



# 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*

## Pentecost



*"The essence  
of beauty  
is unity in  
diversity."*

-- Felix  
Mendelssohn

**Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 • 10:00 AM**

**Pastor**

• Rev. John King

**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](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

## Pentecost Sunday – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Prelude/Gathering Music      *O Day of Joy and Wonder!*

Hopson

Becky Anderson, flute; Kathy Smith and Beth Gadus, dulcimer;  
Craig Ramsey, guitar; Percussion Group

*O day of joy and wonder! Christ's promise now fulfilled: the coming of the Spirit that holy love has willed.*

*Our Lord in human body to mortal eye is lost, yet comes in flame upon us at blessed Pentecost.*

(Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933; © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.; words: Violet Nita Buchanan, 1957, alt. © Oxford University Press)

## Welcome & Announcements

*"Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire."* - Gustav Mahler

## ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*(Please Stand as you are able.)*

## **Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward**

## \* Call to Worship:

One: Divine Teacher, whirl around us with your wisdom,

**Many: Divine Comforter, encircle us with the peace that comes only from you.**

One: As the Holy Winds fill our lives with dreams, empower us to live God's hope in this world.

**Many: As the Holy Fire fills our hearts with visions, empower us to create a world of justice and peace.**

One: May the Divine Gales of this day move us to know the love of God.

**\* Opening Hymn      *God, Our Nation Feels the Loss***

(Sung to the hymn tune PILOT by John Edgar Gould, 1871)

1. God, our nation feels the loss as our children pay the cost for the violence we accept, for the silence we have kept.

Rachel weeps for children gone: God of love, this can't go on!

2. Jesus, Lord, we hear you say, "Don't turn little ones away!"  
May we build a kinder land where our children understand:  
Every child here matters more than the guns we clamor for.

3. Holy Spirit, wind and flame, send us out in Jesus' name.

May we shout and say, "Enough!" May we build a world of love-- till the sounds of weapons cease, till our young can grow in peace,

(Text: Copyright © 2022 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; permission given for free use of this hymn for churches and ecumenical services)

### \* Invocation: [UNISON]

**Holy Winds of Mystery, As the dawn breaks forth, your Spirit exhales your Intentions for our world. As new chapters and eras arise in our lives, your Spirit invites us to wisdom that only comes from you. Open our souls to the wonders of your being. Settle our hearts when questions surround us. Fill our minds with the knowledge that your Spirit will lead us forward. Amen.**

**Sung in Unison:** **Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. (2X's)**  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

## **\* Prayer of Reflection and Growth:**

Loving God, Divine Comforter, peace is absent from our hearts. From pain to grief, and from turmoil to frustrations, we yearn for what we lack. We ache for the pains and injustices of this world to cease. What we forget is to pause and voice our concerns to you. How can we better integrate your presence in our lives? When have we forgotten to include you in our joys and heartaches? Move us to seek you and speak the burdens of our hearts to you. May your Spirit refill our souls with peace. Amen.

### **\* Assurance of Grace: (Pastor John)**

\* 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   Acts of the Apostles 2:1-18 (Translation: The Message)

## Second Reading John 14:15-17 (Translation: The Inclusive Bible)

## Continuing Testament By Carol Miller



**Anthem****God Sends Us the Spirit**

Gonja folk song, arr. Debick

1. God sends us the Spirit to befriend and help us.

Recreate and guide us, Spirit-friend.

Spirit who enlivens, sanctifies, enlightens,

Sets us free, is now our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Maker, Spirit-friend. Spirit of our Jesu, Spirit-friend.

2. Darkened roads are clearer, heavy burdens lighter,

When we're walking with our Spirit-friend.

Now we need not fear the powers of the darkness.

None can overcome our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Maker, Spirit-friend. Spirit of our Jesu, Spirit-friend.

Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend. Spirit of the universe, Spirit-friend!

3. Now we are God's people, bonded by God's presence,

Agents of God's purpose, Spirit-friend.

Lead us forward ever, slipping backward never,

To your remade world, our Spirit-friend.

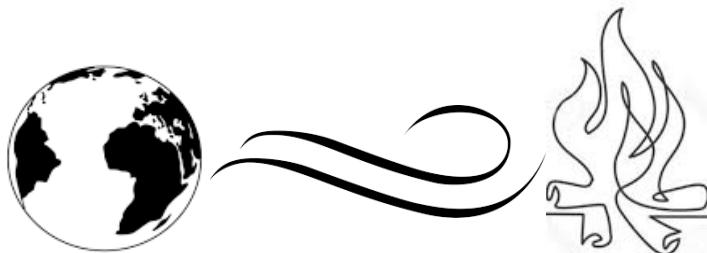
Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend. Spirit of the universe, Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Maker, Spirit-friend. Spirit of our Jesu, Spirit-friend!

(Music: Ghana folk song, adapt. Tom Colvin, 1925-2000; © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.; words: Tom Colvin © 1969, 1997 Hope Publishing Co.)

