



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, whose love knows no limits and whose embrace extends to all: stir within us a deepening thirst for the righteousness that Jesus taught and embodied. Help us, like him, to relate to one another in ways that show respect and fairness, openness and compassion. Amen.



Sunday February 19, 2017 • 10:00 AM

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

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.

Summer Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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

February 19, 2017 – Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Meditation Music

Despite the harshness of the times, fear of the future, and a tendency to circle the wagons, may we continue to strive to be more open-handed, big-hearted, and welcoming to all our neighbors. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Love Knocks and Waits

Damon

“Love offers life, in spite of foes
who threaten and condemn;
embracing enemies, love goes
the second mile with them.”
Daniel Charles Damon, 1994

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

Call to Worship - from *Psalms* 89

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Holy One;

People: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

L: I will declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

P: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

L: The heavens are yours, and the earth as well;

P: The world and all that is in it, for you have founded all things.

L: Happy are those who shout your praises;

All: Who walk in the light of your presence, O Holy One most high!

* Hymn of Praise

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

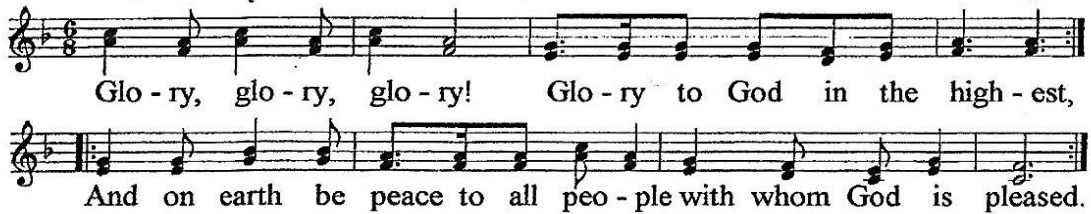
* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, be with us now and stay with us always - as we worship, as we work, as we share the challenges of living our faith each day. By the power of your Holy Spirit, turn our fear into courage and our confusion into confidence. Touch us with your Life-changing Love, and speak to us through your Compassionate Word. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Leviticus 19:9-18

Pew Bible, page 106

The New Testament

Matthew 5:38-48

Pew Bible, page 5

The Continuing Testament

from *Perfect*

by David Lose

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

We Are His Love

Hallquist

[Jon Thompson, bass; Sue Maier, alto]

Sermon

*Resistance Is **Not** Futile!*

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

#170

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

Lord, Can This Really Be?

Bell

“Is this the very place,
the school of love, where we would see your face,
and through your Spirit gain enabling grace?
Lord, could this really be?
Lord, let it really be.”
William Rutherford (alt.)

***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 [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, Source of our lives and Giver of every good gift: accept these offerings that we present to you today. May they serve as symbols of our commitment to you and to your saving work in this place and in this world. May they also be a sign of our willingness to give our whole lives in service to you and to your message of welcome and love. This we pray in the gracious Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

The Blessing

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure Now Is the Time Approaching #609

*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

Postlude

Rolle

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

“Edna House”, Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Jim Pay, Ann Toneff, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, 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, February 12, 2017 – Adult: 80 Kids: 15 Total: 95

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.

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.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Tia Began to celebrate February birthdays of her family and special friends, as well as UCC members here in Brecksville.

SEASONAL CHOIR: Seasonal choir will begin rehearsing for Holy Week on Thursday March 2 from 7:00-8:00 PM. Practices run weekly on Thursdays during the season of Lent. Holy Week this year is scheduled from April 9 (Palm Sunday) through April 16 (Easter.) Seasonal choir provides an excellent opportunity to prepare spiritually for our annual commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; the Last Supper and the Institution of Holy Communion; Christ's crucifixion and burial; and his glorious Resurrection three days later. CDs will be distributed to help singers learn their vocal parts. High school students are welcome to participate.

WE HAVE ADDED THE NAME OF EDNA HOUSE to the prayer list. Edna House is a residence on west 65th street that rehabilitates women who are recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. We will be receiving an offering for Edna House in May.

SAVE THE DATE! Please make a special effort to join us Next Sunday for our Mardi Gras Worship, Pot-Luck Dinner, and the special presentation by Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC. This event can be a good reminder that every Sunday - and every day of our lives - is a celebration of Good News of Divine love and grace. It's also an excellent occasion to invite a friend or family member to come and celebrate with us.

ALTAR FLOWERS are a good way to celebrate an event or person or to remember a loved one. Our flower chart in the narthex has many open slots awaiting your name. Please select the date you wish to reserve now. Please fill out the dedication sheet from the pocket and drop it into the collection plate or leave it in the office.

YOU ARE STILL PART OF OUR WORSHIP even when you must retreat to the narthex with an unhappy child or for any other reason. ALL parts of our worship are amplified into the narthex, including the music - choir anthems, congregational hymns and Dave's organ music - items which do not need to be amplified within the sanctuary and would result in bothersome echos.

