

# 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*

Divine Source of Life and Love, fill us today with your Spirit of Compassion and Joy. Unite our hearts in praise and worship, and transform our lives through the gift of your grace. Gather us together in this place, and then send us forth into the world to serve you by serving others. Amen.



**Sunday February 26, 2017 • 10:00 AM**

**Last 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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## February 26, 2017 – “Mardi Gras” Sunday

### Meditation Music

Divine Source of Joy and Celebration, we pray that we may be tuned-in to the marvelous sounds of your Spirit, which beckons us in so many wonderful ways. Inspire and guide each of us to hear and recognize our particular calling, so that we may work together to carry-out your acts of justice, compassion and peace. Amen.

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

American Folk Song

*[Eric Seddon, clarinet; Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet; Steve Ostrow, trombone;  
Mark Mazak, tuba; Steve Kraus, banjo]*

#### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

#### **Bearing the Light of Christ**

**\* Call to Worship** [based on Psalm 149]

Leader: Praise the Holy One! Lift-up a new song to your Creator!

**People: Sing-forth your praises in the gathering of the faithful!**

L: Let all God's children rejoice in their Maker!

**P: Let them praise God's name with celebration and dancing!**

L: With harp and tambourine make a joyful melody to the Holy One!

**P: For The Holy One takes pleasure in the people's delight!**

L: The Compassionate One graciously raises-up the lowly!

**P: Therefore let us shout-out with joy, as the Spirit inspires us!**

L: Let the faithful rejoice in the Holy One's glorious ways;

**All: Let all God's saints sing-forth with joy!**

#### **\*Hymn of Praise**

O When the Saints Go Marching In

1. O when the Saints go marching in,  
When the Saints go marching in.  
Lord, I want to be in that number  
When the Saints go marching in.

2. O when the sun begins to shine,  
When the sun begins to shine.  
Lord, I want to be in that number  
When the sun begins to shine.

3. O when the air is pure and clean...

4. O when our leaders work for  
peace... ►

5. O when we see the truth at last...

6. O when we join our hands as  
one...

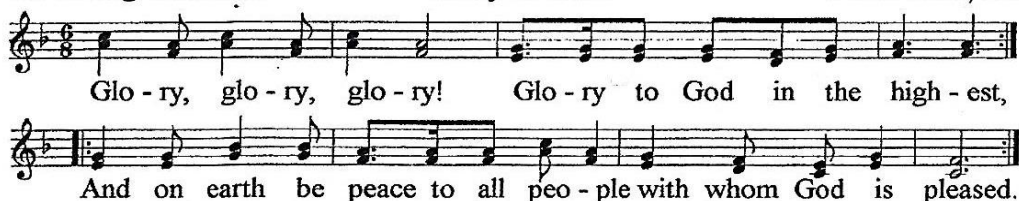
**\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Creative Source of Life, we come into your presence with thanks for all that fills us with joy: the love of family and friends, the comfort of our homes, the challenge of work, and the delight of leisure. We thank you for this Church Home, and for all your gracious gifts that we receive and experience here. Help us to respond to your many blessings with lives that are generous and thankful, compassionate and joyful! This we pray in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**The Old Testament**

Genesis 18:1-8

Pew Bible, page 14

**The New Testament**

Romans 15:5-7

Pew Bible, page 163

**The Continuing Testament**

from *Process Theology in the United Church of Christ*

- by David M. Stowe

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

African-American

Spiritual, arr. Johnson/Debick

**Sermon**

*"Covenant and Coming-Out"*

Andy Lang

**Hymn of Reflection**

This Little Light of Mine

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! [3x's]

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

2. Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine! [3x's]

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

3. Don't you try and blow it out...

4. All around my neighborhood...

5. Everywhere the Spirit leads...

6. Every day and every way...

[repeat verse 1]

# ***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**

**Take My Hand, Precious Lord**

**Dorsey**

**\*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, we offer ourselves with our gifts, confident that you have a  
purpose for them and for us. Expand our vision to see and to embrace new  
possibilities. May our offerings reach beyond the barriers of our restricted thinking,  
bringing help to others and glory to your name. This we pray in the name of Jesus  
Christ, our Hope and our Joy! Amen.**

## ***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure**

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

**#282**

**\*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

Medley: Down by the Riverside/O, When the Saints Trad. spirituals

### 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 19, 2017 – Adult: 79 Kids: 17 Total: 96

## BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Pot Luck Dinner.

**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.

**THIS MORNING WE WELCOME** Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. Andy will bring us this morning's message, as well as help us better understand and appreciate the Coalition's important work on our behalf.

