



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*

People have to forgive. We don't have to like them, we don't have to be friends with them, we don't have to send them hearts in text messages, but we have to forgive them, to overlook, to forget. Because if we don't we are tying rocks to our feet, too much for our wings to carry!
-C. JoyBell C.



Sunday April 30, 2017 • 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Easter

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

April 23, 2017 – Third Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

Risen Christ, you showed us how to live and how to die—and how to live again. Your way of life offers us new beginnings. Thank you for calling us to new life every day.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

McFarland

"We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
nor follow where Christ trod;
but in confessing we rejoice:
our Savior and our God!"
Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: We are Easter people!

People: Alleluia is our song!

L: Jesus lived and Jesus died.

P: And Jesus rose to new life.

L: The Risen Christ calls us to live fully.

P: The Risen Christ calls us to live in love.

L: Let us live as Easter people should.

All: Let us rise to new life in Christ!

***Hymn of Praise**

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

#251

***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Good and gracious God,

Jesus is no longer among the dead

but is the very essence of Life!

Raise us from death to life as Jesus was raised.

Raise, too, our awareness of the life we share with Christ.

Thank you for showing us

how to grow toward the fullness of life with you.

We pray this in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen

Passing the Peace

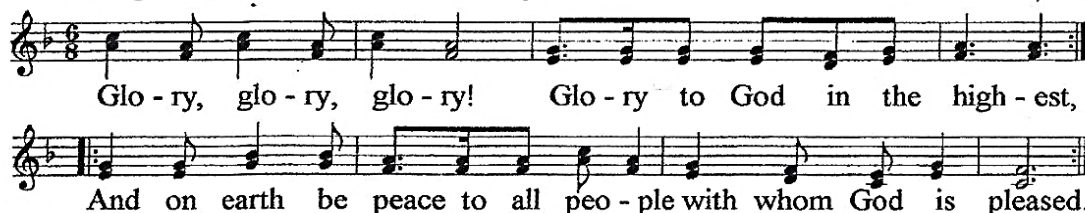
Leader: We are the people of New Life. Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.
The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

* The Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The First Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

The Gospel:

John 20:19-31

The Continuing Testament:

C. JoyBell C.

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Stand Firm

Trad. Cameroon song, arr. Glover

[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Sermon

"Whose sins you forgive . . ."

Ann Klonowski, RCWP

Hymn of Reflection

From the Crush of Wealth and Power

#552

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

*[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

We Raise Our Hands to You

English tune, arr. Parker

"Oh, make our barren trees to grow,
our hands to blossom,
and let our lives bring forth such fruit
that heals our neighbor's grief and pain."
Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

*** Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care;
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts;
With hearts of love we share our gifts. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

We praise you, O God, with greater joy than ever this Easter season, when Christ showed us how to overcome even death. We have become people of the light, rising to new and everlasting life. His death ends all death; his resurrection is our new life. In joy and gratitude, then, we offer these gifts, which first you gave to us. We offer them in the name of the Risen One. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure**

Great Is Your Faithfulness

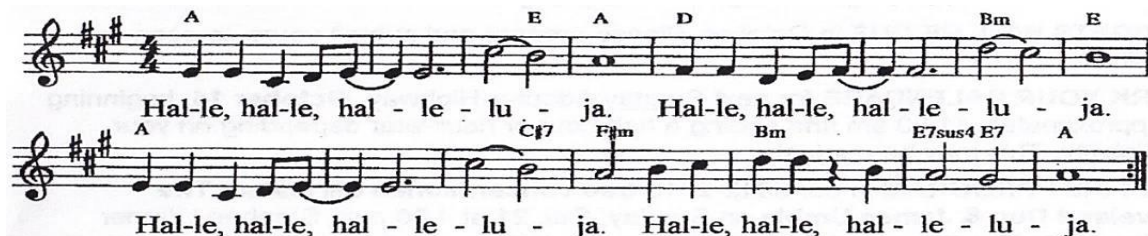
#423

***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

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Crüger

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Justin Brownlow, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Jim Pay, Bill 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, April 23, 2017 – Adult: 70 Kids: 9 Total: 79

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 Carol Miller in Honor of Rob Miller

REMINDER: Save the date: Sunday May 7th is BUCC Day at the Akron Rubber Ducks game at Canal Park. \$6 per seat. First pitch is at 2:05 pm. Tickets will be available beginning Sunday April 23rd. Please see or contact David Pastor for details.

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN! This year, OCWM's Mother's Day collection (May 14th) will support **Edna House for Women**, a residential community that assists "women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction by providing a safe, sober place to live and to teach life skills to maintain sobriety throughout their lifetime." You can learn all about them and see a list of specific needs for items at ednahouse.org. Of course, monetary donations are ALWAYS appreciated!

