



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***

When we come to church, we expect to hear something real and true; we hope to become excited about our faith. Too often we hear mealy-mouthed platitudes and banal commonplaces. How did the truth about God's love for us become so boring? That has to change!



Sunday September 22, 2019 • 10:00 AM

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor

• Allan Lane

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, or pangender
You Are Welcome Here!*

*If you are fully abled, 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!***



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

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 22, 2019 –Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

The Holy Spirit is at work in our neighborhood even now, sweeping up the streets and down the alleyways of human life, looking for those who are struggling, looking for those who are opening up their minds and their hearts to the possibility of something new and something better in their lives. The Holy Spirit is calling us to join in that search, and to share the God in our lives.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Romantic Piece for Violin and Piano, No. 1
[Rob Howell, violin]

Dvořák

Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Blah, blah, blah!

People: O God, not again! Cut to the chase, life is too short!

L: Hemena, hemena, hemena!

P: O God, help us! Surprise us with something good!

L: Yadda, yadda, yadda!

P: O God, how boring! Shake us up, wake us up, let's get on with worship!

L: Give us words with power, O God, and cut through so much of the nonsense words we hear around us. Come, O God, and work with us! Go deep within us and awaken our spirits from a deep slumber! Come, friends, with God's help, let us worship God!

*** Hymn of Praise**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

#86

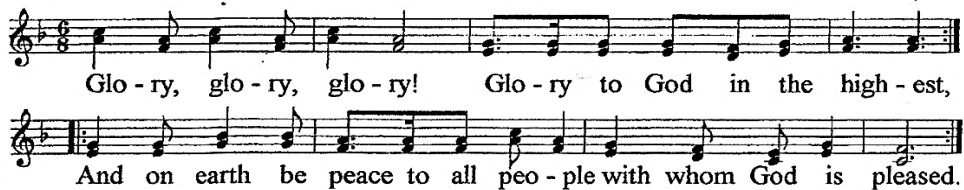
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

O God, you hate sin, hypocrisy, greed, selfishness, and the baloney we all continually spew out before you. Send your Spirit upon us this day, and clear out all the ridiculous and indulgent posturing that fills human life. We want to be your children, but a call to holy living frightens us, because no one wants to be around conventionally pious people. Help us to be unconventionally pious, full of reality and life, shocked by grace, spreading joy, meeting the challenges of each day with resilience and humor. Help us to love each other as you love us. Surprise us in our worship this morning! We ask it in Jesus' wondrous name! Amen

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Epistle Lesson

1 Timothy 2:1-7 God's wish for everyone! Pew Bible, page 208

Contemporary Reading

(re)union: the good news of Jesus for
seekers, saints and sinners

by Bruxy Cavey, pp. 3-5

The Gospel

Luke 16:1-13 - A Dirty, Rotten Scoundrel

Pew Bible, page 79

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

Who Is Like You, O Lord?

Nigerian song, verses & arr. Hopson

[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Sermon

Dirty, Rotten Scoundrels

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection

Spirit of the Living God (2x)

#283

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.

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Mishima Closing
[Rob Howell, violin]

Glass

*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]

Like a bolt of lightning flashing across the sky, our worship has come, and gone.
But the power we have received from you in our worship will remain, and the gifts
we offer now will make a change in the world. May your Spirit take these gifts, and
us, and bring new life to the world, to your eternal glory. Amen

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Jesus, Still Lead On

#446

*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 provided above and below the staves: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sicilienne and Rigaudon
[Rob Howell, violin]

Kreisler

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kate Klonowski, The Corpa Family, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Richard Sacher, brother of Jan Renovetz, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Pat Bailey, Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassy Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, 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, September 15, 2019 – Adults: 68 Kids: 13 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 childcare 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 60 fun years together.

BE SURE TO THANK VIOLINIST ROB HOWELL after the service for sharing his inspirational music with us this morning. Rob is the grandson of Bob and Caroline Chandler, and he joins us today to help celebrate Bob and Caroline's 60th wedding anniversary!

Antonín Leopold Dvořák (1841-1904) was a Czech composer, one of the first to achieve worldwide recognition. Following the Romantic-era nationalist example of his predecessor Bedřich Smetana, Dvořák frequently employed rhythms and other aspects of the folk music of Moravia and his native Bohemia.

Philip Glass (b. 1937) is an American composer. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential composers of the late 20th century. Glass's work has been described as minimal music, having similar qualities to other "minimalist" composers such as La Monte Young, Steve Reich, and Terry Riley. "Mishima Closing" is from the last movement of Glass's *String Quartet No. 3 "Mishima"*.

Yukio Mishima (1925-1970) is the pen name of Kimitake Hiraoka, a Japanese author, poet, playwright, actor, model, film director, nationalist, and founder of the Tatenokai (an unarmed civil militia whose avowed purpose was restoring power to the Japanese Emperor.) Mishima is considered one of the most important Japanese authors of the 20th century.

Friedrich "Fritz" Kreisler (1875-1962) was an Austrian-born violinist and composer. One of the most noted violin masters of his day and regarded as one of the greatest violinists of all time, he was known for his sweet tone and expressive phrasing.

Discharge Planning Options after a hospital stay

Care decisions for yourself or loved on comes very quickly. It is important to understand the options available to you after a Hospital stay or if someone is struggling in the community. This education session will provide you information on what options are available and you're your insurance will and will not cover.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, September 24 from 7pm-8:30 pm in Pilgrim Hall.

ART CLASSES WITH LIZ will be moving to Tuesday evenings, beginning on 9/24.

PAPER RECYCLING BIN – You may have noticed that we now have a Paper Recycling Bin in the Parking lot. Please bring your paper recyclables and help us fill it up!

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 on the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the ***Monthly Pillar***.

Readings

Epistle Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 God's wish for everyone!

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.

⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, ^[a] I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Gospel Luke 16:1-13 - Dirty, Rotten Scoundrel

Then Jesus^[a] said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth^[b] so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.^[c]

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.

¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth,^[d] who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”^[e]

Contemporary Reading - (re)union: the good news of Jesus for seekers, saints and sinners

Leviticus 19:28. These large black letters and numbers are inked into my left forearm. It's the only tattoo I've been inspired to get. ... I wanted a Bible verse that summed up the good news message of Jesus in a tattoo, and Leviticus 19:28 seemed like the obvious choice.

So what does Leviticus 19:28 say? Thanks for asking. That's the Bible verse that says, "Thou shalt not get a tattoo." ... I remember the time a man with tattoos on his arm came to church. "I hope he gets saved," I heard [our Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Grumpy Pants] mutter, and I wondered what she meant by that. "You can tell this man doesn't love God because he has a bunch of tattoos," Mrs. G. explained to me, "and the Bible clearly says that it's an abomination to get a tattoo." (*Abomination* always sounds like a serious sin upgrade from just a regular trespass or transgression.)

This was very disappointing news, since I wanted to get a tattoo when I grew up. I asked Mrs. G., "What if I got a tattoo of Jesus? Or maybe a Bible verse?" Her look of disapproval did not soften.

Later in life I learned that the one Bible verse that discourages tattoos appears in Leviticus 19. This is the same chapter that teaches other important things: Men must never cut their hair or trim their beards. ... Farmers must never plant two kinds of crops in the same fields or harvest their fields right to the edges. ... And everyone must avoid wearing clothing that is woven with two different kinds of material. (Pure wool? Check. Pure cotton? Check. Polyester blend? We'll stone you.)

...But this chapter also includes rich teachings such as respect your parents, don't curse people who are deaf or put stumbling blocks in front of people who are blind ..., and even one of Jesus' favorites—love your neighbor as yourself. So how do

we get to pick and choose what to follow and what to forget, what to obey and what to ignore? ...

Trying to figure out how to be a good Christian while obeying the Bible's rules is exhausting, even soul crushing. I can understand why the writings of the New Testament contrast the old way of the letter of the law with the new way of the Spirit by saying, "The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 22	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	CE Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 24	7:00-8:30 pm	After Hospital Care Pilgrim Hall Art Class with Liz
Wednesday, Sept. 25	7:00 pm	Leadership Development
Thurs., Sept. 26	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	4:30-5 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar
	5:30-6:15pm	Joyful Noise
	7-8:30 pm	Adult Choir
Sunday, Sept. 29	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Lay Reader:	Jill Zedan
Head Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Ushers:	Dot & Stu Bailey, Beth Rehling, Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte:	Joshua Anderson
Peace Candle:	Peter Kucmins
Sound:	David Pastor
Comns Grtr:	Valerie Tyler
Flowers:	Jan Renovetz
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
C.E. Teacher:	Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters:	Marge Culver, Jon Thompson
Servers:	Kathy & Leroy Ford
Snacks:	Diane Gressley, Heidi Spangler
Clean-Up:	Cliff & Jane Cribbs

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Lay Reader:	Ben Tomlinson
Head Usher:	Sue Maier
Ushers:	David & Kathy Pastor Joe & Betsey Wilson
Acolyte:	Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle:	Natalie Corrado
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Betty Kaul
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
C.E. Teacher:	Anne Melfo
Counters:	Kathy Pastor, Dave Bernard
Servers:	Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks:	Anne Melfo Erin Tomlinson
Clean-Up:	Peg & Jim Duffy