



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 Wisdom and Hope, come among us today and open our locked doors and our closed hearts. Lead us, with all our questions and doubts, into the enlightening path of your compassion and grace. Inspire us to be your Easter people, and empower us to live-out and proclaim the new life that Christ brings. Amen.



***“Do Not Doubt, But Believe”
John 20:27***

Sunday April 8, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Second 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 8, 2018 –Second Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

Holy Spirit of Life and Light, help us in our fragile and frightening times to live-out the truth of your goodness and grace. Give us courage to stand against those who promote division and violence, and make us willing instruments of your grace and peace. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Prelude at Easter-tide

Stanford

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: This is the day that Holy One has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L: The Life-giving, Eternal Spirit bursts-forth all around us;

P: In flowers and trees, in friends and community we encounter the Divine!

L: The Holy One is with us!

P: The Sacred One sustains us!

L: Like a loving Mother and Father,

P: Our Divine Source holds us close.

L: The assurance of Divine Love is infused within our hearts!

All: The Light of Divine Grace restores and refreshes us all!

***Hymn of Praise**

The Day of Resurrection

#245

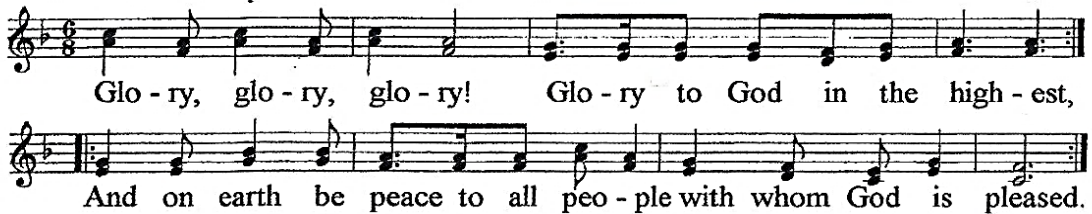
***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, Source of Life, we praise you that you have not abandoned us to the fearful forces of sin, death and despair, but have raised us up anew. In our time of worship, and throughout this day, remain at the center of our thoughts and actions. Strengthen and inspire us as individuals and as a community of faith, that we might know the power of the Resurrection in our daily living, through Jesus Christ, the Risen One. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Psalm 118:14-24

Pew Bible, page 565

The New Testament

John 20:19-31

Pew Bible, page 115

The Continuing Testament

from *Blessed Doubt*

by David Lose

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

Worthy Is the Lamb!

Larson

Sermon

An Important Breakthrough

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Now the Green Blade Rises

#238

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

From You I Receive

Anonymous

"From you I receive, to you I give,
together we share, by this we live."
Anonymous

***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, as Jesus Christ offered himself for us all, so we offer ourselves with these gifts; confident that you have a purpose for them and for us. Thank you for calling us to carry-forward the loving work that Jesus began. By the power of his Resurrection, create in us renewed hearts and lives, so that we might continue to serve you, by joyfully serving others. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure**

Hope of the World

#46

***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

I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives

Based on a Philippine folk song

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Donn Whyte, Stan McCain, 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 April 1, 2018 – Adults: 109 Kids: 26 Total: 127

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 Bettina Ortiz, in Memory of the Birthday of her Mother, Betty June Snyder Ortiz (4/11/1920 - 10/5/2011).

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.

ON 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!

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.

WHAT A GREAT PROBLEM TO HAVE! Even with a good number of us regularly parking at Central School, we continue to have a bit of a parking “problem”. In an effort to remain hospitable to our visitors and help those arriving late, we ask that others of you who can readily do so, park in the school lot next door. This is just another way in which we can signal our desire to be accessible and welcoming to all.

DID YOU MISS last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.

A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH HAS NEED of a twin bed and a chest of drawers. If you have one or both of these articles that you are willing to give, please contact Pastor Dave at 440-526-4364 or buccpastor@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

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 118:14-24

The Divine Creator - my strength and my power - has also become my saving help. There are glad songs of victory in the dwelling places of the righteous: “The right hand of the Holy One does valiantly; the right hand of the Everlasting One is exalted; the right hand of the Gracious One is triumphant.”

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Holy One. The Holy One has tested me severely, but did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to my Savior. This is the gate of the Holy One; those who act justly shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the doing of the Divine Source of all good things; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that our God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The New Testament - John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities. Yet Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Holy One has sent me, so I now send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas, who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Continuing Testament - from *Blessed Doubt* - by David Lose [edited]

The story of Thomas has always been one of my favorites. Of course, it's not just a story about Thomas. It's also a story about frightened disciples. So scared, in fact, that they hid behind locked doors. And who can blame them? They had just witnessed the one they confessed to be the Messiah betrayed by one of his own, tried and convicted by both religious and civil authorities, and then brutally executed. Little wonder they were afraid, assuming that the next step would be to round up Jesus' followers. But when Jesus comes on the scene, their fear falls away and is replaced by joy.

This is often the way we assume faith should work. Yes, perhaps you've got doubts and questions and fears, but then God arrives and those all fall away, replaced by joy and wonder and, of course, unshakeable faith. But that's not the way it works with Thomas. He doubts. He questions. He disbelieves. He's not satisfied with second-hand reports. He wants to see for himself, and who can blame him? In time, Thomas does come to believe. He sees Jesus for himself. And after that experience he makes the most profound confession of faith about Jesus contained in the New Testament, calling Jesus "my Lord and my God". But all of that comes after he has a chance to voice his doubt. And sometimes faith is like that - it needs the freedom of questions and doubt to really spring-forth and take hold. Otherwise, faith might simply be confused with a repetition of creedal formulas, or giving your verbal consent to the faith statements of others. But true, vigorous, vibrant faith comes from the freedom to question, wonder, and doubt.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 8	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
Wednesday, April 11	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/ Guitar
	7:00 pm	Council
Thursday, April 12	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday, April 13		*Office Closed*
Sunday, April 15	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 8, 2018

Lay Reader:	Matt Wolbert
Head Usher:	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Kim Wallis, Cliff Cribbs, Betty Kaul
Acolyte:	Carli Began
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Flowers:	Bettina Ortiz
Nursery:	Valerie Tyler
C.E Teacher:	Heidi Spangler
Counters	Jan Renovetz, Dave Bernard
Servers:	Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up:	Kathy & Dave Pastor
Snacks:	No Bakers
Snow Herder:	Joe Wilson

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 15, 2018

Lay Reader:	Diane Gressley
Head Usher:	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	Jill Zedan, David Ritchey, Sam Koch, Ed Lusk
Acolyte:	Grace Hunt
Peace Candle:	Lily Hunt
Sound:	Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Pastor
Flowers:	Betty Gifford
Nursery:	Jonathan Cook
C.E Teacher:	Tia Began
Counters:	Kate Klonowski, Marge Culver
Servers:	Carole Snider, Joy Garapic
Clean-Up:	Dave & Kathy Pastor
Snacks:	Gina Cook, Marla Corrado