(If you would like to donate via check through BUCC, please write "Edna House" in the memo line). If you have any comments or questions or would like to request an at-home pick up, please contact Kate Klonowski at keightykay@gmail.com or (216) 534-3498 (text ok). Thanks!

THE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP will meet Monday, May 1st, at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. Betty Gifford will be leading the group as they discuss "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi. This is a book written by a young physician who is just about to start out on his career as a neurosurgeon when he realizes that he has stage 4 lung cancer. He is facing his own mortality. It is a story of courage. If you need a book call Caroline Chandler (440-526-9714). Please feel free to join us.

MOVIE We are going to have a movie night co-sponsored by the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence and Summit County Progressive Democrats Gun Violence Prevention Issue Team. This movie night will be on Monday, May 15 at 7:00 pm The Movie is Under the Gun by Katie Couric and we will also have Sandy Philips as a speaker. Her daughter Jessie was killed in the Aurora Theater shooting.

THANK YOU for the beautiful Calla Lilly Flowers that were left on my desk for Administrative Professionals Day – I love them! Jeannette

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.

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!

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 BLESSINGS JAR is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

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***.

MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: www.brecksvilleucc.org. It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

BUCC HAS THE LATEST, up-to-date version of the Williams personal sound system. It may just be your answer if you are concerned (1) that the quality of sound deteriorates between the speakers and your pew in the sanctuary, or (2) that your hearing is getting poorer but not yet bad enough to buy hearing aids, or (3) that you have hearing aids and you want to hear even better or (4) that you are bothered by the route 82 traffic noises or any noise generated by your pew mates during worship.

Receivers are available in the narthex for you to borrow which pick up ALL PARTS of the worship service - sermon, readings, choir and organ music, etc. Just plug in one of our head phones, your favorite Walkman head phones or any other unit with a 3.5mm plug and you are ready for a new hearing experience. Don't know if you want to do this? Then try it out; borrow one of the church's head phones and "test drive" a Williams receiver during a worship service.

And if you already have digital hearing aids, an even better experience awaits you. Simply have your audiologist activate the teleloop option of you hearing aids, borrow a receiver with a teleloop plugged in and experience sound quality you never would have expected. The sound remains electronic all the way from the speaker's mic to your ear drum.

One of our ushers and members of the Spiritual Life Ministry are ready to help you get started. Check with them before the service next Sunday. Your questions are gladly answered.

The Readings

The First Reading: Acts 2:42-47 *[The Inclusive Bible]*

The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple, and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

The Gospel: John 20:19-31 *[The Inclusive Bible]*

In the evening of the same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As Abba God sent me, so I am sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven, If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas, nicknamed "Didymus," or "Twin," was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen Jesus!"

Thomas' answer was, "I will never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!”

Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!” Jesus then said, “You have become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples.

But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ name.

The Continuing Testament: C. JoyBell C.

Anger is like flowing water; there's nothing wrong with it as long as you let it flow. Hate is like stagnant water, anger that you denied yourself the freedom to feel, the freedom to flow, water that you gathered in one place and left to forget. Stagnant water becomes dirty, stinky, disease-ridden, poisonous, deadly; that is your hate. On-flowing water travels little paper boats, paper boats of forgiveness. Allow yourself to feel anger, allow your waters to flow, along with all the paper boats of forgiveness. Be human.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 30	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour/Baseball Sign-up
Monday, May 1	1:00 pm	Book Review
	7:30 pm	Facilities
Wed., May 3	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thurs., May 4	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday, May 7	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	2:00 pm	Akron Rubber Ducks Baseball Game

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 30, 2017

Lay Reader:	Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Beth Rehling, Darlene Kelly, Dan Stewart, Ian Stewart
Acolyte:	Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Drew Demko
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Fred Pesek
Flowers:	Carole Snider (yellow flowers)
Nursery:	Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters:	Marge Culver, David Pastor
Servers:	Sue Stenzel, Julie Bernard
Clean Up:	David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks:	Anne Melfo, Kathleen Stewart

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MAY 7, 2017

Lay Reader:	David Pastor
Head Usher	Bridget Sproul
Ushers:	Ed Lusk, Kathy Smith Jill Zedan, Jess Barnes
Acolyte:	Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Dave Bernard
Flowers:	Maureen Stanley
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
Counters:	Nancy Stella, Carole Snider
Servers:	Betty Kaul, Joy Garapic
Clean Up:	Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan
Snacks:	Beth Rehling, Max Roha