



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***

"I alone cannot
change the
world, but I can
cast a stone
across the
waters to create
many ripples."
—Mother Teresa



You must have
the qualities
of salt
among
yourselves
and live
in peace
with each
other

Mark 9:50b

Sunday September 26th, 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 26th, 2021

Meditation Music

"Community is a sign that love is possible in a materialistic world, where people so often either ignore or fight each other. It is a sign that we don't need a lot of money to be happy—in fact, the opposite." —Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Davis

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground."
(Music and text: Geron Davis, 1983)*

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: God calls, "You belong with me and with each other."
- **People: The walls that we have built that separate human from human and human from God are broken down in Jesus Christ. In him, we are one people, one community.**
- Leader: God calls us to be part of God's family, beloved children of God.
- **People: Let nothing keep you from God and from each other. Come be the community of Christ, the people of God. Come friends, let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise: *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

#70, v. 1-2, 4

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
4. Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!
(Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941; text: Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.)

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

Life is beautiful. Our eyes see wonder in the sunset; our ears hear glory in music; our noses smell eternity in the rose; our arms treasure the feeling of embracing and being embraced. Life is beautiful. We are so grateful for it, O God. And yet, in the midst of this beauty, sin brings in the ugly. Sin distorts our relationships to ourselves and to others. Sin disfigures our souls with its self-centeredness. Sin defaces your image in us. Forgive us and restore us. Bring back the innocence that makes life so very beautiful. In Jesus' name, Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader:** God has called us from darkness into light, from the shadows of sin into the dawn of resurrection.
- **People:** In God we live and move and have our being, for God has claimed us in Jesus Christ. In life and death, we belong to God as God's people, made whole in Jesus Christ. 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 Reading: **Mark 9: 38-50** *Out of bounds*

Second Reading: **James 5: 13-20** *Power of prayer in community*

Contemporary Reading: From ***Ubuntu***, by Desmond Tutu

Anthem

I Will Arise

Traditional, arr. Parker/Shaw

*I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms,
In the arms of my dear Saviour, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.
Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.
Come, thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.*

Sermon

Boundaries

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection: ***Surely No One Can Be Safer***

#487

1. Surely no one can be safer than God's children, held in favor,
Not the stars so brightly burning, not the birds to nests returning.
2. With the flock God is abiding, heaven's plenty all providing,
Rich in mercy, never sparing, like a father, gently caring.
3. None shall ever meet rejection, be denied God's own protection;
Has there been a friend who better knows our hopes, our fears that fetter?
4. Whether taking, whether giving, God alone remains forgiving,
And with one true purpose holy to preserve our welfare solely.

(Music: Swedish folk melody; text: Lina Sandell, 1855; transl. *The New Century Hymnal*, 1994)

The Church at Prayer

George Snider, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Peg Duffy, 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: H. Jackson Brown, Jr. once said, “Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.” In this he echoed Jesus, who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” 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]

May these gifts build up our community. May they build walls for shelter, but with doors so others may enter. May they create a space for love of neighbor, a place where strangers become friends and friends become like family. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *We Love Your Realm, O God*

#312, v. 1-4

1. We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.
2. We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.
3. We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.
4. Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

(Music: Williams' *New Universal Psalmodist*, 1770; text: Timothy Dwight, 1801; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992)

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

Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God

Sung-ho Park (Korea)

"God is always watching over you, God is watching you with loving eyes.

God is hearing you in all your prayers;

God is listening with tender, loving ears.

God shines light in every dark and fearful place we go

and will answer every little cry that you make,

so wherever you may go

follow in God's holy way and trust God to take you home."

(Music and text: Sung-ho Park, 2001; transl. Edward Poitras, 2001; alt.)

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 are dedicated by Fred & Annette Pedersen, in memory of their cousin Elaine (Wisnieski) Kukawka, who passed away on September 10, 2021, due to COVID and pneumonia.

- **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

Mark 9: 38-50 *Out of bounds*

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.”

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where, ‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ Everyone will be salted with fire.”

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

Second Reading

James 5: 13-20 *Power of prayer in community*

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.

(continued on next page)

Readings

Second Reading (*continued*)

If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Contemporary Reading

From *Ubuntu*, by Desmond Tutu

“A person with ubuntu (a word which means an understanding of the connectedness between people so that one acts in the right way towards others) is open and available to others, affirming of others, doesn’t feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated, or diminished when others are tortured or oppressed.”



Special Thanks:

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

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

OCTOBER 3, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Sound: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz