

BRECKSVILLE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Gracious Holy One, fill our hearts and lives with your wisdom and grace, so that we may understand and follow your ways. Help us to be sensitive to your Spirit's leading, by being sensitive to the needs and concerns of others. Help us to heed your voice, by listening to each other with patience, openness, and understanding. Amen.

Third Sunday In

LENT

Sunday February 28, 2016 • 10:00 AM

Third Sunday In Lent

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music *Financial Secretary* *Ministers*

• David Debick • Joy Garapic All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2016 – THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Meditation Music

Divine Source of Compassion and Care, we give thanks that we can always trust in you to be our Guide and our Guardian. Increase our faith in your constant and capable care, and in your call for justice and peace for all people. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

O God, Be Gracious to Me

Gibbons

"Create a clean and contrite heart in me,
renew my soul in faithfulness and love."

Based on Psalm 51; Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson (1923-1995)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

*** Call to Worship** [from *Psalm* 63]

Leader: O Holy One, you are my Sacred Source, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

People: My spirit thirsts for you, as in a dry and weary land.

L: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

P: My lips will gladly praise you.

L: I will bless you as long as I live;

P: I will lift up my hands and call upon your name.

L: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,

All: For you have been my help, and in your Presence I sing for joy!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#25

*** Prayer of Invocation** [Unison]

Loving and gracious Holy One, you offer wholeness and restoration to all your children. Help us, as your faithful people, to extend to others the same love, grace, and welcome that you extend to us. May we, like Jesus, learn to overcome the social stigmas and prejudices of our day. Let the power of your Holy Spirit work in us and through us, that we may praise you with joy and serve you with ever thankful hearts. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

[Gathered Here #742 sung twice]

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two measures of the melody, with a '1' above the first measure and a '2' above the second measure. The second staff contains the next four measures, with a '3' above the first measure and a '4' above the second measure. 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

Isaiah 55: 6-11

Pew Bible, page 685

The New Testament

Luke 13:1-5

Pew Bible, page 76

The Continuing Testament

- from *How to Survive Threatening Headlines* –

by Matthew Skinner

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Tallis

Sermon

Is Any Place Safe?

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

#193

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

O Lamb of God

Bell

"O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Grant us your peace."

Ancient Latin liturgical text, based on John 1:29

*** Offertory Hymn**

**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]**

Gracious Holy One, we offer ourselves with these gifts, confident that you have a purpose for them and for us. Expand our vision to see the signs of your love which surround us every day, particularly in our times of trouble. Open our hearts to embrace new ways to serve you and to support others, particularly in their times of trouble. Renew our compassion and inspire our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Hope and our Joy. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

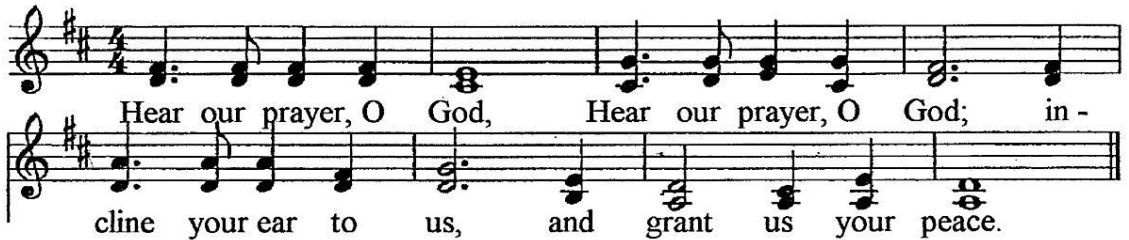
***Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

Acolyte

*** Circle of Community**

[Hear Our Prayer, O God - #769 - sung 2X's]

*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

Salvation Belongs to Our God
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Howard/Turner

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Caroline Chandler, Ann Toneff, Jill Black, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, 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, February 21, 2016 – Adults: 80 Kids: 8 Total: 88

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.

WE WELCOME 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 are also available from ushers for children.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Diane Gressley in Celebration of "Leap Day" Birthday.

OGHS Great Need calls for The One Great Hour of Sharing collection on March 13th. This collection goes toward emergency relief including help for refugees. Let us give out of the blessings we have received.

MORE NEW OFFERTORY WORDS! The verse we sing as our offerings are being brought forward were written by Bill Toneff, specifically for Lent. We could still use your contributions for additional options! You don't need to be a trained musician nor an accomplished poet. Just express your own feelings about giving, and giving thanks to God. They could be suitable for any time of year, or they might be seasonal [Christmas, Easter, Spring, Fall, etc.] Please submit your ideas [or questions] to Pastor Dave or Dave Debick, who will share them with our Spiritual Life Ministry members.

A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION within the Christian Church is to “put away” hymns or verses which contain “Alleluias”, and to set a more reflective tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday, our “Alleluias” and praise can ring-out with renewed freshness and vigor, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different Song of Praise and concluding hymn for the benediction today.

OUR LENTEN STUDY continues this Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 pm in the Parlor. Each week's session highlights a significant era of the Church's development, and we also explore how that historical period might correspond to a particular stage of our own lives and faith. This week's study is “Breaking-Up Is Hard to Do - Revisiting the Reformation” Each session “stands alone” - so feel free to participate whenever your schedule permits.

