

January 24th, 2021

Third Sunday
After Epiphany

**“The oak fought the wind and was broken, the
willow bent when it must and survived.”**

– Robert Jordan, *The Fires of Heaven*

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshipping with us today in this Zoom format! We are doing everything we can to keep the service open to all, yet secure. In the eventuality of a disruption of the service, we will email information on how to re-enter the service with a password.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - We encourage you to share this service with your children, as well as take part in the virtual activities with Ms. Mindy at 9:30 (1/2 hour before every service). The link for this can be found in either the email you may have received, on our Facebook page, and/or on our church website:
<https://brecksvilleuucc.orghttps://brecksvilleuucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

HUNGER MEAL: The Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church is **TODAY!** Prep will begin at 2:30, and we are making the usual mostaccioli and salad. Due to the pandemic, this will be a “to go” meal, so the prepared food will be packaged in a “takeout” clam shell. This container will be bagged, along with a banana, a trail bar and a bottled water. Distribution will begin at 5:00, and will take place at the door of the church hall. As the meal is being assembled, people can begin “peeling off” and going home as needed. If you can’t arrive at 2:30, just come when you can – help with clean up is always welcome! Masks and gloves must be worn. If you’d like to help, please contact **Bob Chandler** at **330-416-5733(cell)** or **rchandler@zoominternet.net**.

FUND RAISER! We will be hosting a Fish Dinner on Friday, March 5th, 2021. This fundraiser will be presented with the help of the Tri-C Culinary Arts Department and Stone Soup. The students have been trained in the latest COVID-19 restaurant protocols, i.e., in addition to gloves, masks and social distancing, they’ve studied the new “no-touch” food safety guidelines and services. It will be served “carry out” style, and all proceeds will directly benefit the BUCC. Volunteers are needed to assist with planning, coordinating and distribution to customers on the day of the event. This dinner will be open to the public, and we hope for strong congregational support. If you’re interested in lending a helping hand, please call or text **Doug Fawcett** at **440-653-3572**. Thank you!

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY: Thank you for your generosity over the past couple months! Our last Sox donation was delivered at the end of December, to City Mission on Carnegie Ave. Because of their association with Laura’s Home (a women’s shelter), it’s very likely that all of our women’s socks will be forwarded there. We are still collecting donations until the end of the month, as the shelters we have delivered to have been very happy to receive BUCC’s donations.

***We are an Open and Affirming
Congregation, welcoming all of God's
children.***

Whether you are single, married, divorced,
separated,
or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,
You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual
orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed,
or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic
circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions,
impairments, or mobility needs,

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!***

Announcements

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY (continued): If you wish to drop off a donation at the church, please call **Anne** at **440-526-4364**, so that she can make sure the back doors are unlocked for you. Likewise, you may contact **Elizabeth** by either phone call or text, at **440-319-6384**, or by email at **elizgadus@gmail.com**. *Thank you and God Bless!*

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB – The Social Justice Book Club will continue to discuss the book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, by Bishop Michael Curry. The next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 1/28, at 7:00 pm. (Please use the same Zoom account as our Sunday service.) We will cover Chapters 4 (“What Desmond Tutu and Dolly Parton Have in Common”) & 5 (“Love’s Call – and Love’s Calling”). The discussion questions will be emailed to all, at the beginning of the week. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at **keightykay@gmail.com** or **216-534-3498** (text ok).

PASTOR SEARCH AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The PSNC is diligently making survey calls to everyone from the BUCC. If you have not been called yet, don’t worry – your input is essential, and no one will be “left behind”! The following are the members who are conducting the survey calls: Beth Rehling, Ben Rehling, Jon Thompson, Cliffs Cribbs, Joy Garapic, Sherrill Witt and Alan Klonowski. For more information, call **Sherrill Witt** at **216-244-6916**, or **Cliff Cribbs** at **216-970-6347**. Thank you in advance for your time and insights!

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11 am and noon. You can contact him either by mail, email or phone - feel free to call either the church or his cell phone directly. You can also catch him online, by clicking on the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday services. He’d love to hear from you! Here’s his contact information:

- BUCC address: **23 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141**
- Email: **buccpastor@sbcglobal.net**
- BUCC office phone: **(440) 526-4364**
- Pastor Allan’s cell phone: **(513) 417-1537**
- Zoom link: **<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>**

WEEKLY COLLECTION is still happening! Please don’t forget to send in your pledges to the church by mail or (preferably) PayPal! Check out **BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving** for more info.

2021 PLEDGE COLLECTION ENVELOPES: The small collection envelopes for this year are available on the pew bench just inside the back doors. If you haven’t gotten yours yet, Joy has sent your envelopes for the first quarter in with your year-end statement. To pick up your envelopes, please call the church office to make arrangements for the doors to be unlocked. If you can’t pick them up, notify **Anne** and she will mail them to you. The church office phone number is: **440-526-4364**, and **Anne’s** email is **buccoh@sbcglobal.net**.

