

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 Light and
Love, open our
eyes so that we
may see more
clearly the
gracious Way of
Jesus. Open
our hearts so
that we
may follow
more closely
in Christ's
compassionate
steps. And help
us all to do our
part in
conveying your
healing power
to our broken
and hurting
world. Amen.

Fourth Sunday In

LENT

Sunday March 26, 2017 • 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

March 26, 2017 – Fourth Sunday In Lent

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, far too often we are unwilling to see and embrace the plain truth that is right before us. Give us the strength and courage to recognize the reality of your Presence; and inspire us to boldly act as your faithful children, wherever your Spirit may lead us. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Open Me

McDonald

[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

“Would You open up my eyes so I can see?
Would You open up my ears so I can hear?
Would You open up my mind so I can know?
Would You open up my heart so I can love You more?”
Shawn McDonald, b. 1977

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Gracious Holy One, with the dawning of each new day, you reveal yourself to us anew.

People: Give us new eyes to recognize you:

L: In the beauty of Creation, which is all around us;

P: In our neighbors, friends, and families,

L: In the poor, the unemployed, the victims of war and violence,

P: In the sorrows and joys of life; in the fears and hopes of all.

L: Help us respond to your gracious Presence, wherever we encounter it,

P: In the close and familiar, and in the foreign and new.

L: Open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear your call, and our hearts to welcome you with joy!

All: Shine your light upon us and show us your way!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Come to Tend God's Garden

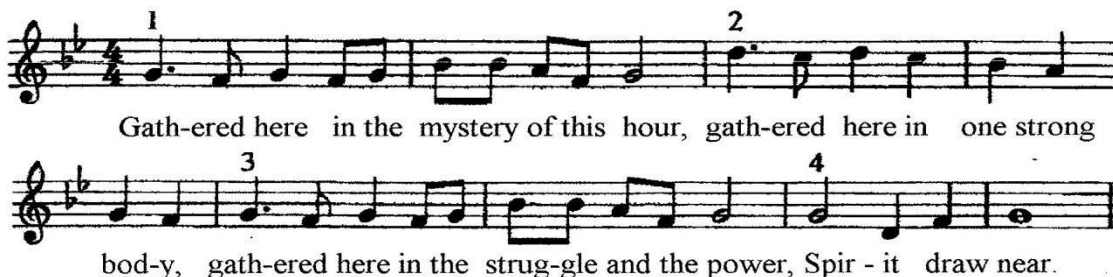
#586

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, we encounter you in places we might not expect, and in people we would never imagine. Sometimes we see you clearly and sometimes we pass by without seeing you at all. Open our eyes to see you here and now - to see you among the people in this congregation and among the strangers we meet outside these doors. And open our mouths to joyfully proclaim the Good News of your ever-present love! Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Gathered Here - sung twice



The Old Testament

Isaiah 9:1-5

Pew Bible, page 638

The New Testament

John Chapter 9

Pew Bible, page 102

The Continuing Testament

from *First Thoughts*

by William Loader

Youth Anthem

Open the Eyes of My Heart
[Joyful Noise Choir]

Baloche

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

God of the Poor
[Betsey Wilson, flute]

Kendrick, arr. Debick

Sermon

Our Religious "Blind-Spots"

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Amazing Grace

#547

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.**

Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Ken Medema



Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory There Is a Balm in Gilead African-American spiritual

"Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again."

*** 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]**

Divine Source of Life and Light, we are thankful that you have entrusted to us the joy and responsibility of sharing with others the vision of New Life which Jesus Christ came to reveal. Accept these offerings, that they may be a sign of our love for you and for others. Use these gifts and use our lives to advance your Realm of Compassion and Peace within our community and throughout our world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

- * Hymn of Departure Arise, Your Light Is Come #164
- * Carrying the Light of Christ into the World Acolyte
- * Circle of Community Hear Our Prayer, O God - sung twice

*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 Ricercar del primo tuono Palestrina

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Dottie Faust, George Snider, "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, March 19, 2017 – Adult: 70 Kids: 10 Total: 80

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 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.

OGHS – Let us be good stewards of the blessings we hold. Today, we will take up our **One Great Hour of Sharing** collection. This Offering goes towards funding health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, and refugee ministries. Please give as you would want to receive.

HEADS UP! CHANGES IN OUR LITURGY - A longstanding Lenten tradition in the Christian Church is to “put away” hymns or verses which contain “Alleluia.” The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday our “Alleluias” can ring-forth with a new freshness and vigor, as we welcome the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different **Song of Praise**, and concluding hymn for the benediction today.

