



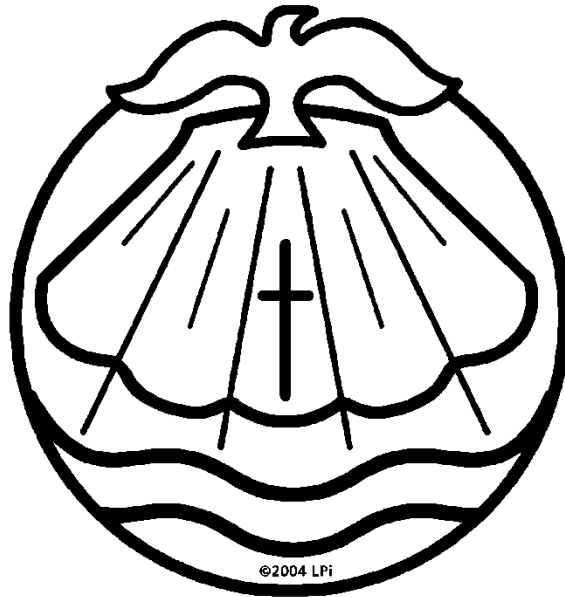
BRECKSVILLE

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*

Holy One of
Covenant,
Keeper of
Promises: help
us to follow
your faithful
example. May
our covenant
with you, and
our promises to
your loving
Realm move
beyond words,
into action. May
our lives shine
like your
rainbow
promise, and
our love reflect
the light of your
beloved child,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.



***"You Are My Beloved Child, With Whom I Am
Pleased."
Matthew 3:17***

Sunday February 18, 2018 • 10:00 AM

First 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, 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 18, 2018 – First Sunday in Lent

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, as we move into Lent with all its powerful motifs of wilderness and self-examination, promise and hope, may we commit ourselves to be more aware of what goes on around us, between us, and within us. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Thompson/Scruggs

* Call to Worship - from *Psalms* 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where is my help to come?

People: My help comes from the Holy One, who made heaven and earth.

L: The Eternal One will not let your foot be moved;

P: The Holy One who keeps you will not slumber.

L: The Gracious One who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

P: The Holy One is your protector, the shade at your side.

L: The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

P: The Righteous One will keep you from all evil and will sustain your life.

L: The Holy One will keep your going out and your coming in,

All: From this time on and forevermore.

* Hymn of Praise

Lift High the Cross

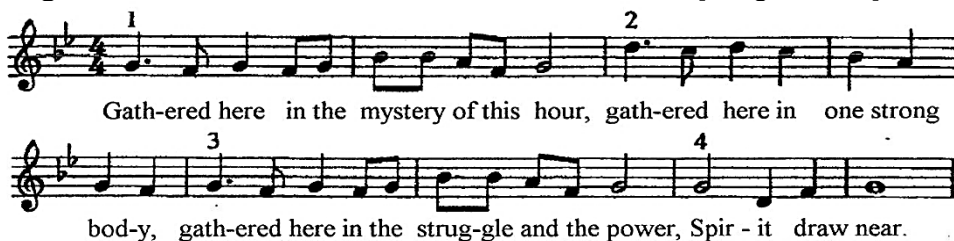
#198

* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

Creative Source of our world and ourselves, we thank you that you reveal yourself in the events of human history. We are grateful that you impart so much of yourself in the person of Jesus Christ, who shares our human condition and shows us the path of loving service - even as it takes him to the Cross. Following Christ's example, may we also be willing to give ourselves to live for the sake of others. Amen.

* The Song of Praise

Gathered Here - #742 [sung 2 times]



Time with Young Worshipers

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Leader: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism bears witness to the Divine Love and Grace that is extended to each of us at every stage of our lives.

People: Today we celebrate God's love for this child, and offer ourselves as instruments of that love in his life.

L: When parents brought their children to Jesus so that he might touch them, his disciples rebuked them; but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

P: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Divine Realm.

L: Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Divine Realm like a little child, shall not enter it."

P: Then Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is an outward and visible sign of Divine Grace. Because the promise of the Gospel is not only to us, but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's Church, the sign and seal of their participation in Divine forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith.

P: Out of the Water of Holy Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiveness and grace as members of the One Body of Christ.

Promises of the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage him to resist the power of evil, and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach and nurture him that he may be inspired to know and follow Jesus Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow with him in the Christian faith and to help him be a faithful member of the Church - by modeling Christ's Compassion in your lives, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering him the on-going nurture of the Church?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

The Congregational Promise

Pastor: Members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ: As witnesses of this Baptism, will you pray for Miles and his family, and encourage them as they grow together in faith?

People: We promise them our prayerful support, as they seek to live-out Christ's love!

Baptismal Act and Presentation

The Old Testament	Psalm 91:1-2; 9-16	Pew Bible, page 548
The New Testament	Matthew 3:13 - 4:11	Pew Bible, page 3
The Continuing Testament	from <i>Life of the Beloved</i>	by Henri Nouwen
Anthem	Take, Lord, Receive <i>[Becky Anderson, flute]</i>	Foley
Sermon	<i>Choose Wisely, Friends!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
Hymn of Reflection	I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry	#351

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

[we use "Mother" to reflect our theological understanding of the Inclusive Nature of The Holy One]

...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

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

Parry

"There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.

Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font."

Fred Kaan, 1965

*** 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**

Gracious and Merciful Holy One, as we present our gifts at your altar, we pray that you would warm our hearts and expand our generosity. Help us to faithfully trust in your loving care for us, so that we might boldly give of our lives and resources to care for others. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who freely gave himself for us all. Amen.

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Come, Let Us Eat / Bless the Lord
Kwillia (Liberia) / Appalachian folk melody
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

"Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread...
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured."
Billema Kwillia, 1970; trans. Margaret D. Miller

The Blessing

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure Go, My Children, with My Blessing #82

*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 I Want Jesus to Walk with African American spiritual

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Lou Borzy, 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.

Attendance February 11, 2018 – Adults: 101 Kids: 16 Total: 117

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.

TODAY WE WELCOME *Miles Jeffrey Ferfolia*, son of Erin and Jeff Ferfolia, into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A special welcome to his God Parents, Maureen Neidbalson and Don Ferfolia; his big brother and sister, Archer and Annie; and all other family and friends visiting with us on this special day!

A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION within the Christian Church is to “put away” hymns or verses which contain “Alleluias”, and to set a more reflective tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday, our “Alleluias” and praise can ring-out with renewed freshness and vigor, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different Song of Praise and concluding hymn for the benediction today.

TODAY’S FLOWERS are given by Pat Rehm and Carol Miller in Honor of the Church Community.

TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY - *How on Earth Can We be Spiritual?*

That’s a question we will be discussion for five Tuesday evenings in Lent, from 7:00-8:15 in Pilgrim Hall. For this series, we will look at the “Beatitudes” which are found in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in *Matthew*, and in Jesus’ “Sermon on the Plain” in *Luke*. In addition to comparing both Gospel accounts, we will utilize some intriguing insights from a set of daily devotional readings by Franciscan priest Richard Rohr. Plus, we will share the issues, questions, thoughts and ideas that each of you bring to the table!

The topic of the evening will be:

Feb. 20 - Blessed are the poor [in spirit]

Feb. 27 - Blessed are those who mourn

March 6 - Blessed are the pure in heart

March 13 - Blessed are the peacemakers

March 20 - Blessed are those who are persecuted

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.

SEASONAL CHOIR - It's not too late to sing with our seasonal choir, which meets on Thursdays during Lent from 7-8 PM. Seasonal choir reinforces the regular choir during Holy Week, which is scheduled for March 25-April 1. A wonderful opportunity for music, fellowship, and spiritual preparation for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Listening CDs are provided for each vocal part. High school students are welcome.

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 - Psalm 91:1-2; 9-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Holy One "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."Because you have made the Holy One your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For God will command the angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

The New Testament - Matthew 3:13 - 4:11

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan River, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of the Holy One descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my Beloved Child, with whom I am well pleased."

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Child of the Holy One, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Child of the Holy One, throw yourself down; for it is written in Scripture, 'The Holy One will command the angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Holy One to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Sovereign One, and serve only God.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and ministered to him.

The Continuing Testament - from *Life of the Beloved* - by Henri Nouwen [edited]

Yes, there is that voice, the voice that speaks from above and from within and that whispers softly or declares loudly: "You are my beloved, and on you my favor rests." It certainly is not easy to hear that voice in a world filled with voices that shout: "You are no good, you are ugly; you are worthless, you are despicable, you are nobody - unless you can demonstrate the opposite."

These negative voices are so loud and so persistent that it is easy to believe them. That's the great trap. It is the trap of self-rejection. Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. Success, popularity and power can, indeed, be a great temptation, but their seductive power often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self-rejection. For when we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 18	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, February 20	7:00 pm	Lenten Study
Wednesday, February 21	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/ Guitar
Thursday, February 22	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Friday, February 23		*Office Closed*
Sunday, February 25	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
FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Lay Reader:	Darlene Kelly
Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Kate Klonowski, Matt Wolbert, Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte:	Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Drew Demko
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comms Grtr:	Betty Kaul
Flowers:	Jan Renovetz
Nursery:	Valerie Tyler
C.E Teacher:	Heidi Spangler
Counters:	Jan Renovetz, Bruce McCain
Servers:	Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up:	Doug Fawcett & Anne Melfo
Snacks:	Susan Snyder, Anne Melfo
Snow Herder:	Dan Stewart

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Lay Reader:	Bridget Sproul
Head Usher	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Dan & Ian Stewart George & Carole Snider
Acolyte:	Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Flowers:	Julie Bernard
Nursery:	Jess Barnes
C.E Teacher:	Anne Melfo
Counters:	Dave Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Servers:	Caroline Chandler, Joy Garapic
Clean Up:	Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks:	Marilyn Wrights, Diane Gressley
Snow Herder:	Jim Demko