

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

AUGUST 10, 2014 – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Holy Love, fill us with the compassion that changes our hearts. Steadfast Strength, firm-up our faith to trust in the gracious way of Jesus Christ. Perfect Peace, sharpen our skills and our desire to work for true justice in this world. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

L: This is a day to celebrate new life!

P: To open our eyes to the beauty of creation,

L: To open our ears to the sounds of God's world,

P: To open our hearts to God's people all around us!

L: This is a day of gladness and joy!

P: We give thanks for Jesus, who welcomes all people,

L: We give thanks to the Spirit, who brings us new life,

All: We give thanks to God - who loves us, restores us, and fills our hearts with joy!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#25

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Loving Creator of our world and ourselves, we thank you that you reveal yourself in the events of human history. We thank you that you have shown yourself fully in the person of Jesus Christ, who shared our human life, walking the path of loving service all the way to the cross. Following Christ's example, may we also be willing to give ourselves and live our lives for the sake of others. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-9

Pew Bible, page 10

The New Testament

Matthew 14:22-33

Pew Bible, page 16

Continuing Testament

in *The Christian Century*

by Amy B. Hunter

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

All Will Be Well

Taizé Community

[Anne Melfo, soprano; Maria Livers, alto; Roselle Orlando, alto;
Paul Zaepfel, tenor & guitar; Jon Thompson, bass]

Sermon

Watch the First Step!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#573

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

***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, we offer our gifts from the abundance entrusted to us. Bless these gifts, that they may be used to help bring the light of your love to people and places where it is needed. Help us to bear witness to you amazing love and grace, not only through our giving, but also through our dedicated lives of faith. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Light and Life. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Forward through the Ages

#377

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

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Lee Sanderson, 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.)

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 WE WELCOME Jan Wardlaw, our former music director, and thank her for sharing her musical gifts with us on the organ.

NEW ADDRESS? Please contact the Office to let us know your new address. We are updating the Directory and also for the Pillar Mailings. Call 440-526-4364, or email Jeannette at buccoh@sbcglobal.net - Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: It's time to start thinking about Sunday School again, which starts up in September. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sue Maier (Eyerienne@aol.com, 440-915-4988) or Kate Klonowski

(keightykay@gmail.com, 216-534-3498). We need help with the older Elementary and Middle School classes. Thanks!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC....Join us Sunday, August 17 at 2 pm at the Fields Memorial Park, 8938 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights. The park has a nice pavilion and picnic tables, tennis court, baseball diamond, children's area, lots of parking. Please sign up so we know how many hamburgers and hot dog we will need. Bring your favorite salad, side or dessert to share. See you there!!!!

ALTAR FLOWERS are a good way to celebrate an event or person or to remember a loved one. Our flower chart in the narthex has many open slots awaiting your name. Please select the date you wish to reserve now. Please fill out the dedication sheet from the pocket and drop it into the collection plate or leave it in the office.

OUR COMPLETE WORSHIP SERVICE, including anthems, hymns, etc., is fed by our sound system to our new audio-CD recorder (CDs are available in the church office for borrowing) and to the narthex speakers (for the benefit of anyone who must leave the sanctuary because of a restless child or for any other reason). If you should use one of the portable microphones during the service, please do not turn it off but return it to its location so that its continuing feed is not eliminated from the system.

THE BLESSINGS JAR is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

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 - Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Holy One 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 Holy One had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Holy One appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Holy One, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Holy One and invoked the name of the Holy One. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

The New Testament - Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately [after feeding the 5,000] Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had dismissed the crowd, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.”

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got back into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Continuing Testament - by Amy B. Hunter - in *The Christian Century* [edited]

I had a classmate at a Christian college who repeatedly defined faith as “stepping out of airplanes, knowing that God will catch you.” My response was that surely God had better things to do than catch folks stupid enough to step out of airplanes! Some Biblical stories, like Jesus walking on the water with Peter, can spawn bad theologies. Peter’s escapade can become evidence that God asks us to demonstrate faith by taking pointless risks. Or Jesus’ reproof, “O, you of little faith, why did you doubt?” can lead to the belief that if our faith is simply strong enough, no harm will befall us. Setting the bar that high for faith can result in feeling afraid to admit our fears and doubts to others, ourselves and God. Further, when bad things happen - and they will - we may believe that our lack of faith caused this harm, or that God isn’t powerful enough or compassionate enough to protect us.

When my son Sean was a toddler, we often took him to the playground. He began to step off the wooden climbing structures - and into thin air. Experience had taught him that someone was always there to catch him whether he fell. Thankfully, he gave up this practice of stepping into thin air, not because he suffered any harm, but very likely because he tired of hearing his mother shriek, “You’re going to kill yourself!”

God does not demand that I step out of airplanes. Nor am I likely to have trust as pure as my son’s when he knew that hands were always ready to catch him. But like Peter, I *can* step forward, even if the ground beneath me is no more substantial than water. What matters is that I am walking toward Jesus, whose hand is held toward me, stretched out in invitation, stretched out to grasp me should I fall.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 8/10/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
Wed 8/13/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	7 pm	Council
Thursday 8/14/2014	1pm	Bible Study
Sunday 8/17/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	2 pm	Church Picnic

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

AUGUST 10, 2014

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Joe Wilson, Drew Wilson
Matt Wolbert, Jill Zedan
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Cndl: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Max Roha
Comons Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: Jon Thompson
Flowers: Lenore Harris
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Bruce McCain, Anna Mary Fisher
Servers: Carole Snider
Clean-Up: Jill Zedan

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

AUGUST 17, 2014

Lay Reader: Spencer Whyte
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
Ushers: George & Carole Snider
David & Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Cndl: Lily Hunt
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Nancy Stella, Dassie Matsuoka
Servers: Caroline Chandler
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz

PHOTOGRAPH & VIDEO RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant BUCC permission to the rights of my image, likeness and sound of my voice as recorded on audio or video without payment or any other consideration. I understand that my image may be edited, copied, exhibited, published or distributed and waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of my image or recording.

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 _____