



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***

"Whoever
wishes to
become great
among you
must be your
servant, and
whoever wishes
to be first
among you
must be slave
of all."

—Mark 10:43-44



Sunday September 19th, 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

September 19th, 2021

Meditation Music

“The purpose of life is not to be happy, It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Prelude in A Major

A. W. Marchant

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: Oh, Righteous Parent, we appreciate everything that you have given us. Thank you for granting us the gift of life and our health.
- **People: We appreciate the blessing of being able to gather in your presence. We gather to exalt you.**
- Leader: We worship and praise you through our existence. Our purpose in life is only to serve you.
- **People: Holy Spirit, strengthen us and keep us alive and in good health to continue to serve you in Jesus’ name. Amen**

Hymn of Praise:

There's a Spirit in the Air

#294, v. 1, 3, 5-6

1. There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

3. When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.

5. When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.

6. May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

(Music: Medieval French melody, harm. Richard Redhead, 1853; text: Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1987)

* Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]

Marvelous and merciful God, Your Son modeled leadership and servanthood for us. But we confess we have elevated our desires and plans over Your will for our lives and for Your world. We want authority and power over others to use for our own purposes. Forgive us for our half-hearted devotion and our double-minded attention to Your way. Remind us You desire servants first and foremost. Enable us to serve in the name of Jesus, the One who came to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. In His name we pray. Amen.

* Words of Assurance:

- Leader: Almighty God we pray, in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work which you have given us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good;
- People: And for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *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 Reading: Psalm 54:3-6, 8

Second Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Contemporary Reading: On “Making a Difference”, by Robert F. Kennedy

Anthem

Celebration of Service

Besig/Price

We have come to sing with glory; we have come to sing with praise.

In joyful celebration our voices now we raise.

As we gather in God's presence, every spirit is renewed.

Let us join as true believers and share the hope and promise of God's truth.

We are called by Christ to serve Him; we will follow where He leads

and act with true compassion, to comfort those in need.

As we walk within His footsteps, every life will know His grace.

Let us join as true disciples and share the love that grows within this place.

Serve the Lord with gladness; walk within His light.

Speak in words of kindness; share the peace of Christ.

Use your gifts and talents; trust Him and obey.

Be His humble servant, and follow Him in faith.

We will lift our grateful voices; we will let our song be heard.

With joyful alleluias we'll sing to all the world.

As we learn the joy of giving, every heart is blessed once more.

Let us join as faithful servants and share the hope, share the love;

come share the glory of our Lord. Serve our Lord!

Grace & Gratitude Workshop

Heidi Spangler

Hymn of Reflection: *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant* #539, v. 1-4

1. Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
(Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. Betty C. Pulkingham; adapt.; text: Richard Gillard; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

George Snider, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Lois Lorenzo, Sandra Lane, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Dassie Matsuoka, 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, Jon Thompson, Kathy Smith, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), "Edna House", 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: When we take up our crosses to follow Jesus, we tread the path of deep discipleship. We go where he has gone before, and so we give ourselves as he gave himself. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

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]**

God of the Universe, your word says that we will find joy in offering our time, talents, and money to meet the needs of others. Help us to give freely, sacrificially and cheerfully towards the work of your kingdom. May you cause the seeds that we sow to grow into well-watered, fruitful trees of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

#495

v. 1-2, 4

1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

(Music: John Zundel, 1855; text: Jane Parker Huber, 1981)

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 hymn-like. Chords are indicated above and below the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† Benediction

Postlude

Fantaisie

L. Couperin

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!
- **FLOWERS** – Today's flowers have been provided by Bob and Caroline Chandler.
- **BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY** - It's not too late to participate in one of our music ensembles at BUCC. Here are the days and times for each group:
 - Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble: Thursdays at 5 PM; all ages welcome. Dave is happy to teach any of these instruments if you'd like to learn.
 - Joyful Noise Choir: Thursdays from 5:30-6:15; for ages K through 5th grade.
 - Adult Choir: Thursdays from 7:00-8:20; high school students welcome.
 - Percussion Group: Rehearsal on an as needed basis; 6th grade through adults welcome.
 - Instrumentalists: If you play an instrument and would like to share your musical gifts, please let Dave know so he can schedule you to play at a service; all instruments and ages welcome.

Dave is happy to teach any of these instruments if you'd like to learn – he can be contacted by email at **buccmusic23@gmail.com**, or the **church office** at **440-526-4364**.
- **PASTOR'S FUND** – The Pastor's Fund is currently running low. Please consider making a small donation to the Blessings Jar (located behind the last full length pew, just off the center aisle) - thank you!
- **PROCEDURES DURING SERVICES** – We are still wearing masks and still social distancing, regardless of your vaccination status. If you don't have a mask, they're available by the back doors, in the lobby and in the narthex. You also have the option to livestream the service via **YouTube** – simply go to **brecksvilleucc.org** and click on the "**Live**" tab (the second option in the blue bar, under our logo).

Readings

First Reading

Psalm 54:3-6, 8

Arrogant foes are attacking me; ruthless people are trying to kill me—people without regard for God.

Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me. Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them.

I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, LORD, for it is good.

Second Reading

Mark 9:30-37

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples.

He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Readings

Contemporary Reading

By Robert F. Kennedy, from the Day of Affirmation address, at the University of Capetown; Capetown, South Africa, June 6, 1966

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief, that human history is shaped. Each time someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”



Special Thanks:

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Jim Duffy
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Sound: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Dorie Gabor

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Sue Stenzel
Lay Reader: ***Volunteer Needed***
Greeter: Ann Kelley
Counters: Marge Culver
Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: ***Volunteer Needed***
Sound: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Tia Began