

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

OCTOBER 12, 2014 –EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Divine Source of compassion and grace, unite us in your circle of love. Help us to remember that you invite us all to be a part of your Family of Faith. May we respond to your invitation by joyfully joining our hearts and our hands with all those who seek to follow and serve you. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

We Will Take What You Offer
[With Percussion Group]

Bell

“We will take what you offer,
we will live by your word;
we will love one another and be fed by you, Lord.”
John L. Bell, b. 1949

*** Call to Worship**

L: Come, let us gather in the awareness of Divine Love,

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

L: We gather in the confidence that God's Presence brings us,

P: We Know that we are invited by a power greater than own.

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

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

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

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

*** Hymn of Praise**

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

#73

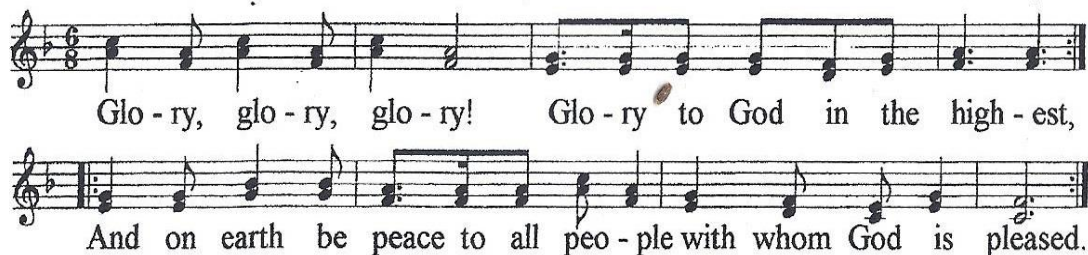
*** Prayer of Invocation** [Unison]

Loving and Gracious Holy One, in your mercy you offer wholeness and restoration to all your children. Help us, as your faithful people, to extend to others the same love, grace, and welcome that you extend to us. May we, like Jesus, learn to overcome the social stigmas and prejudices of our day. Let the power of your Holy Spirit work in us and through us that we may praise you with joy and serve you with ever thankful hearts. Amen.

* The Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Psalm 106:1-5, 48

Pew Bible, page 557

The New Testament

Matthew 22:1-14

Pew Bible, page 24

The Continuing Testament

from *In the Meantime...*

by David Lose

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Fields Are Dancing with Ripened Corn

Haydn

Sermon

As Groucho Marx Once Said....

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Surely No One Can Be Safer

#487

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

Retrospection

Mendelssohn

*** Offertory Hymn**

**Our lives are good, not much we lack;
Some of our gifts we now give back.
We seek to help, to clothe, to feed,
To hold the hands of those in need. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication** [Unison]

Divine Source of all Life and Giver of every good gift: accept these offerings that we present today. May they serve as symbols of our commitment to you, and to your saving work in this place and in this world. May they also be a sign of our willingness to devote our lives to carry forward your message of welcome and love. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, who graciously welcomes us all. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

You Are Called to Tell the Story
[Tune - Regent Square]

#357

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

Praise Ye Our God

Hovhanness

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Bill Harris, Vicki Szabo & Family, the Family Ruth Thorpe, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Lee Sanderson, 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, October 5, 2014 – Adults: 88 Kids: 15 Total: 93

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 Coffee Hour.

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY by Tia Began in Celebration of all the October Family Birthdays, especially Father.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RUTH THORP will be held at BUCC this Thursday, October 16th at 11:30 a.m. Ruthie will be interred with her late husband, Harvey, at a brief family service at 1:30 in the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman Please keep Ruthie's family in your thoughts and prayers.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED Next week we will be receiving the Offering for Neighbors in Need. The offering will go to the UCC to support education grants, literacy issues, justice initiatives, and direct service projects. Our offering will make an impact around the world. Please be generous.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! As you will note, this month we are singing our offering song with new words to the same tune. Our Spiritual Life Ministry Team realized that the words we have been singing say little about our giving. It was decided to try to change this. Now we would like your contributions for additional options. You don't need to be a trained musician nor an accomplished poet. The differing outlooks of our youth, our golden-agers, and those in between will add the spice of variety. Just put your feelings into wording that reflects your own expressions of our Sunday morning offering. They could be suitable for any time of year, or they might be seasonal [Christmas, Easter, Spring, Fall, etc.] Have fun verbalizing you thoughts, rearranging them, playing with various word options, and finally arriving at your expression of thanks. Please submit your ideas [or questions] to Pastor Dave or Dave Debick, who will share them with our Spiritual Life Ministry members. And, voila, you will have found new words of praise that will add depth to our BUCC worship experience! Our thanks to Max Roha for coming up with this idea, and offering us this month's Offertory Hymn!

NEXT SUNDAY, Oct. 19 at 4:00 pm, BUCC will host the **Case Concert Choir**, Comprised of students from Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Under the direction of Dr. Matthew Garrett, the fifty-member ensemble will present a program titled "A Life in Music" which follows our journey through life from the celebration of birth, through the wonderment of childhood, into the ups and downs of adulthood, to an ultimate declaration of the will to live! The eclectic program includes works by several contemporary composers, as well as two traditional African songs. A free-will offering will be received, and a light meal will be served following the program. We hope you can join us for this unique choral presentation. Bring a friend!

