



BRECKSVILLE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Divine Spirit of Wisdom and Truth, graciously lift us up when we are low, and patiently bring us down when our sense of self-importance becomes over-inflated. Help us to trust in your abundant and constant love, not only for us but for all your children. Lead us in Christ's Way of compassion and openness, kindness and humility. Amen.



*All who humble themselves
will be exalted.*

Sunday October 23, 2016 • 10:00 AM
23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

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.

Summer Office Hours:

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

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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

OCTOBER 23, 2016 – 23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Holy Source of us all, it is often easier to put people into categories and decide that we know who they are based on the color of their skin, their gender, their job or their possessions. Deep down we know that these categories are false and do violence to the uniqueness of each human life. Help us to remember that we are all made in your Sacred Image, and inspire us to treat one another accordingly. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Gracious Lord, Have Mercy
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Jesudason (India)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Our Divine Source creates us, and all that surrounds us;

People: Asking us to treat each other and our world with love and care.

L: Jesus welcomes us as his sisters and brothers;

P: Inviting us to become one family.

L: The Holy Spirit fills us with compassion and power

P: Calling us to work together for justice and peace.

L: The Holy One speaks to us in many ways,

P: So that we who are many, may learn to be One.

L: Let us now joyfully raise our voices,

All: And sing-out our praise to the Holy One!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Creator God, Creating Still

#278

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Draw near to us, Gracious Holy One, as we seek to draw near to you today. May we know your Sacred Presence in our compassion for those in need, as we care for those who are vulnerable, and in the love we show to those who are lost and lonely. Draw near to us, as we draw near to one another, that together we may all experience your uplifting hope flowing in and through our lives. Amen.

*** The 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 lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Old Testament

Joel 2:23-32

Pew Bible, page 848

The New Testament

Luke 18:9-14

Pew Bible, page 81

The Continuing Testament from *Seeing Others as Zeros*

by Bruce Maples

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Endless Growth
[Erin Tomlinson, flute]

Shaker Hymn

Sermon

It Could be Worse...I Could be Him!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Not My Brother, nor My Sister

#519

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.

Choral Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

God, My Heart Is Humbled Now

Attrib. Herbst

“God, my heart is humbled now:
I have stopped my haughty frown,
curbed my dreams to fit my gifts;
yes, at last I have calmed down.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 131 by Calvin Seerveld, 1982

***Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

Marvelous and Majestic Holy One, we are thankful that you have created us all in your image and proclaimed that each of us is precious in your sight. Bless these gifts that we offer, that our giving may promote the proclamation of your compassion and grace, justice and peace throughout the world. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

#495

***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*

A musical score for the hymn "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja". It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." Above the first staff, guitar chords are indicated: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. Below the second staff, guitar chords are indicated: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Praise God from the Heavens

Hurd

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Bill Simpson, Jim Pay, Dorie Gabor, William Zmich, Lenore & Bill Harris, Ann Toneff, Jill Black, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, 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 16 2016 – Adult: 77 Kids: 21 Total: 98

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 Coffee Hour.

WE WELCOME 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 are also available from ushers for children.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Diane Gressley, in Honor of Evan & Emma Gressley's Wedding Anniversary.

FREE WILL OFFERING Contributions to the bicentennial dinner totaled \$1,851.

FALL CLEAN-UP Please consider giving an hour or the morning to help with leaf clean up and the general tidying of the church property for the winter. There's a job for everyone. Children working with a parent are welcome. Work starts at 9:00am, but come when you can and leave when you must. Enjoy fresh air, exercise, fellowship and refreshments.

If blowing leaves is your thing, bring your blower. Someone is always needed to prune shrubs and trim the hedges. Please bring your favorite tools. See Jim Demko at coffee hour and add your name to his sign-up sheet.

SEASONAL CHOIR – It's not too late to join our seasonal choir as we prepare for this year's Christmas cantata, which is scheduled for Dec. 11. If you enjoy singing music in a group setting but don't have time to commit to regular choir, seasonal choir provides a wonderful opportunity for music, fellowship and spiritual preparation for the Christmas season. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7-8:00. High school students are welcome to participate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Budget figures can be picked up in the Commons today.

NEXT SUNDAY OCTOBER 30 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring the **Case Jazz Ensemble**. Under the direction of Paul Ferguson, the ensemble will perform original works by Mr. Ferguson, along with several of his arrangements of traditional hymn tunes. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. We hope you can join us for this unique musical experience!

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS Have a Need for Beads...If anyone has beads that they would like to donate, we could use them in our classroom. The type most wanted are colorful, clear or wooden. If you'd like to donate money towards the project or get a gift card for Catan's Craft center please see Tia Began. We will be making sun catcher 'streamers' for the classroom window!

AFTER WORSHIP LUNCH BUNCH - All are welcome to join this spirited group of BUCC worshippers after coffee hour for brunch and some great conversation. We meet at a restaurant most Sundays around Noon. If you are single, widowed, a couple, or a family – anyone that just doesn't want to cook or dine alone, please join us. You'll be glad you did! We usually call in reservations around 11:30, to give the restaurant fair warning. Jon Thompson, Susan Snyder, Dave Debick, Bridget & Chad Sproul, Kathy Smith, Pastor Dave, and Marge Culver are regulars. Ask any of us how much fun we have!

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

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in the ***Weekly Bulletin, Monthly Pillar, and Online Calendar – BUCC Website.***

MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: www.brecksvilleucc.org. It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

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.

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.

The Readings

The Old Testament - Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Holy One; who has given the early rain for your exoneration, and has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Holy One, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show signs in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and tremendous day comes. Then everyone who calls on my name shall be saved.

The New Testament - Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to those who trusted in themselves, that they were righteous, and regarded others with contempt: “Two people went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Continuing Testament - from *Seeing Others as Zeros* - by Bruce Maples [edited]

We may not often practice active contempt, but we can be pretty good at exercising *passive* contempt. Passive contempt is when we act as if the other person doesn't matter. It's not that we are actively trying to put them down, or actively comparing ourselves to them. It's just that we don't see them as a fellow human being, at all. We don't see them as having concerns of their own, or needs, or desires, or feelings, or of being of any value one way or the other. As far as our actions are concerned, they are Zeros.

This manifests itself in all sorts of ways. Using service people the same as we would a machine. Ignoring the needs of anyone not connected to us in some way. Running our business to benefit us and our shareholders, with no regard to its impact on others. Designing our laws from only our point of view, to benefit only ourselves. Living our lives with blinders on, unable to see people as people and not as things.

Jesus was different: he saw everybody. And I mean really saw them, each of them and all of them. Every person was a unique creation to him. And he treated each of them the same - as special and loved of God. That is the mark of Jesus' followers. Not only have they moved past active contempt, they are constantly on guard against passive contempt as well. They live their lives aware of every person around them - seeing, connecting, loving, and caring.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 23

10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:00 am Parish Relations/
Leadership Dev.
Parlor

Wed., Oct. 26

6:00 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder Dulcimer

Thurs., Oct. 27

1:00 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Sunday, Oct. 30

10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Case Jazz Ensemble

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

OCT. 23, 2016

Lay Reader: Evie Novak
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Beth Rehling, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Carli Began
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Jon Cook
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Darlene Kelly, Michele Namitka
Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Marge Culver

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

OCT. 30, 2016

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Linda Kriynovich, Matt
Wolbert, Bob &
Caroline Chandler
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Jim Duffy, Marge Culver
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks: Gina Cook, Peg Duffy