

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, or bisexual,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, disabled, 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!

WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS

We offer several child care 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 for children are also available from ushers.

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, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

JULY 13, 2014 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Hospitable God, you illustrate in story and teaching ways for us to be in relationship with one another. Help us be a blessing to others as we engage in hospitality and practice compassionate welcome. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Hanson

“When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart be good soil.”
Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship** - from *Psalms* 119

L: The Sacred Word is a lamp to my feet

P: And a light to my path.

L: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,

P: To faithfully observe the Holy One's guidance.

L: Even when hardships come my way,

P: The Compassionate One will sustain my life.

L: Accept my offerings of praise, O Holy One,

P: And teach me to rejoice in your loving ways.

L: I will hold your Word forever before me,

All: Your faithful decrees are a joy to my heart!

***Hymn of Praise**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

#21

***Prayer of Invocation**

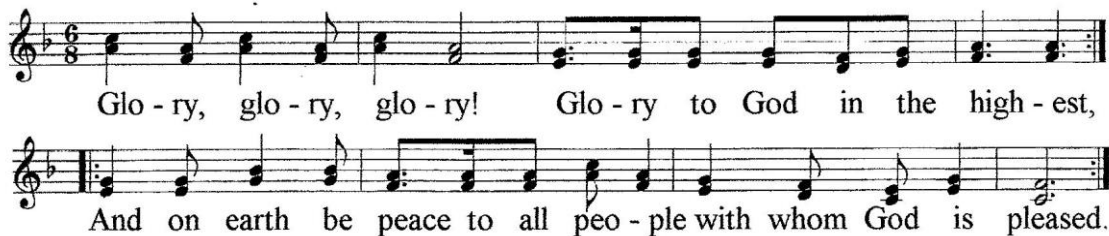
All: Divine Source of planting, growth and harvest - your Word of Life and Spirit of Compassion are generously spread throughout the earth. May your Word take root and deepen in our hearts and lives, helping us to grow in your gracious

image. And may we faithfully bear the good fruits of justice and righteousness, peace and love. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Isaiah 55:8-13

Pew Bible, page 685

The New Testament

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Pew Bible, page 13

The Continuing Testament

by David Ewart

in *Holy Textures*

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

There Is a Savior
[Darlene Fatica, soprano]

Farrell/Helvering/Nelson

Sermon

Let's Scatter!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

#318

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

Pastorale

Gounod

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all Blessings flow
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Gracious Holy One, may the light of your love shine in and through us today.
Bless and multiply these gifts, that they might further your work in this
community and in our world. Bless us all, as we seek to give of ourselves in
serving You, by serving others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

#306

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

Fugue in D major

Roberday

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Don & Eleanor Kusa, Lee Sanderson, Jill Black (Jim Duffy's Aunt), Jim & Betty Kaul, Ruth Thorpe, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, 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, July 6, 2014 – Adults: 85 Kids: 10 Total: 95

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 refreshments and conversation.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Marjorie Culver in Loving Memory of her Husband Dick, and Brothers-in-Law Carlton & Ron.

FINANCE quarterly statements are ready to be picked up in the Upper Commons.

GARDENIG ANGELS Keeping up with Mother Nature around our house of worship is no small task! We are still looking for volunteers to help maintain small sections of the church grounds. This Gardening Angels program involves a small amount of time per month done at your convenience. Please contact Kathy Pastor for more information at 440-554-7971. Thank you to those who have helped so far!

WOMEN UNITED will meet on Wednesday, July 16 for our monthly sack lunch at 11:30 in Pilgrim Hall. After lunch, we will prepare approximately 75 sandwiches to be taken to the St. Herman House on Franklin Blvd. St. Herman's is a shelter for homeless men. The sandwiches are not the main meal, but are used for between meal walk-ins or evening snacks. All Women of BUCC are welcome - we will need much help. For more info, call Dorie at 440-237-9447

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.

JULY FOOD PANTRY: Toothpaste, Shampoo, and Toilet Paper.

NAME TAGS are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and members alike, to help us to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Isaiah 55:8-13

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," says the Holy One. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish what I intend, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Holy One a memorial, an everlasting sign that shall not be severed."

