



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***

***"Attitude is a
choice.
Happiness is a
choice.
Optimism is a
choice.
Kindness is a
choice. Giving
is a choice.
Respect is a
choice.
Whatever
choice you
make, makes
you. Choose
wisely."***

***—Roy T. Bennett
The Light in the
Heart***



***"The Heart of the Matter"
Matthew (5:21-37)***

Sunday February 16, 2020 • 10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor

• Allan Lane

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 pangender
You Are Welcome Here!*

*If you are fully abled, 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!***



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

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 16, 2020 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Meditation Music

“In the end that was the choice you made, and it doesn’t matter how hard it was to make it. It matters that you did.” Cassandra Clare, *City of Glass*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Learning to Forgive

McLaughlin

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: God has placed before you water and fire:

People: Stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.

L: God has placed before you wisdom and folly:

P: Stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.

L: God has placed before you life and death:

P: Stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.

L: Stretch out your hands and let us worship God!

All: We choose to worship the God of water and fire, wisdom and folly, life and death!

*** Hymn of Praise**

From All That Dwell below the Skies

#27

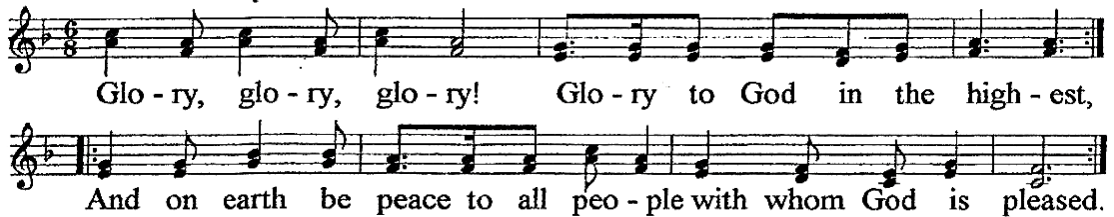
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

You come to us in the waters of baptism, O Living God, and in the fire of the Holy Spirit; you come to us in the wisdom of your Word and in the folly of our actions; you come to us in the life of Christ and in the midst of death. Wherever we go, you are there. Whatever we do, you remain with us, for you have called us to yourself in Jesus the Christ. Sing our songs with us, set your love in our hearts, and dwell in our praise and prayers this morning. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Pew Bible, page 186

The New Testament

Matthew 5:21-37

Pew Bible, page 4

The Continuing Testament from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

by Lewis Carroll

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

Pachelbel's Canon of Peace
[Erin Tomlinson, flute]

Arr. Liebergen

Sermon

Life's Big Choices

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

#465

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer [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

God of All

Paris

*** Offertory Hymn**

Winter has come, it's taken hold.

The days are short, the nights are cold.

The poor need food and help and heat.

We send our gifts, their needs to meet. Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

You are the God of abundance and the Provider of plenty, O God, our God! In humble thanksgiving we present these gifts and offerings to you. May we celebrate your overflowing grace to us in the gifts we now give, and in the bread and the wine we will soon receive. Amen.

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Largo e Andante

Vivaldi

The Blessing

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#573

***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

O God of Love

Gawthorn, harm. Wesley

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Margie Jandrovic (Jeannette's Mother), Marge Culver, Max Roha, Leroy Ford, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Don Seager, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Richard Sacher, brother of Jan Renovetz, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Mary Dagostino, 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 Sunday, February 9, 2020 – Adults: 60 Kids: 8 Total: 68

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 childcare 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.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Pat Rehm & Carol Miller for Children Everywhere.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be **TODAY** at 11:15 am or immediately following Worship Service. We will discuss and approve final 2020 budgets.

MARDI GRAS SERVICE - NEXT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23 at our 10 AM service, we will celebrate Mardi Gras with traditional New Orleans-style music, colorful hats, beads, etc! Our Southern-style jazz band will include the following musicians: Bob Gref, clarinet; Steve Ostrow, trumpet; Bruce Lehtinen, trombone; Gary Adams, tuba; and Steve Kraus, banjo. The service will be followed by a Mardi Gras potluck downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Plan on joining us next week for this festive celebration before Ash Wednesday ushers in the start of Lent on Feb. 26. Bring a friend! ***Please contact David Pastor for Potluck sign up. ridave@hotmail.com or 440.552.4403***

TEATIME FOR PEACE IS CELEBRATING 4 YEARS! Teatime for Peace is an interfaith and community dialogue, focusing on getting to know our Muslim neighbors. The upcoming event is on February 29th, and in recognition of our role as a host of one of those events, BUCC has been specially invited to attend this celebration. They've revamped their questions, with the goal of guiding the discussion into a deeper conversation. A light lunch will be provided, therefore an RSVP is strongly recommended.