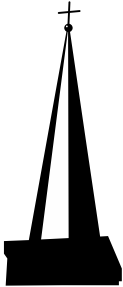
IF YOU ARE NEW TO BUCC Find out all about us at BrecksvilleUCC.org or join our Facebook page at Facebook.com/groups/47415019263/ (or type in Brecksville United Church of Christ in the top search bar on your FB page). On our website you'll find current announcements, details of our 200 year history, photos and our Affirmation of Welcome. Our Facebook page is just plain fun!

THE BUCC LIBRARY invites you to take a look at the Lent, Holy Week, and Easter books near the copies of Still Speaking Magazine on the top shelf of the red book cart. Books for adults on other subjects are on the middle shelf, and children's Lent, Holy Week, and Easter books are on the lowest shelf. The books on the cart have all been cataloged, so please use the card in the pocket in the back of the book to sign out the books you borrow.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: The Brecksville Broadview Heights Community Chorus, directed by Joy Parker, will help us celebrate our bicentennial year with a free program of choral music here at Brecksville UCC on Sunday, April 10 at 4:00 p.m. Sacred and secular works will be presented, including settings of early American songs and spirituals. Members of our BUCC choir will join the BBHCC to form a larger ensemble for a few of the pieces. Please know that *anyone* associated with BUCC is welcome to participate in this event - seasonal choir members, congregants, friends, and high school students. Weekly rehearsals start Monday March 7 from 7-8. Listening CDs are available to help with the learning process. Contact Dave if you'd like a copy of the music and CD.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the ***Monthly Pillar***.

PHOTOS WANTED! Please take photos of **ALL** events this year so we might add them to the new pictorial directory this fall, ie. Ministry meetings, event set-up/tear down, donation delivery, hospital visits (with permission), choir practices, Sunday School classes, you get the idea! Post them on our Facebook page, email to BetseyWilson10@gmail.com or leave hard copies in the office Attn: Bicentennial Ministry. Thank you!



Brecksville United Church of Christ

CELEBRATING

200
YEARS

Enter, Rejoice & Come In!

BUCC POLO SHIRTS We are now taking orders for the BUCC polo shirts and t-shirts with our 200 year anniversary logo. These high quality polo shirts are gray with an embroidered red, white and black BUCC logo. Sizes s-xl are \$25.00. 2XL and larger are \$27.00.

Gray, logo screened t-shirts sizes S-XL are \$15.00 with an additional \$2.00 for larger sizes. Children's t-shirts are also available.

Samples will be available for you to see and try on during coffee hour. A representative of the bicentennial committee will be available during coffee hour to take your order.

The Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Holy One in the opportune moment, call out while the Holy One is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Holy One, who will have mercy on them, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Holy One. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The New Testament - Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Continuing Testament - from *How to Survive Threatening Headlines* - by Matthew Skinner [edited]

Most people hear Jesus speak of “repentance” and think first of guilt and behavior; but this is to misunderstand repentance. At its root, the word “repent” is about thinking and perception. It refers to a wholesale change in how a person understands something. It implies an utter reconfiguration of your perspective on reality and meaning, including a reorientation of yourself toward God. Your behavior might change as a result of this new perception, certainly; but repentance first involves seeing things differently, and coming to a new understanding of what God makes possible.

Jesus offers an alternate perspective on the cycles of violence, pain and meaninglessness. His summons to repent is not escapism nor a minimizing of Life’s hardships. It means coming to discover God as the source of sustenance, belonging, meaning and hope in this difficult life and into a future existence. “Repentance” invokes the change that occurs within us when God meets us and reshapes our understanding. Jesus doesn’t promise to change the world by providing instant relief. His coming didn’t put an end to tyrants or stop meteorites from falling on random people. But he does offer a new perspective on what’s possible for us and for our world. He insists God can be encountered, even within this fragile human existence. This new perspective isn’t about passively resigning oneself to Life’s afflictions. Nor is repentance a tool for seizing control over the universe to tame its vicious streak. It is a way of aligning ourselves with the God who cares for all the world and wishes to enlist our help in ushering in newness, relief and justice.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 28	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30PM	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
Tues., March 1	10:00am	CWRU
	7:15 pm	Lenten Study - Parlor
Wed., March 2	6:00 am	Early Birds
	7:00 pm	Spiritual Life
Thurs., March 3	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Sat., March 5	9:00 am	Facilities
Sunday, March 6	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Lay Reader: David Pastor
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: George & Carole Snider
Fred Pesek, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Cliff Cribbs
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Jim Duffy, Carole Snider
Servers: Chad Sproul, Vicki Szabo
Clean-Up: Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Kate
Klonowski
Snow Herder: Matt Wolbert

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 6, 2016

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Darlene Kelly, Michele Namitka
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Bob Chandler
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Jon Cook
Counters: Nancy Stella, Jon Thompson
Servers: Vicki Szabo, Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Tina Ortiz, Diane Gressley
Snow Herder: Cliff Cribbs

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY



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 13, 2016

I Enclose \$10.00_____ or other_____ for Easter Plants

In Memory of_____
In Honor of _____ or Other_____

Your Name

I will keep the Flowers_____

I will NOT keep Flowers_____

I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter_____