

BRECKSVILLE

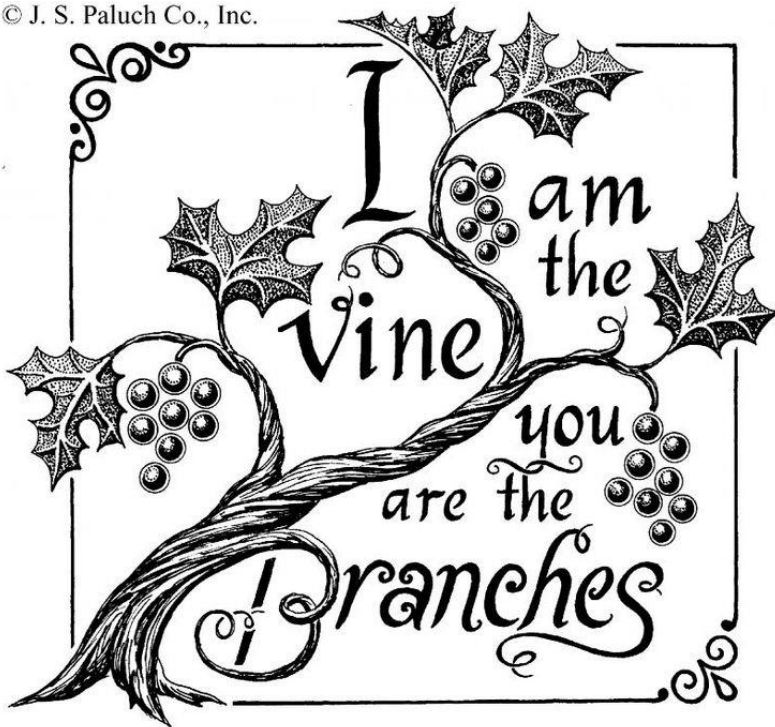
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

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We don't
grow
grapes, we
don't tend
grapevines,
but we trust
that you, the
vine that we
depend on,
will always
feed us and
always
support us.
Thank you.
Amen.



Sunday April 29, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Fifth 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, or transgender

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 29, 2018 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Meditation Music

All creation is a metaphor for our relationships with you and with one another. Thank you for providing us with a version of “Show and Tell” that we can see all around us. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Spring Song

Wilkins

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: We are our Creator's precious vines,

People: Created for the good of all!

L: Open to our Creator's precious care,

P: We respond in joy and gratitude.

L: Through the lessons of the Gospel,

P: We see lessons all around us.

L: The Risen Christ

P: Remains among us to guide us.

L: Let us follow Christ's lead

All: And praise the God of all creation!

*** Hymn of Praise**

You Are the Way

#40

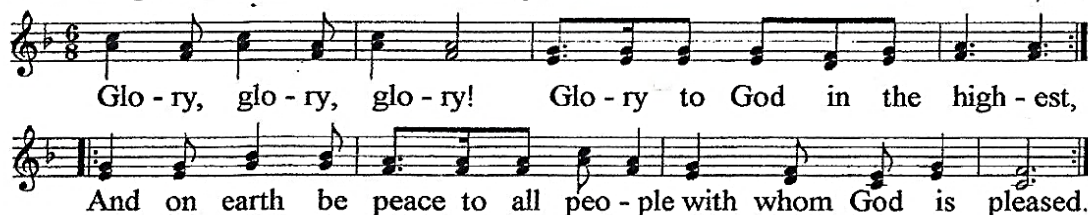
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Source of all life, spring blessings are all around us. The blooming flowers, the greening grass, the flowing river: all signs of new life for us. Thank you for this glorious welcome back to the growing time of year. It gives us hope to reach out to you, the Source, the rootedness of our life. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

Pew Bible, page 128

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Pew Bible, page 109

The Continuing Testament

“How to Prune Trees”

USDA Forest Service

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

I Am the Vine

Pote

[Erin Tomlinson, flute]

Sermon

The Importance of Proper Pruning

Ann Klonowski, RCWP

Hymn of Reflection

Teach Me, O Lord

#465

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

Jesus, Redeemer

Trad. Filipino melody

*** 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]**

The gifts we bring today include our strength and our weakness, our goodness and our selfishness, our love and our fear. We bring you all these, Source of all life, because your limitless love prunes away the useless and harmful and brings new growth. We thank you and praise you in the name of the Resurrected Christ. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

God, Whose Giving

#565

***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

Forth in Thy Name, O God, I Go

Gibbons

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 22, 2018 – Adult: 70 Kids: 8 Total: 78

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'S FLOWERS are given by Sherrill Witt - for all Life's Blessings as I turn 70 years years old.

THIS AFTERNOON 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!

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.

FLOWER MINISTRY - Flowers are placed in the front of the church each Sunday to honor/celebrate your family/friends/events. We need your help to get this information to our office manager, Jeannette Kroeger, before she prepares the Bulletin on Wednesdays. It's easy as 1-2-3.

1. Put your name on the chart hanging on the west wall just inside the double doors to the Narthex.
2. Fill out the information form found in the pocket below the chart. **If you are providing the flowers yourself, please check that box on the form and let me know so there are no mix ups.
3. Turn this information and money in to Joy Garapic, our financial secretary.

The flower ministry does not want to miss sharing your joy by not having the correct information. Thank you, Janet Renovetz

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>

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.

HAVING TROUBLE HEARING PARTS OF THE SERVICE? Please talk to any usher about the Williams Sound - Personal PA Receiver, available for your use. These simple-to-use units can help improve your worship experience, by amplify those parts of the Service that may be more difficult to hear.

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.

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.

Readings

The First Reading—Acts 9:26-31 (The Inclusive Bible)

When Saul returned to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples there, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge and introduced him to the apostles. He explained to them how, on his journey, Saul had seen and conversed with Jesus, and how ever since that encounter, Saul had been speaking out fearlessly in the name of Jesus at Damascus.

Saul stayed with them, moving freely about Jerusalem and expressing himself openly in the name of Christ. He even addressed the Greek-speaking Jews and debated with them. They responded, however, by trying to kill him. When the sisters and brothers learned of this, some of them took Saul down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria, the church was at peace, building itself up, living in reverence of God and growing in numbers with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel--John 15:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible)

Jesus said to the disciples:

I am the true vine and my Abba God is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You have been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Those who do not live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba God will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

The Continuing Testament--from “How to Prune Trees,” USDA Forest Service

The main reasons for pruning ornamental and shade trees include safety, health and aesthetics. In addition, pruning can be used to stimulate fruit production and increase the value of timber.

- Pruning for safety involves removing branches that could cause injury or property damage.
- Pruning for health involves removing diseased or insect-infested wood.
- Pruning can best be used to encourage trees to develop a strong structure and reduce the likelihood of damage during severe weather.
- Removing broken or damaged limbs encourages wound closure.
- Pruning for aesthetics involves enhancing the natural form and character of trees or stimulating flower production.
- All woody plants shed branches.
- Branches that do not produce enough carbohydrates from photosynthesis to sustain themselves die and are eventually shed.
- Pruning can be used to supplement or replace natural processes and increase the strength and longevity of plants.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 29	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	4:00 pm	Free Concert – Violinist, Kyung Ah Oh
Wed., May 2	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thurs., May 3	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday, May 4		*Office Closed*
Saturday, May 5	9:00 am	Alternate Yard Clean-up
Sunday, May 6	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

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:	Betty Gifford
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

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