



# 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*

Gracious Holy One, you never turn away from us. In all that we are and in all that we do, even the things that are our failures and our flaws, we are your beloved children. May our knowing and trusting this inspire us to live and grow more and more into the image and likeness of your other beloved child, Jesus Christ. Amen.



***“A Sower Went Out To Sow...”  
Matthew 13:3***

**Sunday July 16, 2017 • 10:00 AM**

**Sixth 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, 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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## July 16, 2017 – Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

### Meditation Music

Divine Source of us all, help us to live in our divided world in ways that reflect compassion and understanding, and a recognition of our common humanity. As you have reached-out to us with your gracious love, help us in turn to reach out to others with that same love and grace. Amen

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

#### Prelude

Parable of the Sower Song

Collier

"The seed it is the Word of God  
The soil, that's me and you  
Oh the hearts of all are the types of soil  
That the seed is sown into."  
Greg Collier

#### Bearing the Light of Peace

#### Bearing the Light of Christ

**\* Call to Worship** - from *Psalms* 119

Leader: The Sacred Word is a lamp to my feet

**People: And a light to my path.**

L: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,

**P: To faithfully observe the Holy One's guidance.**

L: Even when hardships come my way,

**P: The Compassionate One will sustain my life.**

L: Accept my offerings of praise, O Holy One,

**P: And teach me to rejoice in your loving ways.**

L: I will hold your Word forever before me,

**All: Your faithful decrees are a joy to my heart!**

#### \*Hymn of Praise

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

#13

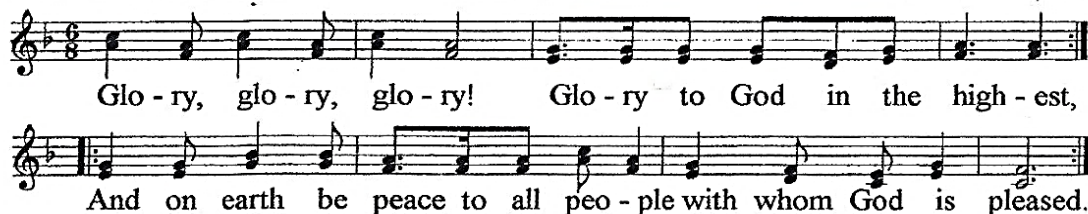
### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

All: Divine Source of planting, growth and harvest - your Word of Life and Spirit of Compassion are generously spread throughout the earth. May your Word take root and deepen in our hearts and lives, helping us to grow in your gracious image. And may we faithfully bear the good fruits of justice and righteousness, peace and love. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

### **\* The Song of Praise**

### **Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



### **The Old Testament**

Isaiah 55:8-13

Pew Bible, page 685

### **The New Testament**

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Pew Bible, page 13

### **The Continuing Testament**

from *The Reckless Sower*

by Jim Somerville

### **Time with Young Worshipers**

### **Musical Offering**

Adoration  
[Becky Anderson, flute]

Borowski

### **Sermon**

*The Advantage Of Not Knowing*

Pastor Dave Shackle

### **Hymn of Reflection**

Out of the Depths, O God We Call

#554

## ***The Church at Prayer***

### **Silent Meditation**

### **Prayers of the Church**

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

*[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**

What Gift Can We Bring?

Marshall

"Give thanks for the now,  
for study, for worship,  
for mission that bids us  
turn prayer into deed."  
Jane Marshall, 1980

### **\* 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]**

**Gracious Holy One, may the light of your love shine in and through us today. Bless  
and multiply these gifts, that they might further your work in this community and in  
our world. Bless us all, as we seek to give of ourselves in serving You, by serving  
others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### ***Holy Communion***

## **Words of Institution**

## **Prayer of Consecration**

## **The Invitation**

## Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Rêverie

Debussy

## The Blessing

### *Going with God's Love*

\*Hymn of Departure

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

#318

\*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

Fugue in D Major

Pachelbel

### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Betty Gifford, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Bill Toneff, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, 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, July 9, 2017 – Adult: 59 Kids: 10 Total: 69

## ***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.

**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.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Max Roha, In Loving memory of David J Roha and of Mary C. Roha

**THE FACILITIES MINISTRY** is looking anyone wishing to help maintain the landscaping. Weeding is the primary need and anyone who can help would be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions, please contact Cliff Cribbs.

**OUR HYMN OF THE MONTH** for July is, *Out of the Depths, O God We Call* written by Ruth C. Duck. This hymn reminds us that as we deal with Life's past wounds, or face our future fears, we are not alone. We are blessed and strengthened by a gracious and caring community of faith. In and through this community we are touched, healed and held by the Holy One. Remembering this and trusting it, is certainly a tremendous benefit in today's disjointed and distressing world.

Ruth Duck is professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and an ordained pastor of the United Church of Christ. In addition to teaching and writing hymns, Ruth also is involved with ministry through the arts in worship - including music, movement, and visual arts.

If you find a particular hymn with words that move you, please let Pastor Dave or Dave Debick know, and we will try to use it as a future Hymn of the Month.

**QUARTERLY STATEMENTS** are ready to be picked up in the Commons area. This will save the cost of mailing. Thank you.

**THE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** is reading *EVERYONE BRAVE IS FORGIVEN* by Chris Cleve, which is set in 1939 London when most of the city's children are evacuated except the mentally impaired, disabled or black. A totally inexperienced teacher is assigned these children as her first teaching experience. ►

The book has been praised for its "ability to stay small and quiet against the raging tableau of war." This discussion begins at 1:00 in the parlor, August 7. All are welcome.

**SPRC AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** will be sponsoring a second Listening Session on Sunday, July 23 after church. Grab a coffee and join us in the Parlor for an information session on Christian Education. Heidi Spangler and other members of the ministry will be available for questions and answers.

Parents with children in Sunday school or approaching that time are encouraged to attend this session.

This can be a perfect opportunity to learn what CE is all about and perhaps find an opportunity to add your talents to this vital ministry.

We will provide child care during the session. Please let Sue Stenzel know if you are attending, we need to know who is using Child Care.

**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.

**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.

**PLEASE BE SURE** to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the ***Monthly Pillar***.

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

**DID YOU MISS** last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.



## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Isaiah 55:8-13**

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,” says the Holy One. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish what I intend, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Holy One a memorial, an everlasting sign that shall not be severed.”

### **The New Testament - Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let everyone who has ears, listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the Divine Realm and does not grasp it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but persists only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and grasps it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

## **The Continuing Testament** - from *The Reckless Sower* - by Jim Somerville [edited]

I watched my wife, Christy, sow some grass seed recently. There was a little patch of bare ground she wanted to cover, so she dug it up with a spade until the soil was nice and loose, and then raked it into little furrows where the seed could catch and hold. Then she scattered the seed evenly over the area, being careful not to waste it. She put down some straw, and then gently watered the seeds so they wouldn't wash away. It didn't surprise me a week later to see a light green fringe of grass coming up in that place....

Jesus wasn't doing anything as predictable as sowing grass. He was sowing the Word of God on the unpredictable soil of the human heart. Not only is it unpredictable, it is invisible, which means that you can't tell what kind of heart someone has just by looking. So you sow seed everywhere and in every way imaginable. Some people talk to their friends and neighbors quite openly about their faith.

Others try to show their faith by example. Some leave religious tracts in public places, and others perform random acts of kindness. All of these can be ways of sowing seed.

A lot of that seed will fall in places where it never takes root. Some of it will fall in places where it gets a good start but doesn't last. Some of it will fall in places where it gets choked out by competing interests. That's just how it is, as Jesus tells us. Yet he also tells us this: that sometimes the scattered seed of the Word finds good soil and grows and produces a bumper crop. And since we can't predict just how or where the seed is going to fall, or when or if it's going to produce, we simply scatter it wherever we can; and we trust that God will bless and multiply our efforts!

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, July 16</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Wednesday, July 19</b>	<b>6:00 am</b>	<b>Early Birds</b>
<b>Thursday, July 20</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Friday, July 21</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
<b>Sunday, July 23</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**

**JULY 16, 2017**

Lay Reader:	David Pastor
Head Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Ushers:	Linda Kriynovich, Kate Klonowski, Bridget & Chad Sproul
Acolyte:	Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Max Roha
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Smith
Flowers:	Dorie Gabor
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
Counters:	Marge Culver, Dave Bernard
Servers:	Joy Garapic, Juile Bernard
Clean-Up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

**JULY 23, 2017**

Lay Reader:	Sam Koch
Head Usher:	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	Jim Duffy, Jon Thompson Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte:	Grace Hunt
Peace Candle:	Lily Hunt
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Dot Bailey
Flowers:	Kathy Pastor
Nursery:	Gina Cook
Counters:	Jan Renovetz, Kathy Pastor
Servers:	Sue Stenzel, Jill Zedan
Clean-Up:	Jim & Peg Duffy