



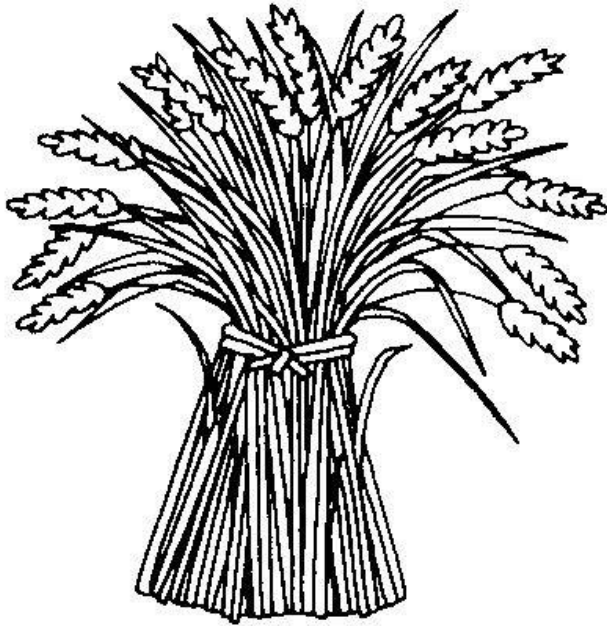
# BRECKSVILLE

## 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*

Holy One, you  
open the door  
to your love and  
grace, and  
invite us to  
come in and  
safely abide.  
You offer us  
your peace and  
strength, and  
remind us that  
we are always  
in your heart  
and mind. For  
this wonderful  
reassurance,  
we are  
truly grateful!  
Amen.



*“...In Gathering The Weeds, You Would Uproot The  
Wheat...Let Them Grow Together Until Harvest...”  
Matthew 13:29-30*

**Sunday July 23, 2017 • 10:00 AM**

**Seventh 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 23, 2017 – Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

### Meditation Music

Divine Source of Hope and Promise, may the work of your Spirit not be obscured by the clouds of the bad news that we hear throughout the day. May we keep our focus on the many and diverse places where you make your Presence known. And may we ourselves be the bearers of your Good News to others. Amen.

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

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Let Every Voice on Earth Resound  
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Bourgeois

"Before our God bring thanks and praise,  
Unfathomed mercies wait in store;  
God's goodness blesses all our days,  
God's truth endures forevermore!"  
Michael Morgan, 2011

#### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

#### **Bearing the Light of Christ**

#### **\* Call to Worship**

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

**People: The love which gives us life and brings us to this time and place.**

L: Let us gather in the confidence and hope that this love brings us,

**P: Knowing that we are forgiven and accepted by a power greater than ourselves.**

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

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

L: Let us rejoice in the Holy One's marvelous grace!

**All: Let us offer to the Holy One our worship and praise!**

#### **\* Hymn of Praise**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

#55

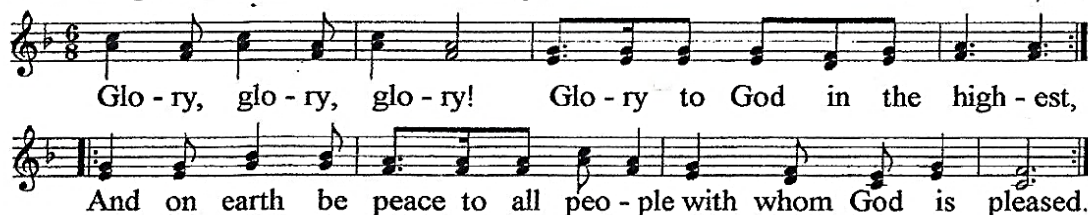
#### **\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Divine Source of us all: **Be with us always, as we worship, and as we share the risks and challenges of living our faith. By your Holy Spirit, turn our fear into courage and our confusion into confidence. Touch us with your healing strength. Speak to us through your Living Word, so that we may go back into the world renewed and eager to do your will. Amen.**

