



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*



“If you ask a stupid question, you may feel stupid; if you don't ask a stupid question, you remain stupid.”

–Tony Rothman,

***Instant Physics:
From Aristotle to
Einstein, and
Beyond***

Sunday July 18th, 2021 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Allan Lane

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Office Manager

• Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

*Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

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 - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

July 18th, 2021

Meditation Music

"I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned." –Richard Feynman

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Questions

Micki Grant

(from the musical, ***Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope***)

"Yes, I can hear you preaching,
and I've studied all your teaching.
Still, I know that I must find some answers of my own.
Questions, questions,
They keep knocking on the doors of my mind."
(Micki Grant, 1970)

**Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ**

*** Call to Worship: (Psalm 85:8-13)**

Leader: Every day God gives us a chance to rewrite the world, and to start with fresh ideas and reworked systems.

People: God calls us every morning to write justice onto the page of that day.

Leader: God calls us to question what is, and to work for what might be. How can the world look more like God's dominion?

**People: Come into worship and find the strength there, to change the world.
Let us worship God!**

1. Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

2. Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.
(Music: J. Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813; text: Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.)

*** Prayer of Confession: [Unison]**

O God, you make us wonder, and you make us reflect, and you fill us with questions. Sometimes we even say there are things we want to ask you when we see you face to face! We are the people of faith, seeking understanding. Help us to know the right thing to do, before we stumble into the wrong thing. Forgive us the words that come from our lips, before the thoughts are fully formed in our heads. Like children with messy rooms, we are people with messy lives, and we don't always know how to clean them up. Help us get everything back in place, help us mop up the slippery sin spilled on the floor, that may make us fall again. Set us right with you and each other again, we pray. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

Leader: Regret is a one-way street that always runs into the past. With forgiveness from Christ, let us turn toward the future and let our regret recede into memory.

People: **What is past is past, and what is to come is still in our hands. Let us use what has been, to guide what will be. Thanks be to God for the forgiveness and new life that is ours in Jesus Christ. Amen**

Song of Praise: *Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)*

*And on earth be peace to all people,
For God loves us all! (2X's)*

God Is Still Speaking
(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Lesson	Luke 18: 15-17	<i>Jesus and the children</i>
Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)	Mark 9:14-29	<i>Faith and doubt in a father</i>
Contemporary Lesson	<i>Jesus and Questions</i>	by Rev. Otis Moss III

Musical Offering *The Answer* Jeremy Camp, Scott Cash & Ed Cash
Allison Colbert, vocalist

Sermon ***Some Questions to Think About*** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***Take My Life, God, Let It Be*** #448

1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.
3. Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.
4. Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.
(Music: Justin H. Knecht, 1797; text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt)

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of Baby Raegan, Sandra Lane, David Pastor, Lois Lorenzo, Lenore Harris, Phyllis Hassler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Kathy Smith, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Cindy Burton, Ann Roha, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., Max Roha, Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

***The Invitation:**

Leader: Wonder and imagination are good gifts to bring to God: wonder at why the world is the way it is, and imagination for ways to make the world better. Let us bring our wonder and our imagination to God as part of our gifts and offerings.

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]**

There are gifts we can give and gifts that we are; there are resources we can share and talents we can use. Receive both what we give and what we are as gifts from your people, O God. Amen



Holy Communion

- † **The Invitation**
- † **Prayer of Consecration**
- † **Words of Institution**
- † **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]**

A crumb and a drop are all we need to be joined to you, O Jesus our Savior, through the power of the Spirit at work in the sacrament. We thank you for the loaf and the cup which we have received, to empower us with your love and grace. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

#448

1. Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

3. Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

4. Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

(Music: Justin H. Knecht, 1797; text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' with chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E written above. The second staff has the same lyrics and chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A written below.

† Benediction

Postlude

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Traditional English melody, arr. Vaughan Williams

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WELCOME BACK** to Pastor Allan! We hope you had a relaxing and joy-filled reunion with your family in Canada, and feel refreshed and ready to resume “your post”. 😊
- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go, and thank you for coming!
- **THANK YOU CARDS** – Spiritual Life would like to extend an expression of gratitude to Rob and Leroy, for filling in during Pastor Allan’s vacation. There are two “Thank You” cards being circulated today, for anyone who wants to participate. If you haven’t had a chance to sign yet, please see Sue Maier before you leave.
- **STAYING COOL** - Several weeks ago, three of the main air conditioner compressors ceased functioning. As a result, it was necessary to replace them at a cost of \$14,000. If you would like to help defray this unexpected expense, please consider making a gift – please mark it ‘Air Conditioner Fund’, so that Joy can ensure that it goes to the appropriate fund. Thank you.
- **CHANGES STILL IN PLACE** – Please continue to bring your own communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and please refrain from singing while in the pews. Please find collection plates stationed at the sanctuary doors, and please refrain from meeting afterwards inside the church. We are still not forming our traditional “circle of community” at the end of the service. Masks are still recommended but optional for adults, with children wearing them at the discretion of their parent(s). Please take advantage of our large sanctuary and leave space between households. The continued observance of these changes allows us to: hear live music from our talented Music Director, hear the Word read and preached from the altar, and reunite in worship with each other! We will reassess the changes mentioned above on an ongoing basis, as we decide that it is safe to do so. We will be flexible and caring as we see how things work when we are together. Thank you for your patience and welcome back!
- **SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM** - We are still recruiting singers and instrumentalists to share their musical gifts with our congregation and guests, for the month of August. If you'd like to volunteer, please let Dave Debick know, so he can mark you on the calendar. He is happy to help volunteers find music, and will rehearse as much or as little as you'd like. Dave can be contacted by cell _____, or at _____.

Readings

First Lesson

Luke 18: 15-17 *Jesus and the children*

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Second Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

Mark 9:14-29 *Faith and doubt in a father*

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

"You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"If you 'can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Readings

Contemporary Reading

Jesus and Questions by Rev. Otis Moss III

“What is strange and disconcerting about Jesus is the fact that he rarely makes demands. The style of teaching he engages in is not rote or memorization or indoctrination, but Socratic, propositional and inductive. The listener is invited to explore and come to a conclusion. It is the desire of Christ for his audience to reach a conclusion and not be told what to think. Stories, sayings, reversals, parables and other forms of teaching used by Jesus are not good teaching tools for people who seek simplistic answers. Jesus teaches but requires more of a listener. We are invited to join the journey, wrestle with our assumptions, confront our spiritual bigotry and struggle with the humbling mystery and profound profundity of God. This is HARD faith, especially for the modern reader. We want the speaker to tell us what to think. We want our stories tidy, without complication, and we do not want questions designed to coerce us beyond easy answers. This is the LIFE and MINISTRY of Jesus. He was a walking mobile university, a theological gadfly, a spiritual teacher and Savior who cannot be contained by tradition, conformity or assimilation. Jesus is loose in the world quietly upending all assumptions, ideas and concepts we hold true.

Special Thanks:

JUL 18, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Kate Klonowski
Betsey Wilson
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Carol Miller
Greeter: Pat Rehm
Counters: Jim Duffy
Betsey Wilson

Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Carole Snider

JULY 25, 2021

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Gayle Jackson
Evie Novak
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Allison Colbert
Counters: Marge Culver
Volunteer Needed

Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Evelyn Duffy