



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 am from there.
I am from here.
I am not there and
I am not here.
I have two names,
which meet and
part, and I have
two languages.
I forget which of
them
I dream in."

—Mahmoud
Darwish



Toni Sorenson, *Ruth and Naomi*

Sunday October 31st, 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

October 31st, 2021

Meditation Music

"Female friendships that work are relationships in which women help each other belong to themselves." –Louise Bernikow

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Bind Us Together

Craig Ramsey, guitar

Gillman

***"Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.***

***Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord;
bind us together in love."***

(Music and text by Bob Gillman, b. 1946)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: God calls us to be in relationships.
- **People: God wants us to be family, friends, neighbors, children of God.**
- Leader: Every relationship involves commitment, respect, admiration, enjoyment. All of these we have in this community, and in our relationship with God.
- **People: Come, let us enter once more into joyous relationship with the Almighty. Come, let us worship God!**

1. God is truly with us; sing we and adore now:
 praise the One we come before now.
Here within this temple, here in sound and silence,
 worship God in deepest reverence.
You alone, God, we own, you, our God and Savior;
 praise to you forever.
2. God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding!
 Echoes of the saints surrounding!
 "Holy, holy, holy," hear the hymn ascending,
 angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ, the praises
 that your Church now raises.
3. Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you,
 let our words and deeds proclaim you.
Like the saints and angels praising you in glory,
 may your servants sing your story.
And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly
 what you love most dearly.

(Music: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729; transl. Frederick W. Foster and others; alt.)

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

O God, you have made the heart of the Law so simple: love for you; love for ourselves; love for our neighbors. It would seem that nothing could be simpler. And yet, we have a love for things that can overshadow our love for you or for other people. Sometimes we find fault with ourselves more easily than we love ourselves, and we listen to the echoes of our critics' voices, that resound so harmfully in our minds. Too often our love for our neighbor is so narrowly defined, that our true neighbors find no place in it. Help us keep it simple, O God. By your Spirit, let our love for you, for ourselves and for our neighbor, be broad and full and pure. And when we fall short, let us have mercy on ourselves, as much as you have mercy upon us. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

* Words of Assurance:

- Leader: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ... Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”
- People: God’s love has surrounded us with mercy and grace. As we are forgiven in love, let us forgive others with the love God has shown us. Amen

Song of Praise:

***Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X’s)***

Pablo Sosa, 1988

***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 (Allan): Ruth 1:1-18 *Ruth and Naomi*

Second Reading: Mark 12: 28-34 *The Law: love God; love your neighbor*

Contemporary Reading (Allan): “A New Country,” by Nicola Yoon, from
The Sun Is Also A Star

Anthem

A Heart to Serve

English folk melody; setting V. Crescenz

1. O Lord, if I will wait for Thee, my heart's desire You'll give to me;
what I desire, Lord, most of all is but a heart that hears your call.
2. O Lord, create in me anew a heart that's honest, pure and true;
a heart to love, a heart to learn, a heart to share, a heart to serve.
3. Whatever joy my future brings will not be found in earthly things;
I'll have the greatest of rewards: a heart whose joy is in the Lord.
4. Give me a heart that loves you best, a heart that finds in you my rest,
a heart to love, a heart to learn, a heart to share, a heart to serve.
(Music by Valerie Showers Crescenz; text based on Ps 37:4, Ps 51:10, Deut 10:12)

Hymn of Reflection: *God, We Thank You for Our People*

#376

v. 1, 3 & 4

1. God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.
3. Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!
4. By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.
(Music: William Moore, 1825; text: Ruth Duck, 1986)

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of Max Roha, Suzanne Patrick, Fred Pesek, George Snider, 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, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., 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: Ruth tells us the story of two women who were faithful to each other, giving everything they had to share the life God had given them, even though it was filled with difficulty and sadness. Let us be faithful to our community by sharing what God has given us, so that those whose lives are filled with difficulty and sadness may find their burden eased and their path made clearer. 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]**

The people in our community may have been born here or may have come from far away, to make our country their country, and our people their people, just as Naomi and Ruth did, each in their turn. May we take care of each other, just as they did, through these gifts and offerings. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

God Our Author and Creator

#530

1. God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.
 2. Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve:
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still;
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.
 3. Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,
with all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.
- (Music: Southern Harmony, 1835, harm. John Ferguson, 1973; text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985)

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

Alabaré

Alonso/Pagán

Assisted by Percussion Group

Translation from Spanish: "I will praise my Lord."

