

# 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*

***"Hold fast to  
your faith.  
Keep your  
hope in the  
Lord. Embrace  
the love of  
God."***

***—Lailah Gifty  
Akita, Think  
Great: Be  
Great!***



### ***The Second Sunday of Lent***

**Sunday March 8, 2020 • 10:00 AM**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

*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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

## March 8, 2020 – Second Sunday of Lent

### **Meditation Music**

“My fear of standing alone often pressures me to stand with a rather unsavory group that embraces a rather unsettling belief system which leaves me wondering why I left the promises of God for the company of people.” –Craig D. Lounsborough, *An Intimate Collision: Encounters with Life and Jesus*

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**

Lamb of God, Our Savior

J. S. Bach

“Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Who our sins dost take away,  
Have mercy on us.”  
Martin Luther (1483-1546)

**Bearing the Light of Peace  
Bearing the Light of Christ**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Dear Diary:

**People: This is week two of Lent. The initial excitement at my new commitment has faded a bit. I'm doing my best to be faithful to God for these six weeks, but it's tough. I've made promises to God about what I'll do, but I'm not sure I can keep it up. I need a word from God to help me.**

L: I'll talk to you again soon, dear Diary, but now I have to listen for God speaking to my heart in worship. Stay strong, self, and ears open!

**\* Hymn of Praise**

God Is Here!  
verses 1, 2 & 4

#70

### **\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

**O God of the promises, you have shown yourself faithful. O God of the covenants, you have shown yourself reliable. O God, our God, we bow before you in worship and praise because you are the God of new beginnings and joyful endings, you are the God of the fresh start and the unexpected finish, you are the living and true God from first to last.**

Open our hearts to you as we confess our sins so that we will hold nothing back, so that nothing will remain unsaid between us, nothing unconfessed, nothing unforgiven, nothing standing in the way of the fullness of the relationship you have made possible for us in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Master and our Friend. Increase our love for you as we see how broad is your mercy, how great is your pardon, how wide is your love for us. O God of our pledges and vows, be gracious unto us this day and all the days of our lives, until this life shall end and we shall live with you forever.

**[Pause for silent confession]**

Leader: Amen

**\* The Song of Praise    Gathered Here - #742 [sung 2 times]**

The musical notation is for a song in 4/4 time, written on a single staff. It consists of two lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains two measures, each starting with a measure rest and a first ending bracket labeled '1' and '2' respectively. The second line also starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains two measures, each starting with a measure rest and a first ending bracket labeled '3' and '4' respectively. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Gath-ered here in the mystery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong  
bod-y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

<b>The Old Testament</b>	Genesis 12:1-4a	Pew Bible, page 10
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<b>The New Testament</b>	Romans 4:1-5, 13-25	Pew Bible, page 154
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<b>Contemporary Reading</b>	Crazy Love: Overwhelmed By A Relentless God	
	Francis Chan	

**Time with Young Worshipers**

<b>Anthem</b>	For God So Loved the World	Haugen
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<b>Sermon</b>	God of the Promises	Pastor Allan
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<b>Hymn of Reflection</b>	As Moses Raised the Serpent Up	#605
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***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

<b>Offertory</b>	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	African American spiritual, arr. J. J. Cleveland
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**\* 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 [Unison]**

**Take these offerings, O God, and use them to make our church stand out in our community. Make them offerings of welcome, offerings of peace, offerings of presence, offerings for a green planet. Turn them into food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, friendship for the lonely, an embrace for the rejected. Take these offerings, O God, and those that give them, and turn us all into something good for the world. Amen**

## Going with God's Love

<b>* Hymn of Departure</b>	Called as Partners In Christ's Service verses 1, 2	#495
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**\*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**

Shalom chaverim  
Translation: Peace, my friends

Israeli song

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Max Roha, 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, March 1, 2020 – Adults: 77 Kids: 13 Total: 90**

***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.

**A LONG-STANDING LENTEN TRADITION** in the Church is to “put away” hymns or verses that contain “Alleluia”, in order to set a more solemn tone with our musical selections. The purpose of this is so that on Easter Sunday our “Alleluias” can ring-out with renewed power and glory, as we hail the Risen Christ. This is why we are using a different “Song of Praise” and concluding Benediction hymn today.

**THE BUCC PASTOR’S FUND** is primarily used for food gift cards, help with rent or utilities, uncovered medical/medication bills, or emergency aid to travelers passing through town. We are asking that those who can, consider making a contribution to help replenish this fund. Checks can be made out to BUCC, or cash may be placed in a pew envelope, with the notation “Pastor’s Fund” written on the check or envelope. Thank you for your continuing support!

**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.

**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.

**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

**PLEASE BE SURE** to enter your meeting and event schedule on the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the ***Monthly Pillar***.

## *Readings*

### **The Old Testament - Genesis 12:1-4a**

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### **The New Testament - Romans 4:1-5, 13-25**

**1-5** What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

**13-25** For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.

No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also.

It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Contemporary Reading - *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed By A Relentless God*  
Francis Chan**

“We are scared to make mistakes, so we fret over figuring out God’s will. We wonder what living according to [God’s] will would actually look and feel like, and we are scared to find out. We forget that we were never promised a 20-year plan of action; instead, God promises multiple times in Scripture never to leave or forsake us. God wants us to listen to [the] Spirit on a daily basis, and even throughout the day ... My hope is that instead of searching for ‘God’s will for my life,’ each of us would learn to seek hard after ‘the Spirit’s leading in my life today.’”

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service/Second Sunday of Lent</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>*New Member Class</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Spiritual Life</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 11</b>	<b>7:15 pm</b>	<b>Council - Parlor</b>
<b>Thursday, March 12</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar</b>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Joyful Noise</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Seasonal Choir</b>
	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Friday, March 13</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service/Third Sunday of Lent</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**MARCH 8, 2020**

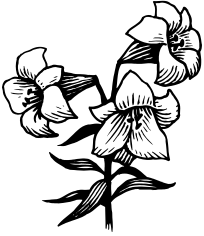
Lay Reader:	Diane Gressley
Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	David & Kathy Pastor Dan & Kathleen Stewart
Acolyte:	Ian Stewart
Peace Candle:	Peter Kucmins
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Marge Culver
Flowers:	Jan Renovetz
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
C.E Teacher:	Pat Rehm
Counters:	Sue Stenzel & Kathy Pastor
Servers:	Linda Kriynovich, Julie Bernard
Snacks:	Maureen Stanley & Miriam Rosewicz
Clean-Up:	Bob & Caroline Chandler
Snow Herder:	Matt Wolbert

## **PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**MARCH 15, 2020**

Lay Reader:	Jim Duffy
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	Ben Davis, Michelina Fawcett, Nora Gagliano Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Gabriella Gagliano
Sound:	Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Flowers:	Dorie Gabor
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher:	Kate Klonowski
Counters:	Dave Bernard, Matt Wolbert
Servers:	Kathy & Leroy Ford
Snacks:	Marilyn Wrights, Heidi Spangler
Clean-Up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snow Herder:	Joe Began

## **CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY**



*Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office*

**DEADLINE – SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2020**

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***I Enclose \$12.00\_\_\_\_\_ for an Easter Plant***

***In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_***

***In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ or Other \_\_\_\_\_***

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***Your Name***

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***I will keep the Flowers \_\_\_\_\_***

***I will NOT keep Flowers \_\_\_\_\_***

***I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter \_\_\_\_\_***