



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***

“Even if
I now saw you
only once,
I would long
for you
through worlds,
through worlds.”
– *The Ink Dark
Moon: Love Poems*
by Ono no Komachi
and Izumi Shikibu,
*Women of the
Ancient Court of
Japan*, by Izumi
Shikibu



Sunday September 5th, 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 5th, 2021

Meditation Music

"Rejection, though - it could make the loss of someone you weren't even that crazy about feel gut wrenching and world ending." –Deb Caletti, *The Secret Life of*

Prince Charming

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Lord, I Have Seen Thy Salvation

Cooper

Translation: "Lord I have seen, seen with my eyes, seen with my heart.

Fell on my knees, down at the altar,

bowed down my head, whispered a prayer.

Have mercy Lord, I'm not worthy,

I believe, Yes, I believe, now I am sure."

(John D. Cooper, b. 1925)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: God calls all people everywhere to come and worship.
- **People: We come into worship at God's invitation. God wants to know us and be known by us through worship.**
- Leader: God meets us in worship, changes us in worship, helps us to grow through worship.
- **People: In worship, we open ourselves to God. In worship, God opens God's own life to us. Let us worship God!**

1. From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's name arise; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Eternal are your mercies, God;
your truth stands ever high and broad: Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Music: 17th century German; text: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.)

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

O God, we come before you knowing that so much of our holiness is nothing but smoke and mirrors. You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and sometimes we don't even love ourselves very well, much less our neighbor. You call us to be righteous and we become self-righteous. You seek ways to pardon us, and we seek ways to condemn others. Teach us to love as you love us. Teach us to forgive as you forgive us. Teach us to value ourselves and others as you value us all. Let us learn from Christ, whose love and forgiveness - all the way to the cross - taught us the infinite value of each person you have made. Amen

*** Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader:** The Apostle John wrote at the beginning of his Gospel: "From Christ's fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."
- **People:** **We have received grace upon grace and forgiveness upon forgiveness. The chains of sin are broken, and we are free! 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: Proverbs 22:1-2;8-9;22-23 *Rich and poor*

Second Reading (Pastor Allan): Mark 7:24-30 *What is Jesus doing?*

Contemporary Reading: Henri J.M. Nouwen on Self-Rejection

Musical Offering ***No Longer Slaves (to Fear)*** Helser, Johnson, Case
Anne Melfo, soprano
Dave Debick, baritone

Sermon ***Jesus Throws The Fight*** ***Pastor Allan Lane***

Hymn of Reflection: ***Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*** #551, v. 1-3

1. Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

**REFRAIN: Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

2. Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. **REFRAIN**

3. Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace. **REFRAIN**

(Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915; text: Fanny Crosby, 1820-1915; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Dorie Gabor, 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: The author of the letter to the Hebrews writes: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Let us present our gifts and offerings, sharing what we have and doing good with them.

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]

- Send us into the world alongside these offerings, to do good and to share the love of Christ with all whom we meet. When our neighbors think of this church, let them say of us, “That is a church that knows how to love.” Amen



Holy Communion

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

Communion Hymn:

I Come with Joy

#349, v. 1-3

1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.

(Music: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; text: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving: [Unison]

You always knew how to create a moment, Jesus! Whether it was in a debate with a woman at the side of the road or at a table in an upper room, what you did was unforgettable. We remember it again all these years later with the bread and wine, and we thank you that you have created yet another moment through your presence with us, in the sacrament. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure: *God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command* #592
v. 1-2, 4

1. God of the ages, who with sure command
brought forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before your throne arise.
 2. Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
God, set our path toward human liberty.
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay--
your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.
 4. Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
With truth and love guide us through error's maze,
and we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.
- (Music: George W. Warren, 1892; text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1876; alt.)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

Musical score for the hymn "Carrying the Light of Christ into the World" by Acolyte. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff is the vocal line, and the second staff is the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The piano accompaniment includes the following chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in D

Johann H. Rolle (1716-1785)

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!
- **FALL 2021 MUSIC MINISTRY** – The first practice for Adult Choir is this Thursday (9/9). We will meet every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:30pm. If you can hold a tune and/or match pitches, you are welcome to join us! High school students are also welcome.

Joyful Noise Choir will also start meeting on Thursdays - also on 9/9 – and will run from 5:30-6:15. This group is for K-5th graders.

The Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble practice runs from 5:00-5:30, also on Thursdays, starting on 9/9.

Also, the Youth Percussion Group is open to 6th graders and older, including adults.

Finally, private piano lessons will also begin on 9/9. If you're interested in taking lessons and are a new student, contact **Dave** at **buccmusic23@gmail.com**, or call the **church office** at **440-526-4364**.

- **STAYING COOL** - Many thanks to those who've contributed so far – however, we still have a long way to go! If you would like to help defray this unexpected expense, please consider making a gift. Please mark it 'Air Conditioner Fund', so it will go into the appropriate fund. Thank you!
- **PROCEDURES DURING SERVICES** – 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) on the first and third Sundays of the month. 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!

Readings

First Reading

Proverbs 22:1-2;8-9;22-23 *Rich and poor*

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Do not exploit the poor because they are poor, and do not crush the needy in court, for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life.

Second Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Mark 7:24-30 *What is Jesus doing?*

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.” She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Readings

Contemporary Reading

Henri J.M. Nouwen, on Self-Rejection:

Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity or power, but self-rejection. Success, popularity and power can indeed present a great temptation, but their seductive quality often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self-rejection. When we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions. The real trap, however, is self-rejection. As soon as someone accuses me or criticizes me, as soon as I am rejected, left alone, or abandoned, I find myself thinking, "Well, that proves once again that I am a nobody." ... [My dark side says,] I am no good... I deserve to be pushed aside, forgotten, rejected and abandoned. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life, because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved." Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.

Special Thanks:

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*
Ushers: Bill Witt
Sherrill Witt
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Marge Culver
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Evelyn Duffy
Val Duffy

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Kate Klonowski
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Ann Kelley
Counters: Sue Stenzel
Betsey Wilson
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Sound: *Volunteer Needed*
Flowers: Tia Began