**Sermon****Earth, Wind & Fire**

Pastor John King



**Hymn of Reflection:** *Holy Spirit, Come to Us* Berthier (Taizé Community)  
Pastor John King, soloist

*The first disciples experienced the power of the Holy Spirit as a shared understanding, despite a multitude of languages. The multilingual verses evoke this experience in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.*

Repeated  
Congregational  
chant:



PASTOR JOHN: *Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light. Veni Sancte Spiritus*

*Ven, fuego de caridad, ven Espíritu Santo, entra Luz del Corazón. Veni Sancte Spiritus*  
(*Come, fire of love, come Holy Spirit, enter, light of our hearts. Come Holy Spirit.*)

*A quatuor ventis veni, veni spiritus Dei; umbras disperge nobis, Veni Sancte Spiritus*  
(*Come from the four winds, come breath of God; disperse the shadows over us, Come Holy Spirit*)

### ***The Church at Prayer***

Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Allison Colbert, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, George Snider, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., 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, 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: [UNISON]**

...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***

**\* 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.

**\* Reflection on Giving:** (Pastor John)

**\* Blessing of the Gifts: [UNISON]**

Holy Winds of Excitement, may the gifts we share today and throughout this week nudge us to dream your dreams. May our giving inspire us to embrace your visions for our world. Holy Spirit, enliven our souls to create your realm of justice and peace on earth. Amen.

## ***Holy Communion***

**Communion Hymn:** *As We Gather at Your Table* #332, v. 1

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

(Music: The Sacred Harp, 1844; words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989)



**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]**

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. 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; words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.)



## ***Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte***

### **\* Circle of Community**

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing ***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times)*** ***Hallelujah, Hallelujah.*** After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith

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 (Pastor John)**

**Postlude      Spirit God, Be Our Breath (Embracing Change)      Harding**

**Have a Great Week!**

## **Announcements**

**FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are dedicated by Diane Gressley, “In remembrance of Emma Gressley's birthday.”

**STRAWBERRY SOCIAL** – Next Sunday, June 12th, we'll be celebrating summer in Pilgrim Hall with our annual Strawberry Social. We'll have Strawberry snacks and a “jam session” where you can learn to make your own strawberry jam. The event will take place during Fellowship Hour, right after the service. Come hungry!

**HOLY GROUNDS** – I will be at the Brecksville Panera for coffee at 8:15 most Tuesday mornings. Anyone is welcome to stop by. There's no need for an RSVP or agenda, so you never know who might show up. Of course, if you are looking for a more traditional meeting in my office, you can always set that up too. But if you're just looking for casual conversation, stop by at Panera any Tuesday for a visit and some “holy grounds.”

– Pastor John

Attendance on Sunday, May 29, 2022 – Adults: 52; Kids: 3;  
Live Stream: 5; Total: 60

## Readings

### First Reading

#### Acts of the Apostles 2:1-18 (Translation: **The Message**)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; even Cretans and Arabs! They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen: 'In the Last Days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; the young will see visions, the old will dream dreams. When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit.'"

### Second Reading

#### John 14:15-17 (Translation: **The Inclusive Bible**)

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you.

I won't leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see me no more, but you'll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you'll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you."

## Readings

### Continuing Testament – By Carol Miller

#### *Reflections on Butterflies and Metamorphosis*

I began raising butterflies to celebrate my 60th birthday, because I wanted to be responsible for a living project that would remind me of the circle of life.

When I see the tiny eggs that begin the life cycle of butterflies, I am inspired to reflect on stillness, waiting, patience, quiet, and hope.

After a couple of days of stillness, an eyelash-sized hatchling emerges and scoots around in search of food. Caterpillars need enough food so they can grow new skin and shed their old skin four times during this phase. They remind me of the necessity of nurturing, feeding, growing, shedding, letting go, and patience.

When caterpillars are ready to shed their skin for the fifth time, they climb to the top of their containers and suspend themselves in a J-formation. Then they squeeze themselves into a protective coating and they continue with their metamorphosis. During this chrysalis phase, they remind me of going within, letting go again, shape shifting, patience, and solitude.

After a couple of weeks as a chrysalis, they crawl from their paper-thin shell and hang with their newly formed legs while they slowly unfold four wings. Soon enough they begin flying toward the light, enjoying freedom, and feeding on nectar. Within a day or two they discover each other, tease, play, and mate. They remind me of the importance of fun, and friends, and connecting, and enjoying life and light and one another.

When new eggs appear, I reflect on the circle of life and I am awed by the power and beauty of creativity.

# Special Thanks:

## June 5, 2022

**Head Usher:** Sue Maier  
**Ushers:** Allison Colbert  
                  Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Jill Zedan  
**Greeter:** Sherrill Witt  
**Nursery:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
                  Sue Stenzel  
**Acolyte:** Arthur Cook  
**Peace Candle:** Dorothy Cook  
**A/V Team:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Flowers** Janet Renovetz  
**Snack:** Gina Cook  
                  Jon Thompson  
**Set Up/Serve:** Allison Colbert  
                  **Volunteer Needed**  
**Clean Up:** **Volunteer Needed**  
                  **Volunteer Needed**

## June 12, 2022

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Dave Bernard  
                  Evelyn Seager  
**Lay Reader:** Jon Thompson  
**Greeters:** Bob & Caroline  
                  Chandler  
**Nursery:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
                  Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**Peace Candle:** **Volunteer Needed**  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers:** Tia Began  
**Snack:** Diane Gressley  
                  **Volunteer Needed**  
**Set Up/Serve:** Cliff Stenzel  
                  Sue Stenzel  
**Clean Up:** Sue Stenzel  
                  **Volunteer Needed**