



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***

"The Spirit
justifies us by
grace through
faith, sets us
free to accept
ourselves and
to love God and
neighbor, and
binds us
together with all
believers in the
one body of
Christ, the
Church."

– from ***A Brief
Statement of
Faith,***
Presbyterian
Church (USA)



Sunday July 4, 2021 • 10:00 AM
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Substitute Pastor
• Leroy Ford

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 4th, 2021 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation Music

“In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask the idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.”

– from ***A Brief Statement of Faith***, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude -

Make Your Face to Shine

Music & text: Jay Wilkey

Erin Tomlinson, flute

Assisted by Percussion Group

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship: (Psalm 130)**

- Leader: Praise God from the highest mountains!
- **People: Praise God from the depths of the sea!**
- Leader: Praise God with loud instruments!
- **People: Praise God with the voice of our hearts!**
- Leader: Praise God in all things, at all times, in all ways,
- **People: For our God reigns over the whole earth.**
- Leader: Come, worship God, all nations, tribes and peoples:
- **People: For God is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

Hymn of Praise: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

#439, v. 1 & 2

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.

You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!

With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.

(Music & text: Martin Luther, c. 1529; transl. F. H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981)

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

People: Creating God, you are constantly seeking to help us live out our holy calling to bear Your Image. But there are so many things that we do that contradict this call, and often we struggle to love You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We admit to times when we have failed You, by what we have done or what we have failed to do. We have sinned and we have been sinned against. Have mercy upon us. Have mercy on our friends. Have mercy on our enemies. Help us amend what we are and guide us to what we are called to be, for Your name's sake. Amen.

*** Words of Assurance: [Unison] (from Romans 8:38-39)**

People: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are forgiven by God's unimaginable grace.

Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be



peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second Reading

Mark 6: 1-13

Contemporary Reading

Excerpts from *"I Have a Dream"*, by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

Musical Offering

Let Freedom Ring

W. Gaither/G. Gaither

Cliff Cribbs, bass

Sermon

Freedom from Fear and Fear of Freedom

Leroy Ford

Hymn of Reflection:

We Shall Overcome

#570, v.1--3 & 5

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.

2. We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll go hand in hand some day.

3. We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.

5. The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, the truth shall make us free some day.
(Music and text: United States traditional)

The Church at Prayer

Baby Raegan (hospice at home), Phyllis Hassler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Cook, David Pastor, Lenore Harris, Lois Lorenzo, Terry Heiman, Kathy Smith, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Cindy Burton, Ann Roha, Ann Klonowski, Elizabeth Gadus, 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, Dassy 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: [Unison]**

People: From very early times, Jewish faith leaders have taught that God gives us blessings so that we may be a blessing to others. This is what Jesus was taught and what he passes on to us. Our abundance is our opportunity to show God's love and concern for all of creation ... and to be a blessing!

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]**

People: O God, we offer these gifts that others may share in the blessings that you wish for all humanity. We ask your further blessing upon these gifts that our brothers and sisters, with whom we share this earth, may find healing, freedom and blessing; and may the Earth itself find healing, freedom and blessing. Amen

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn *Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts* #329, v. v. 1-3

1. Jesus, the joy of loving hearts, fount of our lives, and light of all:
From every bliss that earth imparts we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.
2. Your truth unchanged has ever stood; you plead with all to call on you;
To those still seeking, you are good; to those who find you, life is new.
3. We tasted of you, living bread, and long to feast upon you still;
We drink of you, the fountainhead; our thirsty souls from you we fill.

(Music: Henry W. Baker, 1854; text: attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1150; transl. Ray Palmer, 1858; alt.)

Holy Communion

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving: [Unison]**

The bread is from many grains, the wine from many grapes, but together they form one loaf, one cup, one body and blood of Christ through the Spirit's presence. We are from many nations, many places, but together we are one people, the body of Christ. Thanks be to God, who brings disparate things into harmony. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *Lead On Eternal Sovereign*

#573

1. Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.
2. Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.
3. Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other for all eternity.

(Music: Henry T. Smart, 1836; text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; 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.

† Benediction

Postlude

Free at Last
arr. J. W. Work

Traditional Negro spiritual



BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THANK YOU** to Leroy Ford, who is filling in for Pastor Allan this week.
- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go, and thank you for coming!
- **ON MONDAY** of this past week, the office was notified of the passing of former member, Gretchen Green. Please pray for her family and loved ones.
- **REOPENING RECAP** – As you might have noticed, there are a few things that we are doing differently during our services, for the time being. The most obvious are: refraining from singing, bringing your own communion, stationing collection plates at the sanctuary doors, and not meeting afterwards for refreshments downstairs. We also will not form our traditional “circle of community” at the end of the service. Masks are recommended but optional for adults, with children wearing them at the discretion of their parent(s). We are also asking folks to take advantage of our large sanctuary and leave space between households.

However, these are small sacrifices to make, in light of what we are returning to: live music from our talented Music Director, hearing the Word read and preached from the altar, and being reunited in worship together! 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!

- **NAMETAGS** – Please wear your nametag, as we have several new members who are just getting to know us! And if you’d like to replace your nametag, please sign the sheet located on the table in the lobby, where the nametags are kept. If you’re not familiar with where this is, please feel free to ask the Greeter or an usher for assistance.

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BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** - We are currently reading ***Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women that a Movement Forgot***, by Mikki Kendall. The next meeting is on Thursday, July 8th at 7 pm - we will continue to meet remotely, via Zoom. The next discussion will cover “Black Girls Don’t Have Eating Disorders” & “The Fetishization of Fierce” (pp. 113 - 136). If you’ve been unable to make it so far, it’s never too late to join – we’d love to have you! Please feel free to reach out to **Kate Klonowski** by **calling or texting** _____, or by **email** at _____, with any questions.

- **SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM** - We are still recruiting singers and instrumentalists to share their musical gifts with our congregation and guests, over the summer months. 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 _____.

- FLOWERS** – We are looking for anyone who is willing to help provide or arrange flowers for Sundays. If you are interested, please contact **Janet Renovetz** at _____.

- **PASTOR’S VACATION** – Pastor Allan is on vacation until 7/17. **Pastor John King**, of the Richfield UCC, is filling in for him during this time. If you wish to speak with Pastor John, he can be reached through the **Richfield UCC office** at _____. If you have an emergency (e.g., hospitalization, a death in your family) outside of usual business hours, Pastor John can be reached at _____.

Readings

First Reading **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Second Reading **Mark 6: 1-13**

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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Readings (continued)

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Contemporary Reading

Excerpts from “*I Have a Dream*”, by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning, “My country ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrims’ pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.”

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and singing the words of the old spiritual, “Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”

Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Special Thanks:

July 4, 2021

Head Usher:	Jon Thompson
Ushers:	Heidi Spangler Diane Gressley Wes Novak <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Cliff Cribbs
Greeter:	Dave Bernard
Counters:	Nancy Stella Sue Stenzel
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	Tim Wallis <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sound:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	Janet Renovetz

JULY 11, 2021

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Sue Stenzel Jon Thompson <i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Rose Kaval
Greeter:	Betsey Wilson
Counters:	Betsey Wilson <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Peace Candle:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sound:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

**WELCOME BACK TO
CHURCH**