

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9th, 2021

“Nothing breaks down barriers and preconceived ideas about Christians and Christianity more than when we treat people the way Jesus treated his enemies.”

–Chip Ingram

Announcements

WELCOME to all guests or visitors worshiping 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 the email you may have received, on our Facebook page and/or on our church website: <https://brecksvilleucc.org/services/childrens-time-online/>

AS WE LOOK TO RE-OPEN -- AND MORE! There have been some great ideas for additional services and events, but the Spiritual Life committee is a very small group right now. No one has (as of yet!) volunteered to help, and even the smallest amount is welcome, as this lack of support will inhibit our ability to do special services. Please reach out to **Sue Maier** at eyerienne@aol.com, or **Betsey Wilson** at betseywilson10@gmail.com, so we can talk about how you can participate in this ministry. Help us make 2021 the year that we come back stronger and better than ever!

FLOWERS – Upon reopening the church, we are looking for anyone who is willing to help provide or arrange flowers for Sundays. If you are interested, please contact **Janet Renovetz** at **(330)-467-9357**.

OCWM – Today is our special collection for Edna House - a place for women to recover from drug and alcohol addiction, learn life skills and maintain a lifetime of sobriety. You may make monetary donations either through BUCC (if by check, be sure to include “Edna House” in the memo) or on their website, <https://ednahouse.org/donate>, on the blue DONATE button at the top of their homepage. Physical donations of specific items are being delivered **THIS WEEK** – please see the following (prioritized) list of necessities*:

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

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

ou 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!***

(continued on next page)

Announcements

Edna House Needs List:

- Women's clothing and shoes (clean and in season please)
- Canned food, condiments, and non perishable snacks, coffee, creamer and sugar
- Big Books (Alcoholics Anonymous) and 12 x 12 Books (no paperback novels, please)
- Cleaning products such as Murphy's Oil Soap, floor cleaner, bathroom cleaner,
- bleach, sponges, spray bottles, mops, and large black garbage bags
- Paper towels, toilet paper, and tampons
- Gift Cards, Bus Passes, Postage Stamps
- Flash drives, resume and copier paper (for Job Development)

***PLEASE NOTE:** They do not mend, repair, or launder donations. They cannot accept donations of luggage, bedding or furniture.

Items may be brought to the church and left inside the back doors with a note (contact **Anne** at **330-635-2106** to unlock doors), or you can arrange a pickup through **Kate Klonowski**, by calling/texting **(216) 534-3498**, or by email at **keightykay@gmail.com**. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity!

YOUR VIDEOS: The Stewardship committee is looking for anyone who wants to contribute a "Mission Moment Movie Minute" for our virtual church services. A 30-60 second video clip of anything related to mission, stewardship, giving or receiving. Make a quick video of something wonderful that someone has done for you or the community. Have your kids make a mini-movie of themselves helping a neighbor or picking up trash in the neighborhood. Or just tell us why you love the BUCC! Send it in to the **church email (buccho@sbcglobal.net)**, and we'll put it in an upcoming virtual service – thanks in advance!

LENTEN FUNDRAISER – This year's CE Lenten project (handpainted/colored key chains) is raising money for the Cleveland Foodbank. If you're interested in supporting this effort, our kids' creations are available during the "Still Speaking Events" (details in next announcement). If you're interested but not able to attend a parking lot meeting, call **Anne** at **440-526-4364** to make other arrangements. Our kids have been working on these since February, so please consider supporting their fundraiser - thank you!

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS* - Weather permitting, we will have parking lot meetings at the church this week – they are scheduled for Tuesday (5/11) at 10am, and Thursday (5/13) at 5pm. This is a chance for members and guests to safely share time together.

***NOTE:** All are welcome to join us and follow the guidelines below for a safe but enjoyable event:

- Masks are required for participation.
- Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating.
- You may bring a beverage or snack, but please no sharing with other households.
- Restrooms will not be available and the BUCC building will be closed.
- Please enjoy each other's company but remain 6 feet apart.