The New Testament - Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let everyone who has ears, listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the Divine Realm and does not grasp it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but persists only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and grasps it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Continuing Testament - by David Ewart - in *Holy Textures* [edited]

For those first hearing Jesus's parable, the behavior of the Sower is either extremely reckless or extremely generous. They certainly wouldn't be so careless as to waste so much good seed. Seed was sown by hand, and the farmer would be very careful to make sure that all of his seed landed only on the soil where it could grow. So the shock of this parable is immediate: some seed falls on the path! And if that isn't enough, some seed falls on rocky ground! And then some is cast among the thorns! Finally, some seed fall on good soil. [Whew!]

Surely such wastefulness will be penalized. But no, the yield is 30, 60, and even 100 fold! In those days, the normal yield would have been 4 or 5. So what are we to make of this parable of such exaggerated waste and reward? Jesus' explanation refers to the seed and soil, not to the Sower. But if we think about the Sower, we hear a story about extravagant generosity. Extravagant, even to the point of being wasteful. Or maybe, extravagant to the point of giving seed to *all*, regardless of pre-conditions. You and I might not waste our efforts on the down

trodden, the thorny, and the hardened, yet it appears that God does! The Good News is given even in the midst of troubles and woes, faults and failings. Our calling, is to be open to having our tramped-down hardness ploughed-up and overturned; having our rocky places identified and removed; having our thorny anxieties pulled-out; thereby making room for new growth. Who knows? Maybe instead of eking-out the bare minimum, we might find ourselves being showered with God's extravagant abundance!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 7/13/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
Wed 7/16/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	11:30 am	Women United - Pilgrim Hall
	make sandwiches for St. Herman House	
Thursday 7/17/2014	1pm	Bible Study
Sunday 7/20/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE
JULY 13, 2014

Lay Reader: Dot Bailey
Head Usher: Max Roha
Ushers: Kathy Smith, David Ritchey
Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Cndl: Garrett Demko
Sound: Chad Sproul
Coms Grtr: Jim & Betty Kaul
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Kara Rees
Counters: Nancy Stella, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Jill Zedan
Clean-Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
JULY 20, 2014

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Jim Duffy, Wes Novak,
David & Julie Bernard
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Cndl: Indira Bigelow
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey
Narthex Grtr: Stu Bailey
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Val Duffy
Counters: Stu Bailey, Betty Kaul
Servers: Joanne Cook
Clean-Up: Jill Zedan

PHOTOGRAPH & VIDEO RELEASE FORM

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I agree that BUCC may use such images, video, and/or audio of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where these materials may be distributed.

By signing this form I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby. I hereby release, defend, hold harmless and indemnify BUCC from any and all claims for utilizing this material.

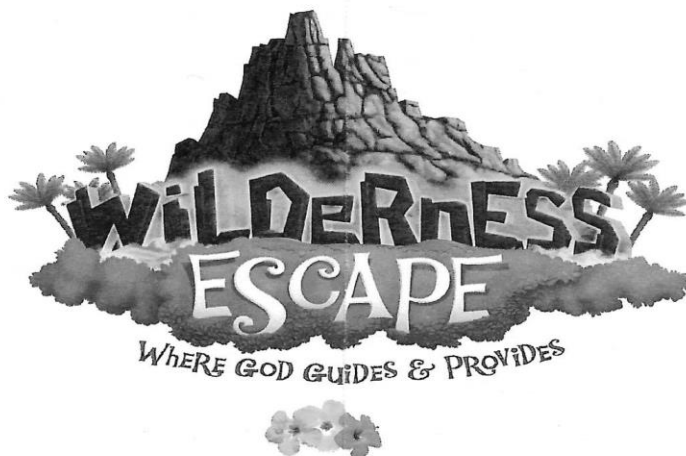
FullName _____
StreetAddress/POBox _____
City _____ State/Province _____
Postal/ZIP Code _____ Country _____
Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____ E-mail _____
Address _____

Signature _____
Date _____

If this release is obtained for someone under the age of 18, then the signature of that person's parent or legal guardian is also required.

I verify that I am the parent/guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I have read this release and fully understand its contents. I approve the foregoing and waive any rights in the premises.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature _____
Date _____



Join the celebration!

**Vacation Bible School
August 4-8
9 a.m. to Noon**

**3-5 year olds and
Kindergarten through the 5th grade**

Cost: \$5.00 per family

**Register by contacting:
Independence Presbyterian Church
6624 Public Square
Independence, OH 44131
ipc_6624@att.net
216 524-6307
ipcusa.org**

See you there!!