COFFEE HOUR! After the service, we welcome all attendees to stay on Zoom to enjoy some time and fellowship with each other. Brew your favorite fairly-traded coffee or tea and a snack and catch up with friends!

*Many thanks for all the donations of time, money,
and talent that you provide to the Church!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: "If your heart is broken, make art with the pieces." –Shane Koyczan, *Blueprint For a Breakthrough*

Prelude Music: ***Courage*** Kevin Winebarger
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAVsiU6Aiyl>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Janet): When we fall, who will pick us up?
- ◆ People (Sherrill): God will pick us up, because God is ever watchful for us.
- ◆ Leader: When we stumble, who will steady us?
- ◆ People: God will steady us, because we can lean on God's everlasting arms.\
- ◆ Leader: God's steadfast love is never failing. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise: ***What a Covenant*** Showalter

1. What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

**REFRAIN: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. **REFRAIN**

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms. **REFRAIN**
(Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ People (Sherrill): Sometimes, O God, we feel the world slipping out of our hands. We struggle to maintain our grip on the way things are supposed to be. We know that there are systems that grind out racist and sexist and homophobic incidents all around us. We know that we are involved in those systems even when we don't want to be. Sometimes we feel like we are in the weeds ourselves, shackled to ways of thinking and acting which bind us to something old and all too familiar. Free our voices and free our minds and free our lives to new ways of being. Help us to break down old systems and make new systems. Forgive us the past and help us bounce back better in the future. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ Leader (Janet): Proverbs reminds us, “though the righteous fall seven times, they will rise again.”
- ◆ People (Sherrill): **With God’s help we are made righteous through Christ Jesus, and we will rise again, forgiven and restored. Thanks be to God!**

Song of Praise:

Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!
 Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest!
 And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.
 And on earth be peace to all people, with whom God is pleased.

Readings

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 11: 21b-30

What Paul’s been through

Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham’s descendants? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move.

I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

Second Reading: Philippians 3: 10-16

Forgetting the past, pressing forward

I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Readings (continued)

Contemporary Reading: From *Getting back up*, by José N. Harris

“There comes a time in your life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad and focus on the good. Love the people who treat you right, pray for the ones who do not. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is a part of life, getting back up is living.”

Musical Offering: *Dona Nobis Pacem ("Grant Us Peace")* J.S. Bach (from Mass in Cleveland Orchestra Chorus B Minor)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa3f8jW5yKw&feature=youtu.be>

Sermon: Bounce Back and Press On! Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *Be Still, My Soul* Sibelius

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
 Leave to your God to order and provide; in every change God faithful will remain.
 Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
2. Be still, my soul: for God will undertake to guide in future days as in the past.
 Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.
3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall be with God whom we adore,
 with disappointment gone, no grief nor fear, sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.
(Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; transl. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Lee Sanderson (in Hospice), Ann Klonowski, Lenore Harris, Susan Renovetz, David Pastor, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Joanne Cook, Sheila Day (friend of the Sniders), Joanne K. and Jim C. (friends of Ed & June Puwal), Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Justin Brownlow, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (niece of Kathy Smith), Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, “Edna House”, Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassy Matsuoaka, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.

The Church at Prayer (continued)

❖ **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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation:

- ♦ Leader (Janet): Faith is when you aren't sure there's hope at the end of the road, but you decide to go anyway. Can we solve hunger, injustice, violence in our society? We don't know, but with our offerings let us set out on the road anyway.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

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:

People (Sherrill): These gifts are too small to do what needs to be done. But your strength is made perfect in weakness, O God, and we ask you to accept these gifts and magnify them until they meet the need. Amen



Hymn of Departure: *How Can I Keep from Singing* Attrib. to Lowry

1. My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul--how can I keep from singing?
2. What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
3. When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?
4. I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's--how can I keep from singing?

(Attrib. to Robert Lowry in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*, New York, 1869; third stanza was written by Doris Plenn in the 1950s when her friends were imprisoned during the McCarthy era)

Going With God's Love

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Circle of Community

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

❖ Benediction

Postlude: ***We Shall Overcome*** United States traditional
Mahalia Jackson, vocalist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W02hDYBcqUs>

Special Thanks:

January 17, 2021

Lay Reader Janet Renovetz

Responder Sherrill Witt

CE Mindy Wade

Slide Runner Sue Maier

Zoom Host Sue Maier

January 24, 2021

Lay Reader Carol Miller

Responder Pat Rehm

CE Mindy Wade

Slide Runner Kate Klonowski

Zoom Host Heidi Spangler



HAVE A GOOD WEEK!