SEASONAL CHOIR: It's not too late to join seasonal choir as we begin preparing for BUCC's annual Christmas cantata, scheduled for Dec. 14 at regular Sunday worship. We practice Thurs. evenings from 7-8. Seasonal choir offers a great opportunity for music, fellowship and spiritual preparation for the joyous holyday of Christmas. Listening CDs are provided to help with the learning process. Adults and high school students are welcome.

WOMEN UNITED - Tour of United Church of Christ Downtown Cleveland Headquarters. We will meet in the Church Parking lot at 10:00 AM to carpool - 11:00 AM tour and 12:00 PM Service in their Chapel, lunch at the Gateway Restaurant at 12:30 PM. We will order

off the menu at each person's cost. If you have not registered and wish to attend call Dorie Gabor at 440-237-9447. All are welcome.

BUCC ONLINE CALENDAR Please be sure to check day to day meeting schedules, events, and doings at BUCC at www.BrecksvilleUcc.org. Updates are made frequently.

OCTOBER FOOD PANTRY Canned Soup, Bakes Beans, Chilli, etc.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Psalm 106:1-5; 48

Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God, who is good; whose steadfast love endures forever. Who can count the mighty deeds of our Gracious Creator, or declare all of wonderful works of the Holy One? Happy are those who follow God's way, who observe justice and do righteousness throughout their lives.

Remember me, O Holy One, when you bless your people; help me when you deliver them. That I may see the abundance of your grace that I may rejoice in the gladness of your people that I may glory in your life-long generosity....

Blessed be the Holy One, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen! Praise God!"

The New Testament - Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The Realm of God may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited to the banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the

wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' The man silent and said nothing. So the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Continuing Testament - from *In the Meantime...* - by David Lose

We are disciples of Jesus who hear the Good News that God invites all - good and bad - because God is a God of expansive love and radical inclusiveness. And we are disciples who see, especially in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, not only how far God will go to extend this invitation, but also that God's words of love and forgiveness are more powerful than any words of punishment, hate, or fear.

Because we have seen and experienced Divine Love first hand, we can trust that the God we know in Jesus cares for those who don't respond to God's invitation, just as graciously as God cares for us. If we practice trusting Divine Love enough to resist condemning others; but instead pray for them, we might find ourselves more capable of sharing why what we believe is important to us [rather than just insisting that they also believe]. We also might learn to show greater respect for their questions, beliefs, and struggles. And we might offer our care and support in the Spirit of the One who died, rather than condemn; and was raised to offer peace, rather than retribution. And this gracious understanding and loving support, may just be the most powerful witness we can offer.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 10/12/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6 pm	Youth Ministry
Tuesday 10/14/2014	10 am	CWRU
Wed 10/15/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thurs 10/16/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	11:30 am	Ruthie Thorpe Memorial Service
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8 pm	Choir
Sunday 10/19/2014	10 am	Worship Service/NIN Offering
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	4 pm	Case Concert

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

OCTOBER 12, 2014

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly

Head Usher: Anne Melfo

**Ushers: Sue Maier, Wes Novak
Jim Duffy, Dorie Gabor**

Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett

Peace Cndl: Olivia Klonowski

Sound: Val Duffy

Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey

Nartx Grtr: David Ritchey

Flowers: Betty Gifford

Nursery: Gina Cook

Counters: Kathy Pastor, Sue Stenzel

**Servers: Joanne Cook, Robin Coyer-
Westerberg**

Clean-Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs

Snacks: Dot Bailey, Marilyn Wrights

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

OCTOBER 19, 2014

Lay Reader: Evie Novak

Head Usher: Bridget Sproul

**Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor
Heidi Spangler, Tina Ortiz**

Acolyte: Lindsey Maier

Peace Cndl: Evan Merritt

Sound: Kevin Smith

Coms Grtr: George Snider

Nartx Grtr: Max Roha

Flowers: Jan Renovetz

Nursery: Valerie Duffy

Counters: Stu Bailey, Donn Whyte

Servers: Joy Garapic, Dottie Farwell

Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor

Snacks: Jon Thompson, Anne Melfo

"The Problem of Pleasure"

Matt Fitzgerald

"You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing." - Psalm 145:16

My father loved roller coasters. They terrify me. When I was eight we went to Busch Gardens. He enjoyed the brewery tour. I ate cotton candy. Then he made me ride a gigantic yellow roller coaster. I closed my eyes and gripped the crash bar so tightly my knuckles turned bone white. And I wondered "Why?" Why would anyone invent such an awful machine? Why would my dad drag me on it? Who thinks this is fun? Why did I eat that cotton candy?

It finally stopped. I teetered my way out of the cart. My dad looked into my twirling pupils and green face and said, "Let's do it again!"

The second time I kept my eyes open. From the top of the ride I saw giraffes in the distance; their necks just long enough to eat the tops of trees just high enough to meet them. I saw a crowd of 500 people laugh as a killer whale leapt out of his pool to breach, grab a fish from his trainer's hand and splash each one of them as he smashed back into the water.

Just as we hit the apex and started the plunge I saw my father smiling like a little child as the sudden rush of wind lifted the horseshoe fringe from the sides of his bald head. Everything I saw was beautiful. But the thing is, this time around I didn't bother to ask why.

G.K. Chesterton's prayer, below, is perfect.

Prayer

"Here dies another day / During which I have had eyes, ears, hands / And the great world round me; And with tomorrow begins another. / Why am I allowed two?" Amen.