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**The Old Testament**

Psalm 139:1-12

Pew Bible, page 577

**The New Testament**

Matthew 13:24-30

Pew Bible, page 14

**The Continuing Testament** from *Tangled Humanity*

by Christopher Burkett

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Show Me the Way

Styx

[Matt Wolbert, tenor]

**Sermon**

*Letting the Story Play-Out*

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**

Chorale from Second Organ Symphony

Vierne

#### **\* 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 God, bless us now and the gifts that we bring. May your redeeming word of hope be spoken through us and through our gifts, in this place and throughout our world. Grant that the fire of your Spirit may warm our hearts and radiate out from us as deeds of love and service. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## ***Going with God's Love***

#### **\* Hymn of Departure**

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

#397

#### **\*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

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A.

#### **\*Benediction**

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING 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 16, 2017 – Adult: 53 Kids: 7 Total: 60

***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 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 are given by Jane & Cliff Cribbs, in honor of the marriage of Jules Tran & Richard Haehn, Friday, July 21, in Oahu, Hawaii. The groom's parents, Julie & Mark, were members of BUCC & now live in Springfield, IL.

**SEND A CARD** - Betty Gifford is recovering very well!. She will be turning a young 98 on August 8! Please consider sending her a Birthday card to her home address (13428 Chippewa Rd. – Brecksville, OH 44141). Thank you!

**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.

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

**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.

**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 - Psalm 139:1-12**

O Holy One, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Holy One, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in the Underworld, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.



## **The New Testament - Matthew 13:24-30**

Jesus presented them another parable: “The Realm of God may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

## **The Continuing Testament - from *Tangled Humanity* - by Christopher Burkett [edited]**

It's so easy to see ourselves as 'wheat' and other people as 'weeds.' So easy to point the finger; to paint others in the worst light; to label and judge. When relationship troubles happen we easily put it down to some deeply ingrained personality characteristic in the other person. He's the terrible driver because he won't concentrate properly; she's the spiteful one because she can't resist sounding off without thinking. We excuse ourselves because of the pressure of circumstances, but we condemn others for deep-rooted flaws in their very selves. That what the psychologists call Fundamental Attribution Error - attributing other people's behavior to the way they *are*, rather than to the circumstances in which they are set. It's so easy to see the world in stark terms - us and them, the good and the bad, the kindly and the cruel, the wheat and the weeds

So where is the evil located? Is it to be found in a far away, or maybe not so far away, enemy who has sown evil into my life - weeds that are all around me? Must I just bear with those weeds, endure them, until such time as I am harvested into heaven, and they are destroyed, as pernicious weeds should be? In this view, the wheat is all in me, or my group, or my church, or whatever; and the weeds are 'out there.'

Our inclination is to divide the world sharply into wheat and weeds, saints and sinners. But Christ's parable suggests something else that speaks to the complexity of the human character. So look at what God sees: a reality as it is, rather than as what we construct by our prejudices and particular outlook. It's hard to tell wheat from weeds - that's the problem! We may not be the best judge of what is 'good' or 'evil' - either in ourselves or in others. So we best leave the judgment up to God.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, July 23</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>CE Survey Response Session</b>
<b>Wednesday, July 26</b>	<b>6:00 am</b>	<b>Early Birds</b>
<b>Thursday, July 27</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Friday, July 28</b>		<b>*Office Closed*</b>
<b>Sunday, July 30</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 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
Comms Grtr:	Dot Bailey
Flowers:	Kathy Pastor
Nursery:	Gina Cook
Counters:	Jan Renovetz, Kathy Pastor
Servers:	Sue Stenzel, Jill Zedan
Clean-Up:	Jim & Peg Duffy

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**JULY 30, 2017**

Lay Reader:	Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher	Jon Thompson
Ushers:	Matt Wolbert, Jim Pay Kathy Smith, Diane Gressley
Acolyte:	Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Drew Demko
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr:	Linda Kriynovich
Flowers:	Dottie Faust
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
Counters:	Bruce McCain, Donn Whyte
Servers:	Darlene Kelly, Michele Namitka
Clean Up:	Chad & Bridget Sproul