by which the world taught us that no matter how hard we try, no matter what position we may achieve, no matter how much money we may save, yet we cannot secure our destiny or save our lives. Only God can do that. Only love can do that. And it's frightening to be so utterly dependent on God....

In the face of unconditional love we are powerless. Yes, perhaps we can choose to accept it or not, perhaps we can run away from it, but we cannot influence it, manipulate it, or control it. In the face of this kind of love, we are powerless. And only when we've died to all of our delusions of actually being in control, do we realize that such loss of perceived freedom and power is actually Life. God's love, you see, is tenacious. And so God's love will continue to chase after us, seeking to hold onto us and redeem us all the days of our lives... whether we like it or not!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 15	10:00am	Worship Service/* OGHS Offering*
	11:00am	St. Patrick's Corned Beef Meal
	6 pm	Youth Ministry
Tuesday, March 17	7:15pm	Lenten Study
Wednesday, March 18	6:00am	Early Birds
	11:30 am	Women United
	4:30pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thursday, March 19	1:00pm	Bible Study
	5:30pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00pm	Choir
Sunday, March 22	10:00am	Worship Service
	11:00am	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am	Spiritual Life

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 15, 2015

Lay Reader:	Kate Klonowski
Head Usher:	Ann Melfo
Ushers:	Linda Kriynovich, Sam Koch Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte:	Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Garrett Demko
Sound:	Max Roha
Comns Grtr:	Bridget Sproul
Narthex Grtr:	Chad Sproul
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Nursery:	Shauna Bigelow
Counters:	Donn Whyte, David Pastor
Servers:	Chad & Bridget Sproul
Clean-Up:	Dave & Kathy Pastor
Snacks:	Tina Ortiz, Mary Ann Hoppel
Snow Herder:	Doug Fawcett

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 22, 2015

Lay Reader:	Spencer Whyte
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	George & Carole Snider David Pastor, Tina Ortiz
Acolyte:	Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle:	Indira Bigelow
Sound:	Mike Westerberg
Comns Grtr:	Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr:	Cliff Cribbs
Flowers:	Kathy Pastor
Nursery:	Kara Rees
Counters:	Carole Snider, Sue Stenzel
Servers:	Robin Coyer -Westerberg, Vicki Szabo
Clean-Up:	Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks:	Diane Gressley, Heidi Spangler
Snow Herder:	Matt Wolbert

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANTUARY



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

DEADLINE – SUNDAY, MARCH 29

I Enclose \$10.00 _____ or other _____ for Easter Plants

In Memory _____ or Honor _____ or _____

Of _____

Your Name

I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter _____