



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***

Loving and Gentle Shepherd, hold us close and care for us each day. Lead us, guide us, and challenge us, that we might form a more faithful and inclusive community that journeys in your ways and welcomes all your own. Amen.



***I Am The Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd
Lays Down His Life For The Sheep.
John 10:11***

Sunday April 22, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Fourth 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, 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

April 22, 2018 –Fourth Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we pray for an openness of heart to see where our small acts of kindness, or greater acts of sacrifice, might make a difference in this world. We also pray for the strength of spirit to act accordingly. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Pastorale (Part I)

Rowley

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: As a good shepherd cares for the entire flock,

People: So does our Sacred Source care for all people.

L: We gather today as an extended Family of Faith,

P: Confident that the Holy One is guiding us forward.

L: Through Christ's example, we are led to welcome all those around us,

P: To reach out to one another with acceptance and grace.

L: Through Christ' teaching, we are called to care for those who are struggling,

P: Those both near and far-away, all of our neighbors in need.

L: Through Christ's Presence, we receive inspiration and strength;

ALL: With joy, let us raise our praise and thanksgiving!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

#55

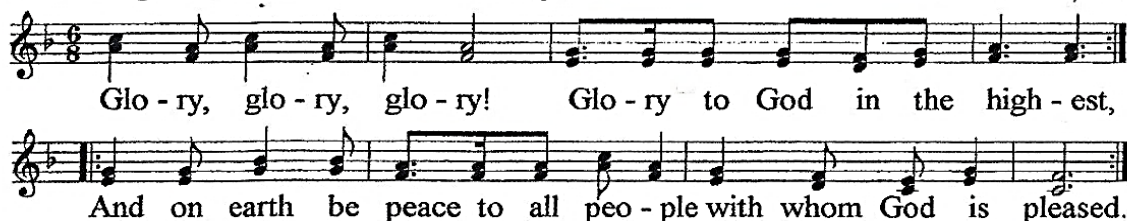
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Divine Source of Abundant Life and Love, you called from death to life Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Send us as your shepherds to seek the lost, to care for the injured and distressed, and to feed one another with tender compassion. Let the light of your love shine upon us and within us, that we may faithfully walk in you path of truth and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Psalm 23

Pew Bible, page 501

The New Testament

John 10:11-18

Pew Bible, page 103

The Continuing Testament

by Harold Kushner

from PBS's *Religion and Ethics*

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

God Is My Shepherd
[flute]

Townend

Sermon

How Low Can You Go?

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#252

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

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Jenkins

"Wherever God may guide me,
no want shall turn me back;
my Shepherd is beside me,
and nothing can I lack."
Anna Laetitia Waring (1823-1910)

***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 joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, may the light of your love shine in and through us and our gifts today. Bless these offerings, that they might be used to further your work in this community and in our world. Bless us as we seek to give of ourselves in serving you, by serving others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd and Loving Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Creator God, Creating Still

#278

***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

Pastorale (Part II)

Rowley

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kathy & Leroy Ford and their Grandson, Garion, The Family of Donn Whyte, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, 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 April 15, 2018 – Adults: 64 Kids: 12 Total: 76

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 Pat Rehm & Carol Miller, in Hope for Wellness for Kathy & Joe Unetic.

PASTOR DAVE WILL BE ON VACATION April 23-30. Ann Klonowski has graciously offered to be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. She can be reached by cell phone at 216-544-4717.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS are available in the Commons area. Please pick them up to save postage.

NEXT SUNDAY, April 29 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring violinist Kyung Ah Oh, accompanied by pianist Christine Hill. The program will include works by Beethoven, Ysaÿe, Grieg, and Wieniawski. Ms. Oh is a recent graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music; she is currently studying for her Master's degree at Yale University School of Music. A free will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the concert. Plan on joining us April 29 to hear this brilliant young virtuoso perform. Bring a friend!

THE NEXT HUNGER MEAL is today at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. Due to the usual dining area being used for another activity, this meal will be a “take-out” meal of sandwiches, fruit and cookies. We plan to prepare egg salad, ham and cheese, and turkey and cheese sandwiches on site at PRUMC for consumption at other places. History has shown us that about 150 sandwiches can be prepared in about an hour, and a smaller participation by BUCC members and friends will be adequate. The usual sign-up board will be in the narthex, as well as directions to PRUMC.

OCWM - Sunday, May 13th is our annual Mother's Day collection! This year we will be collecting donations to benefit Edna House (as we did last year) to help women who are in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. We will collect funds as well as items:

- Clean, gently worn clothing, professional attire, shoes, pocketbooks, briefcases, backpacks, scarves, accessories, and jewelry for Spring and Summer wear, new socks and new packaged underwear—please place in garbage bags (no boxes and no hangers needed!).
- Notebooks, pencils, highlighters, pens, paints, canvases, brushes, Big Books and 12 x 12 Books, and journals (no paperback novels!)
- Unopened toiletries that do not contain alcohol!
- Cleaning products such as Murphy's Oil Soap, floor cleaner, bathroom cleaner, bleach, sponges, spray bottles, mops, and large black garbage bags
- Canned food, condiments, and nonperishable snacks, coffee, creamer and sugar
- Paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products
- Gift Cards, Bus Passes, Postage Stamps!
- Flash drives, resume and copier paper and envelopes for Job Development
- Light bulbs and extension cords
- Prayers are ALWAYS welcome! ►

Find out more about Edna House at ednahouse.org Also, on May 1, 2, & 3rd, you can support Edna House by eating at Melt Bar & Grilled (so good!) and presenting the flyer you can download and print from this URL: <https://www.ednahouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/EdnaHouse.jpg>

ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO! A chest of drawers has been donated to our BUCC member who needed it. Now all we need is a twin bed, and all will be well! If you have one that you are willing to give, please contact Pastor Dave at 440-526-4364 or buccpastor@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

SPRING CLEAN UP – The annual Spring clean-up of the church property will take place on Saturday, April 28th at 9:00 am. We will be cleaning the beds and spreading mulch. Please consider coming out and helping if you are able. Thank You.

Readings

The Old Testament- Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The New Testament - John 10:11-18

[Jesus says] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Continuing Testament - by Harold Kushner - from PBS's *Religion and Ethics* [edited]

Right after 9/11 - when everybody was asking me, “Where was God that Tuesday? How could God have let such a thing happen?” - the answer I found myself giving was, “God’s promise was never that Life would be fair. God’s promise was, when it’s your turn to confront the unfairness of Life, no matter how hard it is, you’ll be able to handle it, because God will be on your side. God will give you the strength you need to find your way through.”

I want to believe in a loving God. Yet when you see children dying, when you see innocent people suffering, and when you see young parents stricken with an illness, how can you believe in a God of love and compassion unless you are prepared to say, “Some things happen in the world that God does not want to happen.” God is good. Nature is not good. Nature is blind. Nature is amoral. Fire burns, falling rocks injure, and disease germs infect everybody, whether they deserve it or not. People who have been hurt by Life get stuck in “the valley of the shadow” and they don’t know how to find their way out. And that’s the role of God. The role of God is not to explain and not to justify, but to comfort - to find people when they are living in darkness, take them by the hand, and show them how to find their way into the sunlight once again

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 22	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour *Hunger Meal – Pearl Road United Methodist Church*
Wednesday, April 25	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/ Guitar
	7:00 pm	Shine A Light Huddle
Thursday, April 26	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday, April 27		*Office Closed*
Sunday, April 29	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	4:00 pm	Free Concert – Violinist, Kyung Ah Oh

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 22, 2018

Lay Reader:	Tia Began
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	Bob & Caroline Chandler Diane Gressley, Darlene Kelly
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Ben Davis
Sound:	Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Pastor
Flowers:	Dorie Gabor
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
C.E Teacher:	Anne Melfo
Counters:	Jim Duffy, David Pastor
Servers:	Sue Stenzel, Marge Culver
Clean Up:	Jim & Peg Duffy
Snacks:	Doug & Marilyn Wrights

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 29, 2018

Lay Reader:	Ben Tomlinson
Head Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Ushers:	Dave & Julie Bernard Beth Rehling, Jess Barnes
Acolyte:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound:	David Pastor
Comns Grtr:	Marge Culver
Flowers:	Jan Renovetz
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher:	Beth Rehling
Counters:	Kathy Pastor, Bruce McCain
Servers:	Joanne Cook, Betty Kaul
Clean-up:	Anne Melfo, Doug Fawcett
Snacks:	Susan Snyder, Heidi Spangler

