

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

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014 – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we see your great compassion expressed in and through the life of Jesus Christ. Inspire us all to listen carefully to his teachings, and to faithfully follow his example of self-giving love and service. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Come into God's Presence

Anon.

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: This is the day that our God has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L: Our Holy Source has not forsaken us;

P: The Holy One has not forgotten us.

L: Like a loving Mother and Father,

P: Our Divine Creator holds us close.

L: God's everlasting love rests upon us,

All: In the Holy One's gentle care, we are all held secure!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

#55

*** Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, we thank you for all those good things that fill our lives with joy: the love of family and friends, the comfort of food and shelter, the challenge of work and learning, and the ease of leisure and recreation. Too often, we take these things for granted, failing to see them as your precious gifts. Forgive us when we think that these blessings somehow make us better than others, and when we fail to share these gifts with those in need. Open our hearts, that we may live our lives with genuine gratitude and compassion. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

L: One fact remains and does not change: God has loved us, loves us now, and will love us always. This is the Good News that brings us new life.

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Passing the Peace**

L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ.

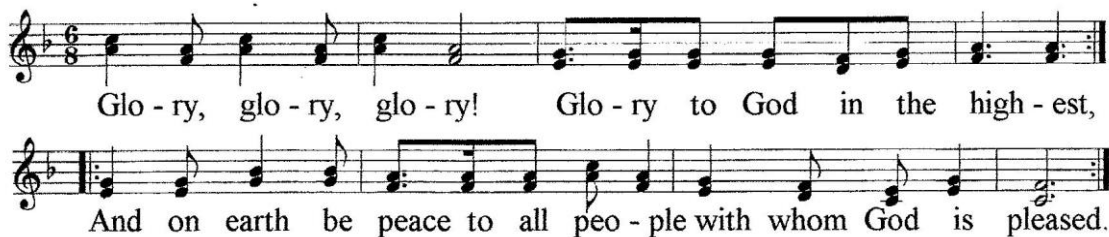
The Peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

***Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Time with Young Worshipers

Presentation of Bibles - BUCC Christian Education Ministry Team

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism bears witness to the Divine Love and Grace that is extended to each of us at every stage of our lives.

P: Today we celebrate God's love for this child, and offer ourselves as instruments of that love in her life.

L: When parents brought their children to Jesus so that he might touch them, his disciples rebuked them; but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

P: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Realm of God.

L: Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Realm of God like a little child, shall not enter it."

P: Then Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is an outward and visible sign of Divine Grace. Because the promise of the Gospel is not only to us, but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's Church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith.

P: Out of the Water of Holy Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiveness and grace as members of the One Body of Christ.

Promises of the parents and Godparents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage Amelia to resist the power of evil, and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach and encourage her that she may be inspired to know and follow Jesus Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow with her in the Christian faith, to help her be a faithful member of the Church - by celebrating Christ's presence here, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering her the on-going nurture of the Church?

All: We do, with the help of God.

The Congregational Promise

Pastor: Members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ: Are you prepared to welcome, encourage and pray for Amelia as she grows in faith among us?

People: We promise her our love, our support and our care as she lives and grows among us as a child of God!

Baptismal Act and Presentation

The Old Testament	Hosea 6:1-6	Pew Bible, page 838
The New Testament	Matthew 11:28-30	Pew Bible, page 11
The Continuing Testament	from <i>The Meaning of Jesus</i>	by Marcus Borg

Musical Offering	A New Song	Larson
	<i>[Betsey Wilson, flute; Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet]</i>	

Sermon	<i>Live and Learn, Learn and Live!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
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Hymn of Reflection	Spirit of the Living God [sung twice]	#283
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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

Lord of Life, We Come to You

Scots Gaelic trad.

"Lord of life, we come to you.
Lord of all, our Savior be.
Come to bless and to heal
with the light of your love."
Catherine Walker, 1998

***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]**

**Receive and bless, O Holy One, the gifts that we bring, and bless
us as we offer ourselves to be partners in your redeeming and healing work
in the world. Give to us all your Spirit of kindness, and generosity,
forgiveness, and love; we ask in the name of Jesus, who freely gave himself for
us all. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

#342

The Thanksgiving

L: The Holy One be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!

L: It is truly good and right to give thanks to you, Divine Source of Light and Life, for you have manifested yourself in Jesus Christ, begotten from the very heart of your compassion.