The upcoming Teatime for Peace event is on Saturday, February 29th, and will be hosted by West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church (20401 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River) from 12noon – 2:30. Registration begins at 11:30, and you can RSVP to: teatime4peace@gmail.com, or call West Shore UU Church at 440-333-2255.

NEXT SUNDAY A HUNGER MEAL will be served at the Pearl Road UMC. The date will be February 16th, instead of the date erroneously stated in last week's bulletin. Everything else is the same – two shifts, menu, etc. Directions to the church will be posted on the sign-up board in the narthex. Come along and see BUCC outreach in action.

BOWLING OUTING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED! Please join us Sunday March 1, at 1:30 pm at Northwoods Lanes in Macedonia. \$6 per bowler includes 2 games and shoe rental. Contact David Pastor to sign up ridave@hotmail.com or 440.552.4403.

THE MITTEN TREE has sprouted in the narthex again, just waiting to be “decorated” with hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to be delivered to those who will need them in the cold weather. They are delivered to hunger centers when the donated food items are delivered to hunger centers.

CHURCH KEYS – If you are no longer involved in a Church Ministry, or no longer have a need for Church keys, please turn them back into the Office. Thank you.

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 6:45p-8:30p. For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415

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. ****There are many 2020 dates still available!****

Readings

The Old Testament – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God[a] that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The New Testament – Matthew 5:21-37

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the Gehenna [of fire. 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into Gehenna. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into Gehenna. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’

34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The Continuing Testament - from *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Here is an example of a case where choice doesn’t seem to be that important, from Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*:

[Alice said to the Cheshire Cat,] ‘Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?’

‘That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,’ said the Cat.

‘I don’t much care where—’ said Alice.

‘Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,’ said the Cat.

‘—so long as I get somewhere,’ Alice added as an explanation.

‘Oh, you’re sure to do that,’ said the Cat, ‘if you only walk long enough.’

Alice felt that this could not be denied, so she tried another question. ‘What sort of people live about here?’

‘In that direction,’ the Cat said, waving its right paw round, ‘lives a Hatter: and in that direction,’ waving the other paw, ‘lives a March Hare. Visit either you like: they’re both mad.’

‘But I don’t want to go among mad people,’ Alice remarked.

‘Oh, you can’t help that,’ said the Cat: ‘we’re all mad here. I’m mad. You’re mad.’

‘How do you know I’m mad?’ said Alice.

‘You must be,’ said the Cat, ‘or you wouldn’t have come here.’

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 16	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour
	11:10 am	Leadership Development
		To meet with Ministry Chairpersons *HUNGER MEAL PRUMC*
Thursday, Feb. 20	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
Friday, Feb. 21		*Office Closed*
Sunday, Feb. 23	10:00 am	MARDI GRAS SERVICE
	11:00 am	Mardi Gras Potluck

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Lay Reader:	David Ritchey
Head Usher:	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	Ben Davis, Michelina Fawcett, Carrie Coyer- Westerberg, Jill Zedan
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Amelia Tyler
Sound:	Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr:	Valerie Tyler
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher:	Kate Klonowski
Counters:	David Pastor, Matt Wolbert
Servers:	Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks:	Diane Gressley, Ben Rehling
Clean-Up:	Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snow Herder:	James Tyler

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Lay Reader:	Matt Wolbert
Head Usher:	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Beth Rehling, Diane Gressley, Joe & Betsey Wilson
Acolyte:	Joshua Anderson
Peace Candle:	Pete Kucmins
Sound:	David Pastor
Comms Grtr:	Marge Culver
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Nursery:	Erin Tomlinson
C.E. Teacher:	Anne Melfo
Counters:	Jan Renovetz, Dave Bernard
Servers:	MARDI GRAS POTLUCK
Snacks:	MARDI GRAS POTLUCK
Clean-Up:	MARDI GRAS POTLUCK
Snow Herder:	Tim Wallis