

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23rd, 2021

"When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost."

–David Wilkerson, *The Cross and the Switchblade*

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/>

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**.

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, so even the smallest amount of help is welcome! 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!

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB - We will begin reading our next book, *Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women that a Movement Forgot*, by Mikki Kendall, in June sometime. A schedule has not been determined, but may depend on the reopening schedule. A reading schedule with discussion questions will be announced in the coming days. We encourage you to purchase your book from a local bookseller if possible!

Please reach out to **Kate Klonowski** by calling or texting **(216) 534-3498**, or by email at keightykay@gmail.com, with any questions.

*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!***

Announcements

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 (buccoffice23@gmail.com)**, 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 (5/25) at 10am, and Thursday (5/27) 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.**

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: **buccpastor23@gmail.com**
- 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!

Gathering in God's Presence

Meditation: "...this is the work of the Holy Spirit and our operating instructions, to be cooling breezes to sad or worried people, including ourselves, in this sometimes hot stuffy joint [the world]."
 –Anne Lamott, *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage*

Prelude: *Fresh Wind* Crocker/Fielding/Ligertwood/Ware
 Presented by Hillsong Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LRqPaBCRVs>

Call to Worship:

- ◆ Leader (Matt): When the Holy Spirit comes, let us dance in the wind and the flames!
- ◆ **People (Sherrill): Let us be ecstatic in receiving the Spirit's inspiration.**
- ◆ Leader: Breathe on us, O Breath of Life, and let us flutter in the breeze of God's presence.
- ◆ **People: Fall on us, Holy Spirit, like rain from the skies, to make us stretch like new shoots from the earth to heaven.**
- ◆ Leader: Come, Spirit, mysterious and mighty, come to empower your people.
- ◆ **People: Break in and break us out! Let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise: *On Pentecost They Gathered* Webb

1. On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
 a band of Christ's disciples to worship, sing, and pray.
 A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
 and tongues of fire a-glowing inspired each person there.

2. The people all around them were startled and amazed
 to understand their language, as God in Christ they praised.
 What universal message, what great good news was here?
 That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.

4. O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
 rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
 O give us hearts to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
 so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

(Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993)

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

- ◆ **People (Sherrill):** Your Spirit draws us to you, O God, draws us in like arms in an embrace, like sweet words in a romance. We come because you draw us in to your love. Sometimes we feel worthy of coming to you, because we are made in your image, and we recognize your glory in us. Sometimes we feel like freaks no one understands, but you keep calling us, insisting you do understand. And sometimes we feel utterly unworthy to come to you, maybe for nothing, maybe for something, and when it is something, you hear our confession and promise forgiveness in Christ, so we can come freely. Call on us and draw us in to you once more in your Spirit's power, O God! Amen

Words of Assurance:

- ◆ **Leader (Matt):** God has made us servants of the new covenant, a covenant not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life! (2nd Corinthians 3:6)
- ◆ **People (Sherrill):** In Jesus Christ, the Spirit has come to give us life in Jesus' name. Hear and believe the good news: we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! 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, for God loves us all!
 And on earth be peace to all people, for God loves us all!

Readings

First Reading:

Acts 2: 1-21

Spirit Wind and Spirit Fire

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

(continued on next page)

First Reading: (continued)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Second Reading (read by Allan)

Romans 8: 22-27 *The Groaning Creation*

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Contemporary Reading

“*The Holy Spirit*”, from *Encountering the Truth: Meeting God in the Everyday*, by Pope Francis

“To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: ‘Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!’ ... But don’t bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that’s no good. because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don’t know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It’s so much nicer to be comfortable.”

Musical Offering: *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* Getty/Townend/arr. Larson
Becky Anderson, flute

Sermon:

Nevertheless

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Jackson

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.
(Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

David Pastor, Lois Lorenzo, Terry Heiman, Kathy Smith, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Lenore Harris, Cindy Burton, 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, Dassy Matsuoaka, 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 (Matt): The Spirit blows where it wills, to inspire God's people to acts of service and love. In celebration of the Spirit's presence on this Pentecost Sunday, let us present our offerings to God as acts of service and love.

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 (Sherrill):** We are people who are made of earth and water. Send on us, O God, the Spirit's wind and fire to shake the earth and stir the water, so that we and our offerings combine to make a livable world for all people. Amen

Hymn of Departure:

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

1. Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and blight;
Holy Spirit, ever raising earthbound souls to glory high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit; you we praise and magnify.
2. Holy Spirit, ever breathing on the church the breath of life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving through your people's ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the church the mind of Christ:
In our worship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts unpriced.
3. Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry--
Quickening, strengthening, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul,
In community unending you we worship and extol.
(Timothy Rees, 1922; 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: ***V. Sortie (Recessional) from Mass for Pentecost*** Messiaen
Jens Korndörfer, organ
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4o9EAErIoE>



Special Thanks:

May 23, 2021

Lay Reader	Matt Wolbert
Responder	Sherrill Witt
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	Heidi Spangler

May 30, 2021

Lay Reader	Cliff Cribbs
Responder	Kathy Smith
CE	Mindy Wade
Slide Runner	Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host	David Pastor

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!