

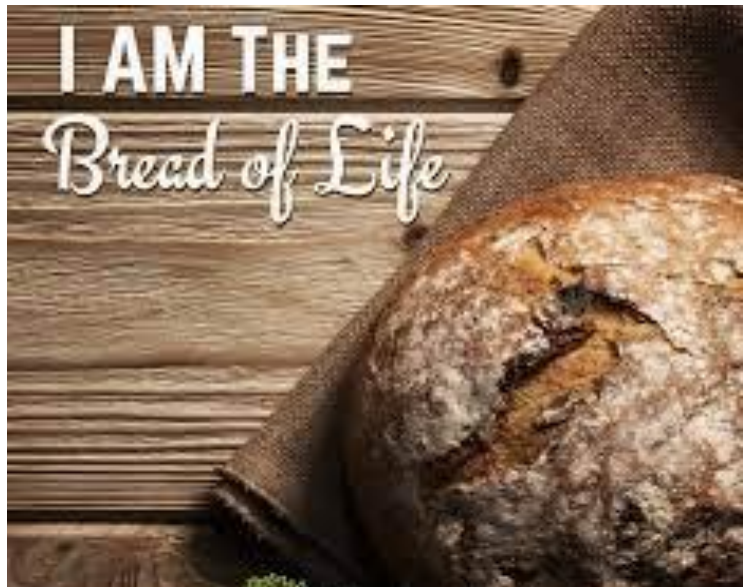
BRECKSVILLE

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*

*"Hold fast to
dreams
For if dreams
die
Life is a
broken-winged
bird
That cannot fly."
—Langston
Hughes*



Sunday August 15th, 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

August 15th, 2021

Meditation Music

"By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; Third, by experience, which is the bitterest." –Confucius

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Wellspring of Wisdom

Miriam Therese Winter

*"Wellspring of Wisdom, hear our cry.
The way ahead is parched and dry.
We seek a source to satisfy
our thirst for sanctifying waters,
wisdom for your faith-filled sons and daughters."*

M. T. Winter, 1987

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and find satisfaction in knowing God!
- **People: Jesus said, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"**
- Leader: Treat others as you would be treated; find Jesus hidden in each person you meet; bestow on others the same mercy you have received.
- **People: Let us look for God in the words we hear, the fellowship we share, and the sacrament we partake. Let us worship God!**

1. I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

3. On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.
(Music: 18th century German; text: Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.)

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

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. And so it must be, for who would choose to overcome sin by dying at the hands of sinful humans, or demonstrate God's power over death by being laid in a tomb? This is a mystery and a deep wisdom from God. In the same way, who would think that admitting wrongdoing is the way to be forgiven for wrongdoing? Yet so it is, when we confess our sins to you, O God! In Christ Jesus you have taken away our sins, before the confession is even on our lips, for you know the thoughts of a contrite heart. Help us to find your power within our weakness, as we struggle to do what's right. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader:** Paul said, "Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."
- **People:** **In Christ Jesus we have forgiveness and new life. Thanks be to God! Amen**

Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

***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 (read by Pastor Allan) **1 Kings 2:10-12; 3: 3-14** *Solomon asks for wisdom*

Second Lesson **John 6:51-58** *Jesus' strange wisdom*

Contemporary Lesson On wisdom and youth, by Stephen Colbert

Musical Offering ***Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah*** W. J. Kirkpatrick
Betsey Wilson, flute

Sermon ***Wisdom for Life*** Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***O Grant Us Light*** #469, v. 1-3

1. O grant us light, that we may know
wisdom that you alone can give,
That truth may guide us as we go,
and virtue bless the lives we live.
2. O grant us light, that we may find
where error lurks in human lore,
And turn to you our seeking minds,
and love your holy Word the more.
3. O grant us light, that we may learn
how dead is life from you apart,
How sure is joy for all who turn
to you an undivided heart.

(Music: Henry W. Baker, 1854: text: Lawrence Tuttielt, 1864; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, The Family and Friends of Baby Raegan, Sandra Lane, 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, 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: In the ancient church it was said, "You can't take your money with you when you die, but you can send it on ahead by giving to the poor." Let us present our gifts and offerings for the work of the church.

**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]**

Accept these gifts, O God, and in your wisdom direct them to where they can do the most good. May they be a blessing for many. Amen



Holy Communion

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

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

Somehow in the mystery of this sacrament, we have come to know you a little better, O living Christ. We thank you for making yourself known to us in the bread and the wine. May we go forth from this table with a share of your wisdom, so that we may live wisely and well. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* #82, v. 1 & 2

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

2. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

(Music: Traditional Welsh melody; text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; 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 musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has a repeat sign at the end. The second staff also has a repeat sign at the end. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E for the first staff; A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A for the second staff.

† Benediction

Postlude

A Song of Creation

Arthur G. Clyde; arr. Debick

WISHING YOU A
BLESSED
AND
HEALTHY
WEEK AHEAD!

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go, and thank you for coming!

- **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.

- **PROCEDURES DURING SERVICES** – BUCC Council is committed to adhering to the CDC guidance regarding the pandemic. Based on this, we are asking everyone to kindly wear a mask while in the building, regardless of your vaccination status. Free masks are available in the lobby and the narthex, should you need one. You also have the option to livestream the service via YouTube, if that is more comfortable for you – links and instructions can be found on our website, by clicking the “Live” tab at the top of the screen.

We continue to encourage congregants to sit in the socially-distanced pew areas, and to bring your own communion (BYOC). Collection plates will remain at the entrance doors, and our traditional closing circle and coffee hour remain suspended. Thank you for your understanding and support!

- **HUNGER MEAL** – The next Hunger Meal is scheduled for next Sunday, August 22nd, at the Pearl Road United Methodist Church. Contact **Matt Wolbert** for more information: mjwolbert@hotmail.com.

Readings

First Lesson (read by Pastor Allan)

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3: 3-14 *Solomon asks for wisdom*

Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places. The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

“Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”

Readings

Second Lesson

John 6:51-58

Jesus' strange wisdom

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

Contemporary Reading

On wisdom and youth, by Stephen Colbert

"Remember, you cannot be both young and wise. Young people who pretend to be wise to the ways of the world are mostly just cynics. Cynicism masquerades as wisdom, but it is the farthest thing from it. Because cynics don't learn anything. Because cynicism is a self-imposed blindness, a rejection of the world because we are afraid it will hurt us or disappoint us. Cynics always say 'no'. But saying 'yes' begins things. Saying 'yes' is how things grow. Saying 'yes' leads to knowledge. 'Yes' is for young people. So for as long as you have the strength to, say 'yes.'"

Special Thanks:

AUGUST 15, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Sue Stenzel
Bill Witt
Lay Reader: Elizabeth Gadus
Greeter: *Volunteer Needed*
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Fred Pedersen
Annette Pedersen
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Dorie Gabor

AUGUST 22, 2021

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Jon Thompson
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Dorie Gabor
Counters: Jon Thompson
Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Sue Stenzel