

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 our
beginnings and
endings, and
every transition
in-between:
help us to
recognize our
need for your
grace and
healing and to
understand the
ways we are
renewed by
your love. Grant
us patience and
courage as
we seek the
fulfilment of
your Presence
in our lives and
in our world.
Amen.



*“Jesus Answered Her, “Woman, Great Is Your Faith! Let It Be
Done For You As You Wish.” And Her Daughter Was Healed
Instantly.”*

Matthew 15:28

Sunday February 4, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Fifth 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, 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.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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

February 4, 2018 – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Meditation Music

Holy Source of Life and Love, may we see beyond the circumstances that separate us from one another, and have compassion for the innocent caught in the tangled web of a life not of their own making. May we work for a world where the guilty, as well as the innocent, have hope for the future. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

We Cannot Measure How You Heal
[Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble;
Becky Anderson, flute]

Scottish tune

"Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole."
John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1989

***Call to Worship**

Leader: When we are alone or when we are together,

People: Our Creative Source is with us.

L: Wherever we walk, or whenever we fall,

P: Divine Love raises us up and sustains us.

L: When we feel trapped or when we soar free,

P: Holy Compassion surrounds us.

L: When we are in shadow or in the light,

P: Divine Grace shines upon us.

L: In this time and place, and wherever we may go,

All: The Holy One is with us! Let us rejoice and give thanks!

***Hymn of Praise**

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

#73

*** Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

Eternal Holy One, we look to your saving power and grace. Enter those parts of ourselves that disturb us and heal them. Use our broken places as the places where you bring us together in community. Transform our own weakness into compassion for the weakness of others. Give us that graceful combination of humility and self-esteem that we may see ourselves and others as you see us - your restored and loved people. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

L: One fact remains and does not change: God has loved us, loves us now, and will love us always. This is the Good News that brings us new life!

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Passing the Peace**

L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ.

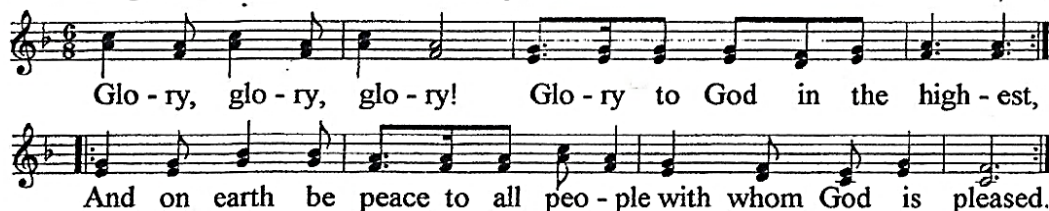
The Peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Pew Bible, page 616

The New Testament

Matthew 15:21-28

Pew Bible, page 17

The Continuing Testament from *I'm A Christian Feminist*

by Char Adams

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

Cry Out to Jesus

Third Day

Sermon

Listen, and Learn...and Live!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

God Made of One Blood

#427

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

Voluntary (gratioso)

Russell

*** Offertory Hymn**

**Winter has come, it's taken hold.
The days are short, the nights are cold.
The poor need food and light and heat.
We send our gifts, their needs to meet. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Compassionate Holy One, you have called us to be your Church, your Living Body
in this world. We thank you for the opportunities we have to grow together as your
people, and we pray that you would continue to increase our outreach beyond
these church doors. Bless these gifts and each of us, that we might extend your
tender care to others in our community and throughout our world. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

#342

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!

L: It is truly good and right to give thanks to you, Divine Source of Light and Love. You call us from the East and the West, the North and the South, to gather at the new dawn that Christ brings to our world. And so with your people everywhere, we praise you with joy, saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Divine Source of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O Holy One Most High!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!

Corzine

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Divine Source of all blessings, we give you thanks for Jesus, the Light of the World - the Light that no darkness can overcome. We thank you that you have called us to walk in your light and have nourished us for our journey with this Bread and Cup. Fill us with your Spirit and guide us in the compassionate steps of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
[verse 1]

#77

***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

God Is My Strong Salvation

The Sacred Harp, 1844

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Donn Whyte, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, Shirley Duncan, 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 January 28, 2018 – Adults: 69 Kids: 15 Total: 84

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.