And so, with your people of every time and place, we praise your Name, saying,

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O gracious Redeemer of Life!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

In the Singing

Young

"Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace."
Shirley Erena Murray, 1994

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76

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

Sortie Fanfare

Maillochaud

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Vicki Szabo & Family, The Family of Jim Hamro, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Lee Sanderson, Ruth Thorpe, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, 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, August 31, 2014 – Adults: 70 Kids: 11 Total: 90

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our **Pot-Luck Lunch!**

TODAY WE WELCOME Amelia Tyler, daughter of Valerie and James Tyler, into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A special welcome also to her Godparents Litsa and Michael Hoffman, Grandparents Deborah Cooper and Darlene and John Tyler, and other family and friends visiting with us on this special day. We ask God's continuing blessings on Amelia and her family, and on our entire BUCC Family of Faith!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Jim & Betty Kaul in Honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Here's a quick list of music ensembles and opportunities at Brecksville UCC this fall. If you're on the fence about participating, please speak with Dave Debeck or anyone currently involved with the program – our musical time together provides plenty of fun, fellowship, Spirit, and stylistic variety as we make our way through the church season.

Joyful Noise Choir (K-5th grade): Meets Thursdays from 5:30-6:15.

Adult Choir (high school students welcome): Thursdays from 7:30-9:00.

Soprano Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble (all ages welcome): Rehearses Wednesdays from 4:30-5:00. If you'd like to learn either of these instruments, free lessons are available. Contact Dave D. for more info or to schedule lessons.

Youth Percussion Group (age 12 and up): Meets *every other* Sunday starting Sept. 14 from 5:30-6:00 before Youth Ministry at 6 p.m. This rehearsal schedule is subject to change based on church calendar and participant availability.

Instrumentalists are encouraged to share their musical gifts during worship. If you're not on Dave Debeck's current list of players, please let him know you're interested and we'll get you scheduled.

Private piano lessons are available on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Contact Dave D. to schedule.

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.

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

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY is scheduled for 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.

CROP WALK -- If you plan to walk in the CROP Walk, please see Susan Snyder to sign up. The Walk takes place on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 28 and raises money to fight hunger locally and worldwide. Thank you in advance.

SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY Cereal

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 - Hosea 6:1-6

The prophet Hosea says, “Come, let us return to the Holy One; for it is God who has torn, it is God who will heal us; God has struck us down, yet God will bind us up. After two days God will revive us; on the third day, will raise us up anew, that we may live before God. Let us know this, and let us press on to know the Holy One - whose appearing is as sure as the dawn; who will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have laid them low by my prophets, I have devoured them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than your burnt offerings.

The New Testament - Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Continuing Testament - from *The Meaning of Jesus* - by Marcus Borg [edited]

Our common religious questions center on belief. “Do you believe in God?” “Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God?” “Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?” Our preoccupation with believing is because many of the central teaching of Christianity have come into question in the modern world. Thinking of the Christian faith as being primarily about believing in God, the Bible, and Jesus is thus a modern mistake, with profound consequences.

Beliefs have little ability to change our lives. One can believe all the right things and remain a jerk, or worse. Saints have been heretical, and people with the correct beliefs have been cruel oppressors and brutal persecutors. Rather, the Christian life is about a relationship to the God to whom the tradition points. What matters is the relationship, for it can and does transform lives.

In all of this, for us as Christians, Jesus is central. I define the Christian life most compactly as a relationship with God as revealed in Jesus Christ. The core Christian affirmation is twofold: Jesus is for us Christians, the decisive revelation of what God is like and of what a life full of God is like. Jesus is the revelation, disclosure, and epiphany of both. As both “true God” and “true human,” Jesus is a lens through which we see God and what a life full of God is like.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 9/7/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	*Potluck – Rally Day*
Monday 9/8/2014	1 pm	Book Club – Parlor
	7:30 pm	Facilities
Tuesday 9/9/2014	7 pm	Membership
Wed 9/10/2014	6 am	Early Birds
		Piano Lessons Start
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
	7 pm	Council
Thursday 9/11/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir

(continued next page)

Sat 9/13/2014	9-3 pm	Women United Trunk Sale (Set-up 9 am – Sale 10 am)
Sunday 9/14/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	11:45 am	Adopt-A-Highway

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

Lay Reader:	Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	David & Kathy Pastor, Dot & Stu Bailey
Acolyte Courtnei	Began
Peace Candel:	Carli Began
Sound:	Dave Bernard
Comms 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

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

Lay Reader:	Dot Bailey
Head Usher:	Max Roha
Ushers:	Jim Duffy, Ed Lusk Tina Ortiz, Jill Zedan
Acolyte:	Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candel:	Evan Merritt
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr:	Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr:	Dorie Gabor
Flowers:	Kathy Pastor
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
Counters:	Sue Stenzel, Anna Mary Fisher
Servers:	Caroline & Bob Chandler
Clean-Up:	Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks:	Dot Bailey & Max Roha