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 Annette and Fred Pedersen, in celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary.
- **2021 ADVENT BOOK** – Every year BUCC members contribute to the Advent Book – 28 days' worth of prayers, insights and interpretations of a variety of Advent-related bible verses. Last year due to COVID we leveraged a variety of writings from years past to compile the book. This year we would like to return to fresh writings but open it up to what members would like to share about their personal experience during the pandemic. So far (mid-October) we've received several thoughtful submissions about personal experiences during COVID. If you are interested in sharing your experience (or two or three), please email it to Sue Maier at **Eyerienne@aol.com** (there is always the option to provide a hard copy to the office if email isn't your thing). What you write is up to you, but it should relate to the overall goal of the Advent book as a way to reflect on the coming of Christ. Here's a link to a great article to inspire you: https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_advent/

If you are interested in writing for the Advent book but prefer the more traditional approach of having a bible verse to inspire you, please let us know and we will send you one. Submissions will close on November 1st to provide sufficient time to put the book together for distribution. Should we have any open days we will go back to previous Advent Books for content.

I don't consider myself a 'religious' person, but I do look forward to the Advent Book and feel like it brings me closer to the people in this amazing congregation. I keep it by my bed and read the daily offering before bed each night – for me this just adds to the magic of the season. If the feelings and experiences shared on September 19th are any indication, I think we can create something very special for Advent 2021.

- Sue Maier, Eyerienne@aol.com

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

- **CHURCH RENTAL HOUSE AVAILABLE** – We currently have a 2- bedroom unit available in the church's rental house on Arlington Ave. The unit consists of an eat-in kitchen, with dining and living rooms on the lower level. The upstairs has 2 bedrooms and 1 full bathroom. The unit comes with a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer, 1 parking space in the garage, and two additional parking spaces. There is no central air-conditioning, but the unit can accommodate window units. The monthly rent is \$850.00 and will require a credit and background check, signing a 1-year lease and providing an \$850.00 security deposit. Tenant will be responsible for paying their own gas, electric, cable and internet. Water and sewer charges are taken care of by the church. Showings for the unit can be scheduled through the church office, starting November 1st. Thank you!

- **CHRISTMAS SEASONAL CHOIR** - Even though the Spiritual Life Ministry has decided against presenting a cantata this year (due to Covid and limited seating in sanctuary), we will be organizing a seasonal choir to help with special music during the holiday season. These practices will be held weekly on Thursday evenings, starting November 4th from 7 - 7:40pm. The music we prepare will be presented during the second part of December and early January, at our regular Sunday services. All are welcome to participate, including high school students. Contact Dave Debeck at **buccmusic23@gmail** or through the **office** at **440-526-4364**, with any questions.

- **PASTOR'S FUND** – The Pastor's Fund is currently running low. Please consider making a small donation, by using a pew envelope and marking it "Pastor's Fund" on the front. These can be left in any of the collection plates, found at each entrance. Thank you!

Readings

First Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth and Naomi

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!" At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Readings (continued)

Second Reading

Mark 12: 28-34 The Law: love God; love your neighbor

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Contemporary Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

“A New Country,” by Nicola Yoon, from ***The Sun Is Also A Star***

“For most immigrants, moving to the new country is an act of faith. Even if you’ve heard stories of safety, opportunity, and prosperity, it’s still a leap to remove yourself from your own language, people, and country. Your own history. What if the stories weren’t true? What if you couldn’t adapt? What if you weren’t wanted in the new country?”

Special Thanks:

OCTOBER 31, 2021

Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Dorie Gabor
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Caroline Chandler
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Sound: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Sue Stenzel
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Annette Pedersen
Sound: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Sue Stenzel

Notes: _____