MARDI GRAS - NEXT SUNDAY, February 11 at 10:00 AM, we will celebrate a Mardi Gras service featuring live New Orleans-style music. Our ensemble regulars include Eric Seddon, clarinet; Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet; Steve Ostrow, trombone; Mark Mazak, tuba; Steve Kraus, banjo, and Dave Debick tickling the ivories. The service will be followed by a gala potluck downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Please plan on joining us for this festive event, which marks the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins. Bring a friend!

AT OUR MARDI GRAS SERVICE we will take a special offering for the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns - and the ONA Program. The Open and Affirming [ONA] Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community within the UCC, and helps UCC congregations bear witnesses to Christ's extravagant welcome to all people.

NEW ADDRESS: Jeanne Cowden has moved, her new address is:

Jennings of Brecksville
Jeanne R. Cowden
8736 Brecksville Rd. Suite 220
Brecksville, OH 44141

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!

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.

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***.

Readings

The Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

The New Testament - Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Continuing Testament - from *I'm A Christian Feminist* - by Char Adams [edited]

Jesus had a countercultural attitude toward women. At a time when women were uneducated, looked down on and viewed as property, Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well as an equal; he defended a woman caught in adultery; and he healed a woman whose illness caused her to bleed constantly, instead of shunning her - which was the prescribed thing to do at that time. As Christians, we are called to strive to be like Jesus - so if Christ boldly treats all women like human beings worthy of respect and consideration, we should too.

Sexism and patriarchy are deeply rooted in all areas of modern society, so, as Christians, we are to follow Christ's lead by being different, and that includes treating women as equals in every way.

Christianity, at its core, is about receiving Divine Love and working to spread that love to the world. That should be our goal. It breaks my heart that we have let the injustice of patriarchy hinder us from loving people equally. Patriarchy says that we are to expect certain characteristics and actions from a person based on her or his gender. This way of thinking strips people of their individuality.

Fundamentalist Christianity has fueled the fire of many injustices throughout the centuries. The twisting and perversion of the Sacred Word has led to the slaughter of thousands, upheld the institution of slavery, and secured a place in society for patriarchy and sexism. Christians should be on the front lines of the feminist movement, because the Holy One is a God of justice who loves us all equally; and we should aim to perfect those traits within the Church, within our society, and within ourselves.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday, February 4 | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 am | CE Mtg. - Library |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour |
| Monday, February 5 | 1:00 pm | Book Discussion |
| | 7:00 pm | Facilities – Library |
| | 7:00 pm | Spiritual Life |
| Wednesday, February 7 | 4:30 pm | <u>NO</u> Recorder/Dulcimer |
| Thursday, February 8 | 5:30 pm | Joyful Noise |
| | 7:30 pm | Choir |
| Friday, February 9 | | *Office Closed* |
| Sunday, February 11 | 10:00 am | Mardi Gras Service |
| | | *ONA Offering* |
| | 11:00 am | Mardi Gras Potluck |
| | 5:30 pm | Youth Percussion |
| | 6:00 pm | Youth Ministry |

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Lay Reader: | Jim Duffy |
| Head Usher | Sue Stenzel |
| Ushers: | Betsey & Joe Wilson Julie & Dave Bernard |
| Acolyte: | Grace Hunt |
| Peace Candle: | Lily Hunt |
| Sound: | Max Roha |
| Comms Grtr: | Marge Culver |
| Flowers: | Anne Melfo |
| Nursery: | Courtnei Began |
| C.E Teacher: | Kathleen Stewart |
| Counters: | Nancy Stella, Carole Snider |
| Servers: | Leroy & Kathy Ford |
| Clean Up: | Sue Stenzel, Jill Zedan |
| Snacks: | Julie Bernard, Max Roha |
| Snow Herder: | Doug Fawcett |

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Lay Reader: | David Pastor |
| Head Usher: | Jan Renovetz |
| Ushers: | Bob & Caroline Chandler Betty Kaul, Sam Koch |
| Acolyte: | Jillian Davis |
| Peace Candle: | Ben Davis |
| Sound: | Ben Tomlinson |
| Comms Grtr: | Dave Bernard |
| Flowers: | Bettina Ortiz |
| Nursery: | Jon Cook |
| C.E Teacher: | Robin Coyer |
| Counters | Matt Wolbert, Kathy Pastor |
| Servers: | Mardi Gras Potluck |
| Clean-Up: | Mardi Gras Potluck |
| Snacks: | Mardi Gras Potluck |
| Snow Herder: | Joe Wilson |