AFTER WORSHIP LUNCH BUNCH - All are welcome to join this spirited group of BUCC worshipers after coffee hour for brunch and some great conversation. We meet at a restaurant most Sundays around Noon. If you are single, widowed, a couple, or a family – anyone that just doesn't want to cook or dine alone, please join us. You'll be glad you did! We usually call in reservations around 11:30, to give the restaurant fair warning. Jon Thompson, Susan Snyder, Dave Debick, Bridget & Chad Sproul, Kathy Smith, Pastor Dave, and Marge Culver are regulars. Ask any of us how much fun we have!

DID YOU MISS last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.

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***.

THE PEACE CANDLE is placed up front every Sunday to remind us of Jesus' teachings on peace and peacemakers. We pray that peace between nations, within our country, community, families, and ourselves will become a priority for all.

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

The Readings

The Old Testament - Leviticus 19:9-18

The Holy One spoke to Moses, saying: “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Sovereign One, your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Holy One. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall revere your God: I am the Holy One. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Holy One. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall admonish your neighbor when appropriate, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Holy One.

The New Testament - Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said of old, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Heavenly Parent; who makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Parent is perfect.”

The Continuing Testament - from *Perfect* - by David Lose [edited]

Jesus commands his disciples - then and now - to do some of the most difficult things imaginable: turn the other cheek, don't retaliate, love your enemies, pray for those who attack you. I know this is what we're supposed to do. I also know that it's really hard for most of us to imagine, let alone carry out, in any kind of consistent way. And then there's that kicker: "Be perfect as your Heavenly Parent is perfect." When we hear that command, most of us hear an injunction to a kind of moral perfectionism. But that's not actually what the original language implies. "Perfect", in this case, stems from *telos*, the Greek word for "goal", "end", or "purpose". The sense of the word is more about becoming what was intended, accomplishing one's God-given purpose. We can only do these other things - repaying evil with good, forgiving and praying for those who harm us - to the degree that we can live into our God-given identity as blessed and beloved children. You can't give what you don't have, and so only those who have experienced love can in turn share it with others.

Which is why it matters who's saying these things in the first place. It's Jesus - the one who not only talked the talk of love but walked the walk, treading steadfastly to Jerusalem, enduring the shame and humiliation of the cross, embracing death itself. Jesus not only commands, he also understands - understands just how hard it is for us to love rather than hate, forgive rather than begrudge, share rather than hoard, heal rather than wound - especially when we ourselves go through so much of our lives wounded and hurting. Jesus calls us to live into our God-given identity as beloved children of God. Really knowing, believing, and feeling that we are loved, just might help us love others as children of the Heavenly Realm.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 19

10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6:00 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, Feb. 20

President's Day
Office Closed

Wed., Feb. 22

6:00 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer
7:30 pm Spiritual Life(****note time change****)

Thurs., Feb. 23

1:00 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Saturday, Feb. 25

9:00 am Mardi Gras Set Up

Sunday, Feb. 26

10:00 am Worship Service
ONA OFFERING
11:00 am Mardi Gras Pot Luck

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

FEB. 19, 2017

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|---------------|---|
| Lay Reader: | Bridget Sproul |
| Head Usher: | Jon Thompson |
| Ushers: | Dave & Julie Bernard Diane Gressley, David Ritchey |
| Acolyte: | Michalina Fawcett |
| Peace Candle: | Drew Demko |
| Sound: | Kevin Smith |
| Comns Grtr: | George Snider |
| Narthex Grtr: | Fred Pesek |
| Flowers: | Julie Bernard |
| Nursery: | Gina Cook |
| Counters: | Bruce McCain, Carole Snider |
| Servers: | Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel |
| Clean-Up: | Bob & Caroline Chandler |
| Snacks: | Jon Thompson, Jane Cribbs |
| Snow Herder: | Jim Demko |

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

FEB. 26, 2017

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|---------------|---|
| Lay Reader: | Betsey Wilson |
| Head Usher: | Caroline Chandler |
| Ushers: | George & Carole Snider Chad & Bridget Sproul |
| Acolyte: | Carrie Coyer-Westerberg |
| Peace Candle: | Amy Coyer-Westerberg |
| Sound: | Tim Wallis |
| Comns Grtr: | Evie Novak |
| Narthex Grtr: | Linda Kriynovich |
| Flowers: | Dorie Gabor |
| Nursery: | Valerie Taylor |
| Counters: | Donn Whyte, Kathy Pastor |
| Servers: | Sue Stenzel, Joanne Cook |
| Clean-Up: | Mardi Gras |
| Snacks: | Potluck Committee |
| Snow Herder: | Dan Stewart |