



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 Source of Love and Grace, fill us with your compassion, which can open and change our hearts. Holy Source of Strength, increase our faith in you, so that we may walk in your ways of kindness and generosity. Infinite Source of Perfect Peace, heighten our desire and our ability to work for true and lasting justice throughout this world. Amen



***"I Choose To Give.....Are You Envious Because
I Am Generous?"
Matthew 20:14-15***

Sunday September 24, 2017 • 10:00 AM

Sixteenth 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 – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

September 17, 2017 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

The Holy One in whom we live and move and have our being, is always close and caring. Whether we are struggling in a dry wilderness, or resting in a refreshing place of comfort, the Holy One's love for us remains constant and sure. Let us trust in this Good News, and give thanks! Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

My Soul Will Sing
[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Townend

"How wide, how high is your unfailing love."
Kristyn Getty, 2007

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

* Call to Worship

Leader: Our Divine Source creates the world,

People: And asks us to care for it with love.

L: Jesus welcomes us as his sisters and brothers,

P: And invites us to become One Family.

L: The Holy Spirit fills us with power and compassion,

P: And calls us to transform the world with grace and peace.

L: The Holy One blesses us in many ways,

P: So that we may be a blessing to others!

L: Therefore, let us raise our voices in gratitude,

All: And praise the Holy One together!

* Hymn of Praise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

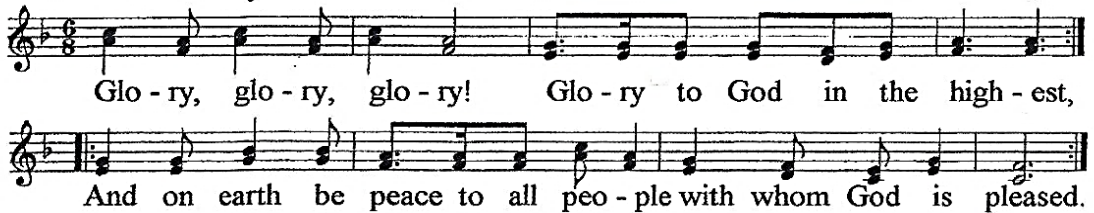
* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, it is not easy to find that quite place where we can get in touch with your Spirit. Many things distract us, yet as we gather this morning, we trust that the gentle strength of your Presence will renew our fragile souls. Revitalize our desire to live lives that are faithful and true. And though this time of worship, may we all come to appreciate more fully the marvelous beauty of your countless blessings. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Psalm 111:1-8

Pew Bible, page 562

The New Testament

Matthew 20:1-16

Pew Bible, page 21

The Continuing Testament from *The Problem with Generosity*

by Sharron Blezard

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Humility

Talbot

[Becky Anderson, Erin Tomlinson, flute]

Sermon

Generous to a Fault?

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

Autumn (excerpt from *The Four Seasons*)

Vivaldi

*** 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]**

We thank you, Gracious Holy One, that we can sing your praises, hear your Good News, and celebrate your Presence in our lives and in our world. We now seek to express our faith through offering our gifts and ourselves to your mission of love and peace. Bless all that we bring, that it may be used according to your will, so that through our giving others may also know of your generosity and grace. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

*** 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**

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Phyllis Molnar, Fred Pesek, 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 17, 2017 – Adults: 57 Kids: 9 Total: 66

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 the Hunt Family in Honor of Loved Ones who can't be with us on this day. May they rest in peace and joy.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING, OCTOBER 1st - Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry, which provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Two-thirds of the NIN offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service, to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

We will have our NIN offering next Sunday, October 1st as part of World Communion Sunday observance. Please give generously. Thank you!

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’s understanding 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. Please wear your BUCC shirts!

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]

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***.

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.

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.

AFTER WORSHIP LUNCH BUNCH - All are welcome to join this spirited group of BUCC worshipers 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!

BUCC HAS THE LATEST, up-to-date version of the Williams personal sound system. It may just be your answer if you are concerned (1) that the quality of sound deteriorates between the speakers and your pew in the sanctuary, or (2) that your hearing is getting poorer but not yet bad enough to buy hearing aids, or (3) that you have hearing aids and you want to hear even better or (4) that you are bothered by the route 82 traffic noises or any noise generated by your pew mates during worship.

Receivers are available in the narthex for you to borrow which pick up ALL PARTS of the worship service - sermon, readings, choir and organ music, etc. Just plug in one of our head phones, your favorite Walkman head phones or any other unit with a 3.5mm plug and you are ready for a new hearing experience. Don't know if you want to do this? Then try it out; borrow one of the church's head phones and "test drive" a Williams receiver during a worship service.

And if you already have digital hearing aids, an even better experience awaits you. Simply have your audiologist activate the teleloop option of you hearing aids, borrow a receiver with a teleloop plugged in and experience sound quality you never would have expected. The sound remains electronic all the way from the speaker's mic to your ear drum.

Readings

The Old Testament - Psalm 111:1-5; 7-8

Praise the Holy One! I will give thanks to the Righteous One with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the great congregation. Great are the works of our Divine Creator, studied by all who delight in them. The Holy One's works are full of honor and majesty, and the Holy One's righteousness endures forever.

The Holy One has gained renown by doing wonderful deeds; the Compassionate One is gracious and merciful, providing food for those who show reverence and respect. The Holy One is ever mindful of the covenant made with God's people.... The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are truly trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

The New Testament - Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus says, "For the Realm of God is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ►

Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Continuing Testament - from *The Problem with Generosity* - by Sharron Blezard [edited]

As someone who has spent a good portion of her adult life working in various non-profit and faith-based settings, I have been witness to some amazing acts of generosity and sacrificial giving. Yet I have also seen generosity come with expectations and strings firmly attached. It's not so much that people don't want to do good or make positive changes possible, it's more that donors desire a level of *control* in the process. Whether this control comes in the form of a "naming opportunity" or a donor's restrictions on how a gift may be used, the point is that the gift becomes less of a - well, *gift* - and more of a transaction.

The problem we have with generosity is that we want to control it, to manage it, and to conform it to our own vision of what and who is worthy of it. God's generosity doesn't work that way at all. The Holy One is lavish with *all* of Creation. Even the last and the least are worthy of God's love and saving grace, of care and concern, and of a place at the bounteous Table of Blessing - with no strings attached!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 24	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry
Tuesday, September 26	6:30 pm	GLSEN Annual Meeting PH
Wednesday, Sept. 27	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
	7:00 pm	Leadership Development – Parlor
Thursday, Sept. 28	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday, October 1	10:00 am	Worship Service – NIN Offering
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	12:30 pm	Luther Farms Fall Festival

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS 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

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
OCTOBER 1, 2017

Lay Reader:	David Ritchey
Head Usher	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Darlene Kelly, Fred Pesek Matt Wolbert, Diane Gressley
Acolyte:	Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Marge Culver
Flowers:	Dorie Gabor
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
Counters:	Jim Duffy, Carole Snider
Servers:	Betty Kaul, Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks:	Max Roha, Jon Thompson