Announcements

THE PASTOR IS IN – Pastor Allan is available every Tuesday, between 11am 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you would like to be the Zoom Host or assist in other ways with our virtual services (it's very easy!), please reach out to **Heidi Spangler** at heidi@heidihoonthego.com. We'd love to teach you. 😊

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 your generous donations of time, money,
and talent that you give to our Church!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: *"It makes a difference, doesn't it, whether we fence ourselves in, or whether we are fenced out by the barriers of others?"* –E.M. Forster, ***A Room With A View***

Prelude: ***Come As You Are*** The Many
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLQsfto8LyE>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Jon): God calls people from all over to come together to be together.
- ◆ **People (Julie): God calls us from our own corners and hideaways, from our own fortresses of sameness, to join with others unlike us in worship.**
- ◆ Leader: How different are all those who are made in God's image! Yet God can make us into one people in Christ Jesus.
- ◆ **People: Let every barrier between people fall; let every apprehension give way to welcome in this place of worship. Let us worship God together!**

Hymn of Praise: ***Community of Christ*** Traditional Hebrew melody; adapt. M Lyon, 1770

1. Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
 live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
 The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
 whose children are of every race and every song.
2. Community of Christ, look past your church's door
 and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
 Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
 take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.
4. When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
 the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
 Our currency be love and kindness our law,
 our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.
 (Shirley Erena Murray, 1985)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Julie): O God, we are very good at seeing who is in and who is out, who is part of our group and who is not, who is one of us and who is one of them. Fences, walls and barriers are big and strong and tall. Welcome mats are small and flat and even they generally stand outside locked doors. How good we are at keeping people out!**

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Prayer of Approach & Confession: (continued)

- ◆ **People (Julie):** But you are an expert at letting people in. You welcome the poor and the outcast. You break down barriers between people. You show love to the loveless, and offer a way back in, even to people whose sin has locked them out. Break down our walls, open our hearts, and let us love across the gap between ourselves and others. By your Spirit's power, make of them and us one people, together in Christ. Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Jon):** The Apostle Paul wrote: "Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."
- ◆ **People (Julie):** Paul continued: "As God's chosen people, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you." Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen

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:

Acts 10: 1-8

Cornelius The Centurion's Vision

In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God. One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said.

Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel.

And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering! Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore." As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa.

Readings

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan): **Acts 10:9-48** *Peter's and Cornelius*

The next day as Cornelius' messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them."

"No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean."

But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean." The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.

Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house. Standing outside the gate, they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there.

Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men have come looking for you. Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them." So Peter went down and said, "I'm the man you are looking for. Why have you come?"

They said, "We were sent by Cornelius, a Roman officer. He is a devout and God-fearing man, well respected by all the Jews. A holy angel instructed him to summon you to his house so that he can hear your message." So Peter invited the men to stay for the night. The next day he went with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa.

They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter pulled him up and said, "Stand up! I'm a human being just like you!" So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled. Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me why you sent for me."

Cornelius replied, "Four days ago I was praying in my house about this same time, three o'clock in the afternoon. Suddenly, a man in dazzling clothes was standing in front of me. He told me, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been noticed by God! Now send messengers to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. He is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore.' So I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here, waiting before God to hear the message the Lord has given you."

Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

(continued)

Readings

Second Reading (continued):

“And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.”

Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

Musical Offering: *All God's People* May/Mercury/Deacon/Moran/Taylor
 Performed by Queen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guPpf_gaESE

Sermon: *We've Come A Long Way To Be Here* Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *Praise with Joy the World's Creator* Goss

1. Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
 Source and end of human knowledge, grace bestowing without cease.
 Celebrate the Maker's glory, pow'r to rescue and release.
2. Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,
 Heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
 Celebrate Christ's constant presence--Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.
4. Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in Community,
 Calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
 Thus the world shall yet believe when shown Christ's vibrant unity.
 The Iona Community, 1985; alt. (Scotland)

The Church at Prayer

Joanne K., David Pastor, Bill Toneff, Lenore Harris, Cindy Burton, Joe & Betsey Wilson and family, Ann Roha, Ann Klonowski, Elizabeth Gadus, Phyllis Hassler, Sheila Day, Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, “Edna House”, Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

† **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 (Jon): Generosity is an attribute of God, and when we share with a generous heart, we make ourselves more like God. With open hands and open hearts, let us share from the abundance that God has given us. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

BrecksvilleUCC.org/giving

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:

- ◆ People (Rose): **As Creator, God gives us earthly life. As Redeemer, God gives us eternal life. As Sustainer, God gives us our present life. Out of the gifts of God, we share our lives with others through our gifts and offerings. Receive these gifts of love from your people, O God, giver of life. Amen**

Hymn of Departure: *Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers*

Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831

1. Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.
With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.
2. Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.
Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heav'n your will be done.
3. Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.
(Roger Powell, 1948; alt.)

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:

L'Egyptienne

J.-P. Rameau

Klara Woškowiak, harp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIW1uxNk9TU>

Special Thanks:

May 9, 2021

Lay Reader Jon Thompson
Responder Julie Bernard
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host Jim Duffy

May 16, 2021

Lay Reader Diane Gressley
Responder Janet Renovetz
CE Mindy Wade
Slide Runner Jim Duffy
Zoom Host Sue Maier

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK

