

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 31, 2014 – TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Creative Holy One, who calls each of us by name: strengthen our resolve as we seek truth and justice in a complicated world. May we earnestly try to discover your Gracious Will for our living, and faithfully work to help advance your Realm of Peace. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Attr. Lewis

“Take up your cross, the Savior said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.”

Charles William Everest, 1833, (alt.); based on Mt. 16:24

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, let us gather in the Presence of Divine Love,

People: The Love which gives us life and brings us to this place.

L: Let us gather in the confidence which this Holy Love brings us,

P: Knowing that we are welcomed, forgiven and accepted.

L: Because we are welcomed, we too can welcome others.

P: Because we are forgiven, we too can forgive.

L: Let us rejoice in God's marvelous grace among us!

All: Let us offer to God our worship and praise!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Praise to the Living God

#8

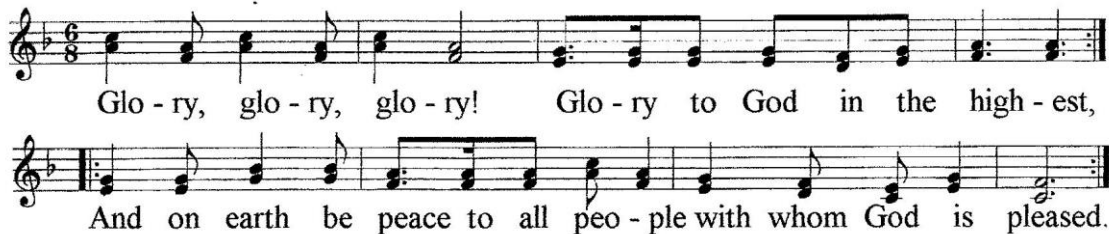
*** Prayer of Invocation** [Unison]

Divine Creator of our world, ourselves, and all that exists - 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 fully shared his life with others. Help us to follow Christ's example and be fully present with and for one another today, and in all our days to come. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

II Kings 2:7-12

Pew Bible, page 332

The New Testament

Matthew 16:13-25

Pew Bible, page 18

The Continuing Testament

by David Ewart

in *Holy Textures*

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Close to Thee

Vail, arr. N. Williams, Jr.

[*Lenore Harris, soprano*]

Sermon

Time to Turn-off the "Mute" Button!

Pastor Dave Shackles

Hymn of Reflection

God Our Author and Creator

#530

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

Worker's Song
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Pickford

Dedicated to laborers everywhere.
"Yeah, this one's for the workers who toil night and day
By hand and by brain to earn your pay
Who for centuries long past for no more than your bread
Have bled for your countries and counted your dead
Chorus: We're the first ones to starve, we're the first ones to die
The first ones in line for that pie-in-the-sky
And we're always the last when the cream is shared out
For the worker is working when the fat cat's about"
Ed Pickford (b. 1943), arrangement by Dropkick Murphys released in 2003

***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 and Giving God, we are grateful for wisdom, for beauty, for the ways in
which we see your glory in all creation. Most of all, we thank you for caring for**

us and for entrusting to us the ministry of caring for the earth and for one another. Accept these offerings that we present to you, and help us also to give ourselves fully and freely to the work of your Realm, that the love of Christ might shine through us and throughout the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

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

Arise, My Soul, Arise!

Finnish folk tune

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Jim Hamro, 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'S FLOWERS are given by Diane Gressley, in Celebration of our amazing Church Family.

RALLY DAY Please join us for the Rally Day Pot Luck in Pilgrim Hall on Sunday, September 7 following the worship service. The theme for the meal is Harvest Time. Please sign up with the Membership Ministry to let us know how many will attend and what you will bring to share. We need main dishes, side dishes, and desserts.

RALLY DAY BIBLE PRESENTATIONS! Do you have a child who will be entering 4th grade this year? If so, please let me know so I can make sure they are presented their Bible on Rally Day, September 7th. If your child is older and never received a Bible, please let me know and we'll make sure to get them one too. **AND...**don't forget to register for Sunday School! Forms are on the C.E. bulletin board in the main hallway and can be turned in at the office. Thanks and enjoy the rest of your summer! Sue Maier!

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!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY is scheduled in two weeks on Sunday, September 14, at approximately 11:45 am. If you have not registered yet this year with Jane Cribbs, please see her at Fellowship Hour today. We have 16 people registered. (What a dream I keep having: that all of you will show up!) Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4, at 9 am, for our 2014 grand finale as well.

ALTER FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE There are still several dates available to Dedicate flowers the open dates are: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, and also November 9, 30. Please sign up soon.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Below is a condensed listing of starting dates, times, and age groups for our various music ensembles at BUCC. More detailed info can be found in September's Pillar.

Joyful Noise Choir (~K-5th grade): First practice is Thurs. Sept. 4 from 5:30-6:15.

Adult Choir (high school students welcome): First rehearsal Thurs. Sept 4 from 7:30-9:00.
Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble (all ages welcome): First practice is Wed. Sept 10 from 4:30-5:00. Free lessons are available on soprano recorder and lap dulcimer. Contact Dave Debick to schedule.

Youth Percussion Group: First practice Sunday Sept. 14 from 5:30-6:00 before Youth Ministry Kickoff at 6:00.

Instrumentalists are encouraged to share their musical gifts at worship either in a solo capacity (for prelude, offertory, communion, etc.) or accompanying choirs, playing with recorder/dulcimer ensemble, youth percussion, etc. Please contact Dave D. if you're interested.

Anyone interested in singing a solo or duet sometime during the upcoming church season—please let Dave know so he can schedule a date and rehearse with you beforehand. (see next page)

THE BUCC LIBRARY calls your attention to some of our new books: *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*, by Robin Meyers; *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University*, by Kevin Roose; *The Children Are Free: Reexamining the Biblical Evidence on Same-Sex Relationships*, by Jeff Miner and John Tyler Connoley; *Scribblings about This and That*, by Bob Pfleger (a longtime member of BUCC). Look for these on the top shelf of the red book cart, along with Still Speaking, the UCC magazine.

AUGUST FOOD PANTRY Dish, Hand and Laundry Soap.

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 II Kings 2:1; 7-12

Now when the Holy One was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.... Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two.

The New Testament - Matthew 16:13-25

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Heavenly Parent. I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Realm of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it! This must never happen to you." But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on Divine things but on human concerns."

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who try to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

Poor Peter. He calls Jesus, the Messiah. Seven short verses later, Jesus is calling him, “Satan.” Poor Jesus. His inner core of followers affirm that they have “got it” - that they understand his mission. Seven short verses later, Peter reveals that they still misunderstand it and/or are unwilling to follow it. The prediction of Jesus’s suffering and his rejection by the religious authorities is not rocket science, nor does it require any special Divine insight. Given the exalted status being attributed to Jesus by the people, and given his challenge to the religious power-brokers, everyone alive would know that this could only end badly.

As the one who proclaimed the highly honor status of Jesus, Peter is quite unnerved by Jesus’ teaching concerning his suffering and death. Peter was not only affirming a high status for Jesus, but was also affirming his loyalty to Jesus. And as such, Peter was also anticipating sharing in the rewards of Jesus’ honor as the Messiah. So Peter rebukes Jesus. Jesus rebukes Peter and calls him “Satan”. That is, Tempter, Side-Tracker of Mission, Setter of One’s Mind on Human Things. Well, fear of pain and death will do that to most people, and Peter was no exception.

What Jesus is setting out to do is take up his cross, lose his life to fulfil his life’s purpose, and thereby find his life. We all know how to lose our life so that it is lost. The trick is to figure out how to lose one’s life so that it will be found. The key to that, is to lose our life for Jesus’ sake, his purpose and his goal. Jesus’ purpose is to break-down the barriers that people set-up between themselves, and between themselves and God. Jesus’ goal is to build bridges of love to replace those barriers. A purpose and a goal like that truly is the key to finding our lives!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 8/31/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
Monday 9/1/2014	*LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED*	
Wed 9/3/2014	6 am	Early Birds
Thursday 9/4/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday 9/7/2014	10 am	Coffee Hour
	11 am	Rally Day – Pot-Luck

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

AUGUST 31, 2014

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
Jill Zedan, Dan Stewart
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Cndl: Garrett Demko
Sound: Val Duffy
Comns Grtr: Bridget Sproul
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Carole Snider, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Caroline Chandler
Clean-Up: Bob Chandler

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

Lay Reader: Jane Cribbs
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor,
Dot & Stu Bailey
Acolyte: Courtni Began
Peace Cndl: Carli Began
Sound: Dave Bernard
Comns Grtr: Joanne Cook
Narthex Grtr: Jon Thompson
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Kara Reese
Counters: Nancy Stella, Donn Whyte
Server: Dorie Gabor/Membership
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Pot-Luck-Membership