**PLEASE JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP** for our Mardi Gras Pot-Luck Dinner, downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. This will be a fun and festive event, as well as an excellent opportunity to get to know each other a bit better!

**THIS WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY**, the first day of Lent. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally contemplate the journey of Jesus through the valley of the shadow of Good Friday, to the glorious Good News of Easter. We begin our Lenten Journey with our annual Soup Supper at 6:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall, followed by a brief service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. All are invited to come and to bring a friend! Those whose last name begins with a letter from A through K are asked to bring a loaf of bread to share. [The L through Z's will be asked to bring bread to our Maundy Thursday supper on April 13th.]

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Max Roha in Loving Memory of Mary C. Roha on their 71<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary today.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CONGRATULATE AND THANK** today's outstanding guest musicians following the service – Eric Seddon, clarinet; Steve Ostrow, trombone; Mark Mazak, tuba; Steve Kraus, banjo; and Pastor Dave Shackle on trumpet. Thank you, gentlemen, for sharing your awesome musical gifts with our congregation and guest visitors this morning!

**SEASONAL CHOIR** – Seasonal choir will begin preparing for Holy Week this Thursday from 7-8 PM. Rehearsals run weekly on Thursday evenings during Lent. All are welcome to participate, including high school students. Seasonal choir provides a wonderful opportunity to prepare spiritually for the Church's annual commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Last Supper and institution of Holy Communion (Maundy Thursday), Christ's crucifixion, death and burial (Good Friday), and his glorious Resurrection three days later (Easter). Listening CDs are provided to help singers learn their vocal parts. Contact Dave D. with any questions.

**CHRISTIAN ED** is planning a field trip to Hale Farm and Village on April 8th for their program A Fugitive's Path: Escape on the Underground Railroad. This is an evening program recommended for children and adults ages 10 and up. Tickets are \$12 for children and \$18 for adults. Please let Heidi Spangler know if you wish to attend by March 12th. The program is filling up quickly so we need to make a reservation in advance.

**PICTORAL DIRECTORY IS COMPLETE AND READY FOR PICK-UP!** For those of you that have a picture in the Directory please find your copy on the counter in the Office, and please sign your name that you have received your copy. It is really beautiful – enjoy!

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

**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.

**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 - Genesis 18:1-8**

The Holy One appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on - since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

### **The New Testament - Romans 15:5-7**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and source of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

### **The Continuing Testament - from *Process Theology in the United Church of Christ* - by David M. Stowe [edited]**

The most fundamental affirmation of the Bible is that God is a "living God." Any concordance will show how often that very expression is used. The Bible characteristically refers to God as acting, working, loving, judging, feeling, willing, planning, even suffering - all the earmarks of life as we experience it.

Surprisingly, many theologians have not taken this biblical testimony very seriously. They have been more interested in proclaiming something absolutely fixed and unchanging at the heart of the universe than in the live-liness of God.

At the center of some classical theologies, one discovers a God who is unmoving, eternally unchanging both in being and in decree - a fixed stillness...like death itself.

The living God is no remote Ruler in the heavens, but a creative Spirit intimately involved with every last part of the creation. Hence...the living God is deeply concerned about relationships - God's relationships with the world and relationships within God's world, especially relationships of human beings with each other and with the natural world around them.

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## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, Feb. 26**

10:00 am    Worship Service  
***ONA OFFERING***

11:00 am    Mardi Gras Pot Luck

**Monday, Feb. 27**

10:00 am    Leadership Dev. Parlor

**Wed., March 1**

6:00 am    Early Birds

4:30 pm    Recorder/Dulcimer

6:30 pm    Soup Supper

7:00 pm    Ash Wednesday Service

**Thurs., March 2**

1:00 pm    Bible Study

5:30 pm    Joyful Noise

7:00 pm    Seasonal Choir

8:00 pm    Choir

**Sunday, March 5**

10:00 am    Worship Service

11:00 am    Coffee Hour

5:30 pm    Youth Percussion

6:00 pm    Youth Ministry

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**FEB. 26, 2017**

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

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**MARCH 5, 2017**

Lay Reader:	Diane Gressley
Head Usher	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Joanne Cook, Ed Lusk, Kathy Smith, Dan Stewart
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Ben Davis
Sound:	David Pastor
Comns Grtr:	Dave Bernard
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
Counters:	Nancy Stella, Jim Duffy
Servers:	Marge Culver, Caroline Chandler
Clean Up:	Lynne Struck
Snacks:	Jim Pay, Susan Snyder
Snow Herder:	Dave Bernard