For our **Offertory Hymn** we will be using words that Bill Toneff wrote to fit the tune of the Doxology, reflective of the Lenten Season

OUR HYMN OF THE MONTH for March is *Come to Tend God’s Garden*, written by John A. Dalles, and set to Ralph Vaughan Williams’ hymn tune *King’s Weston*. The contemplative words and melody of this hymn seem fitting for Lent, as we watch the world once again begin to green and grow, and consider our role in the care and nurture of both the earth, and of our Faith.

If you find a particular hymn with words that move you, or a melody that intrigues you, please let Pastor Dave or Dave Debick know, and we will try to use it as a future Hymn of the Month.

TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY - This Tuesday March 21st at 7:15 pm, we will continue our study on “How Our Faith Helps Us Deal with....” Each week, we share some of our personal experiences and insights concerning the different ways our Faith informs and inspires us as we face specific issues and concerns. This week’s topic is “How Our Faith Helps Us Deal with...Illness, Death, and Dying.” Please join us, and bring a friend!

OPEN HOUSE We have just about finished the repairs to the rental house, and would like to announce that we will have an open house **TODAY** for anyone in the congregation that might be interested in seeing it.

THE FINAL AMOUNT OF OUR OFFERING to the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns was **\$690.00**. Thank you all for your generous contributions to this important ministry of our church!

REMINDER Our “Building Leadership for the Future” workshop is being held Saturday, April 1 from 10:30 AM to 2:00PM. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know in advance if you will be needing childcare. See you all there!!

FREE CONCERT THIS AFTERNOON – Today at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring the **Mosa String Quartet** from the Cleveland Institute of Music. The ensemble will perform works by Schubert, Bartók, Glière, Zwilich and Beethoven. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the concert. Plan on joining us this afternoon for an inspiring program of chamber music. Bring a friend! joining us.

SPRING CLEAN UP - The Annual Spring clean-up will be taking place on Saturday, April 8th starting at 9:00 am weather permitting. We need volunteers to help. Please feel free to bring rakes, leaf blowers or any other yard tool. A member of the facilities committee will be available during coffee hour with a sign-up sheet. Thank You

The Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 9:1-5

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time the Holy One brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time the Holy One will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

The New Testament - from *John* Chapter 9

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of the One who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought the man who had formerly been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. The Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided....

A second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, is that once I was blind, but now I see.... If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out of the synagogue.

When Jesus heard that they had driven him out, he went and found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe!"

The Continuing Testament - from *First Thoughts* - by William Loader [edited]

It is a refreshing reminder to hear again Jesus' rejection of a necessary causal link between disability and sin. While it is clearly outrageous to think otherwise, it often appears to inform attitudes and has been given broad application. So we will hear that people for whom life does not go well are at fault, whether that is about a disability, unemployment or sickness. Its corollary usually holds the following attitude in place: people who prosper are blessed; people blessed are good people. Other people are bad people! Even select Biblical texts can be cited to support that claim....

Wherever rules matter most and people take second place, we have darkness, even if those rules are divinely warranted in Scripture. Obsession with observance is a characteristic of religion which makes it very dangerous, as many forms of fundamentalism have shown. Such rigidity at the expense of people can flourish among Christians and among those serving other ideologies. ►

It is also at home where people read the Bible as a vehicle for their Jesus and their God, to 'win', instead of as testimony to Divine Compassion which puts people first. As the blind man might have said: 'Well I don't understand much about all of that, but I know when I see people getting helped and I'll run with that!'

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 26	10:00 am	Worship Service *OGHS Offering*
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	Arlington Open House
	4:00 pm	MOSA String Quartet concert *light reception to follow*
Tuesday, March 28	7:15 pm	Lenten Study
Wed., March 29	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thurs., March 30	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Sunday, April 2	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
		Hunger Meal – Bethany

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

MARCH 26, 2017

Lay Reader:	Jill Zedan
Head Usher:	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	David & Kathy Pastor, Vicki Szabo, Jon Thompson
Acolyte:	Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Betty Kaul
Flowers:	Jan Renovetz
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
Counters:	Marge Culver, Bruce McCain
Servers:	Darlene Kelly, Michelle Namitka
Clean-Up:	Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks:	Kate Klonowski, Dorie Gabor
Snow Herder:	Chad Sproul

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 2, 2017

Lay Reader:	Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher	Jon Thompson
Ushers:	Diane Gressley, Sam Koch, Linda Kriynovich, Fred Pesek
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Ben Davis
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Flowers:	Bettina Ortiz
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
Counters:	Nancy Stella, Carole Snider
Servers:	Marge Culver, Caroline Chandler
Clean Up:	Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel
Snacks:	Jim Pay, Susan Snyder
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, APRIL 2, 2017

I Enclose \$12.00_____or other_____ for Easter Plants

In Memory of_____

In Honor of _____ Other_____

Your Name

I will keep the Flowers_____

I will NOT keep Flowers_____

I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter_____