

# 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, we yearn to know your presence and to feel your grace. May we learn to recognize you in the faces of all those people we meet each day - especially those who we might tend to ignore. And may we be transformed by our encounters with them, and grow in wisdom from these experiences as we seek to follow your path of love and acceptance, welcome and grace. Amen.



forgiveness  
is one of the  
Greatest gifts  
We can give



**Sunday September 17, 2017 • 10:00 AM**

**Fifteenth 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)**

# September 17, 2017 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## Meditation Music

Divine Source of forgiveness and grace, give us open minds and tender hearts as we seek to follow Jesus' example of showing compassion to all people. Help us to let go of past hurts and disappointments, so that we might release those who have wronged us, and thereby find freedom for ourselves. Amen.

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

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

### Prelude

Gentle God, When We Are Driven

Damon

"Gentle God, when we are driven  
past the limits of our love,  
when our hurt would have a weapon  
and the hawk destroy the dove,  
at the cost of seeming weak,  
help us turn the other cheek."  
Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

## Bearing the Light of Peace

## Bearing the Light of Christ

**\* Call to Worship** [based on Psalm 139]

Leader: We gather today to worship our loving, nurturing Creator - the Holy One, who like a Caring Mother and Father:

**People: Often knows us better than we know ourselves;**

L: Loves us totally and unconditionally;

**P: Teaches and guides us in the way we should go;**

L: Lovingly corrects us when we err;

**P: Shows us how to forgive one another;**

L: Gently comforts us in our time of need;

**P: One whose tender compassion is never-ending!**

L: Therefore, let us praise the Source and Sustainer of Life;

**All: Whose gracious Presence is always with us!**

### \* Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#1

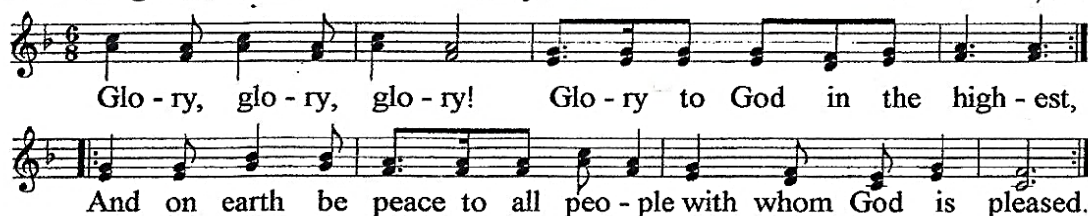
**\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Compassionate Holy One, our Creator and Redeemer, every day you show your tender care for this world. Through your gracious Spirit, you seek to redeem your creation and to make it whole. You sent Jesus Christ to show us how to forgive, how to care, and how to fully love. May we be receptive to Christ's guidance and healing touch today, so that we may freely reach out to others with compassion and grace every day. Amen.

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**The Old Testament**

Psalm 103:1-12

Pew Bible, page 554

**The New Testament**

Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible, page 20

**The Continuing Testament** from *Forgiveness and Freedom*

by David Lose

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Forgiveness

Mellencamp

[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

**Sermon**

*Forgiving Others, Freeing Ourselves*

Pastor Dave Shackle

**Hymn of Reflection**

Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise  
(Hymn of the Month)

#529

***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**

Offertoire

R. 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 Giver of Life and Love, receive and bless the gifts that we bring,. 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  
compassion; we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Example, and Friend.  
Amen.**

### ***Holy Communion***

## **Words of Institution**

## **Prayer of Consecration**

## **The Invitation**

## **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

### **Communion Music**

Intermezzo

Brahms

## The Blessing

### Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure

Help Us Accept Each Other

#388

\*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

You Are My God

Poppe, arr. Bolton

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

Phyllis Molnar, Fred Pesek, Evelyn Seager, Betty Gifford, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, 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 September 10, 2017 – Adults: 70 Kids: 11 Total: 81**

## 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 Bob & Caroline Chandler in Celebration of the joy of 58 years of marriage.

**OUR "HYMN OF THE MONTH"** for September is *Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise*, by Fred Pratt Green. Green was born in Liverpool, England, in 1903, and ordained into the British Methodist ministry. He served as a pastor and district superintendent in Brighton and York. Throughout his ministry, Green tried to write new hymns "that could fill the gap between the hymns of the first part of this century and the 'far-out' compositions that have crowded into some churches in the last decade or more."

Today's hymn reflects Green understands of how the Church must continue to find relevance in each generation, and not simply rest on past achievements:

*What changes, challenges, and tests the church of Christ survives....  
Still must the church proclaim to all that now, and evermore,  
the house of God is open house, and Christ the Open Door.*

**HURRICANE RELIEF** - Our UCC Disaster Ministries is already connecting with local congregations and agencies for long-term recovery work in the regions affected by the recent hurricanes. Your contributions help provide community support for holistic recovery for families and children, repairing houses and homes, and restoring dignity for the most vulnerable who have lost everything in the wake of these catastrophic events. Gifts may be made to BUCC, marked for "Hurricane Relief" and they will be sent through our Ohio Conference office. Thank you!

**THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** would like you to meet us at Luther Farm to enjoy an afternoon of hayrides, mazes, corn pool, and more at their annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 1st from 12:30pm until 3:00pm. The farm is located at 5150 Alger Rd., Richfield, Ohio 44286. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 5-12, and free for children ages 4 and younger. There will be food available to purchase, as well as pumpkins, straw bales, and more farm goods. You can find more information at [www.lutherfarms.com](http://www.lutherfarms.com). Please wear your BUCC shirts!

**WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS** - It is time to review the list of participants who help each Sunday with our service and Coffee Hour. It takes 17-19 volunteers each week.

Signup sheets will be circulated during Coffee Hour on 9/10 and 9/17. If you are currently participating please add your name so we can have an up to date list. Anyone that has not had the opportunity to participate please feel free to sign up.

Please think about which jobs you are willing to help with on Sundays. It is definitely all right to sign up for more than one opportunity. Thank you in advance for helping.

**THE FACILITIES MINISTRY** is looking for 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. [440-526-4728]

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** Everyone who enjoys singing or playing an instrument is encouraged to consider participating in one of our ensembles at BUCC! Here's a list of rehearsal days and times for each group:

***Joyful Noise Choir*** meets Thursday early evenings from 5:30-6:15. (Ages K-5th grade.) Songs, Bible stories, activities in an affirming, fun environment.

***Adult Choir*** practices Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00. Ages 16 through adult are welcome to participate.

***Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble*** rehearses Wed. afternoons from 4:30-5:00. All ages welcome. Dave D. offers free lessons on both these easy instruments to anyone interested. We have an extra dulcimer for someone to play, and the church provides free soprano recorders. If rehearsal day and time don't fit your schedule, individual practice times can be arranged so you can participate.

***Youth Percussion Group*** meets ~ every *other* Sunday from 5:30-6:00; youth ministry follows at 6:00. First practice is tonight, Sept. 10 at 5:30. Watch bulletins and Pillars for schedule reminders. This group is for 6th grade through high school; talk with Dave if you're interested but younger than 6th grade.

***Instrumentalists*** - If you're comfortable playing your instrument in public and would like to share your musical gifts with our (very affirming) congregation, let Dave know so he can put you on his list.

***Seasonal Choir*** begins preparing for the annual Christmas cantata on Thursday Oct. 12 from 7:00-8:00. These singers help reinforce our regular choir for the holiday cantata. This year's program is scheduled for Sunday Dec. 10.



***Private piano lessons*** begin this week on Wed. and Thurs. Sept. 13 and 14. All ages welcome. Contact Dave if you'd like to start lessons.

For more details about these musical activities at the church, please see the September Pillar, speak with current choir members or instrumentalists, or contact Dave. Feel free to come and "check out" any group that interests you. You'll be glad you did!

## ***Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Psalm 103:1-12**

Bless the Holy One, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the Holy One, O my soul, and do not forget all God's gracious blessings - who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Holy One defends and brings justice for all who are oppressed. The Righteous One's ways were made known through Moses, and by delivering the people of Israel from bondage.

The Holy One is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God will not always accuse, nor keep angry forever. For the Compassionate One does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who show reverence and respect. As far as the East is from the West, is how far the Holy One removes our transgressions from us all.

### **The New Testament Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Teacher, if another member of the community sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy times seven. "For this reason the Realm of God may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'

Then his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their king all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master handed him over to be punished until he paid his entire debt. So my Heavenly Parent will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### **The Continuing Testament** - from *Forgiveness and Freedom* - by David Lose [edited]

Forgiveness is ultimately a decision about the past - the decision to accept both that you cannot change the past and also that the past does not have to hold you captive. Forgiveness is a decision about the past that ultimately determines the future. When you forgive, you release the past and enter into an open future. When you cannot forgive, you remain captive to that past until the end of time. Forgiveness, in this sense, is freedom: freedom from the past, freedom for the future, the kind of freedom God wants for each of us.

But let me be clear. Forgiveness, like love, cannot be commanded or forced. But we can pray for it, for the ability to forgive those - alive or dead - who have hurt us, even if we have distanced ourselves from them for good reason. And we can pray that we forgive ourselves some of our own regrets, mistakes, hurts, and even the inability to forgive others. And we can pray that we are able to accept the forgiveness of others when it is extended. Above all, we can pray that God keeps bringing us to church week-in and week-out, so that we can hear of God's intention and promise us to forgive us, and to form and fashion us into a community of love and forgiveness. A community that sees in Jesus' cross the token of God's pledge to forgive all; and in Jesus' resurrection the ever-present possibility of an open future.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, September 17</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b> <b>*Please submit your Pillar articles*</b>
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 20</b>	<b>6:00 am</b>	<b>Early Birds</b>
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Women United</b>
	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Recorder/Dulcimer</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept. 21</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Joyful Noise</b>
	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Sunday, September 24</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Youth Percussion</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Youth Ministry</b>

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

Lay Reader:	Ed Lusk
Head Usher:	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	Dan & Ian Stewart, Jess Barnes, Kate Klonowski
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Ben Davis
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Ann Kelley
Flowers:	Julie Bernard
Nursery:	Kate Klonowski
Counters:	Stu Bailey, Bruce McCain
Servers:	Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up:	Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks:	Kathleen Stewart, Heidi Spangler

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2017**

Lay Reader:	Evie Novak
Head Usher	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Bridget & Chad Sproul Tim & Kim Wallis
Acolyte:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound:	David Pastor
Comns Grtr:	Dot Bailey
Flowers:	Kathy Pastor
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
Counters:	Marge Culver, Dave Bernard
Servers:	Caroline Chander, Joy Garapic
Clean Up:	Jim & Peg Duffy
Snacks:	Kathy Ford, Gina Cook