



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*



"There is no
them.
There's only
us."

- U2, "Invisible"

2nd Sunday after Pentecost, June 19th, 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

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

2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 19th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Make Us One

Carol Cymbala

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

—————
“We must learn together as brothers and sisters, or perish together as fools.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Prayer:** (based on Psalm 42)

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams of water, our souls reach out to seek our God.

Many: Where is our God? In the cleansing of the rain, in the refreshing of a pool, in the predictability of a faucet.

One: With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, our voices lift toward our God.

Many: Where is our God? In the melody of voices raised in concert, in the stillness of silence, in the cacophony of spontaneous praise.

One: As deep calls to deep, we come to worship the Living God.

Many: Where is our God? In the echoes of our prayers, in the reverence of bowed heads, in the hope of raised faces. The Holy One is with us.

*** Hymn of Praise:** *Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers*

#397

1. Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.

With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.

2. Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.

Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

3. Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

(Music: Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831; words: Roger Powell, 1948; alt.)

* Invocation: [UNISON]

Holy Wisdom, we hear you calling us to gather and to hope in your name. Ignite sacred courage in us to proclaim the good news of justice, from the comfort of the sanctuary to the public witness of the city gates. Inspire a compelling vision of a gracious, beloved, and empowered community, that propels us to confront inequities, challenge privilege, and participate in your creative work in our time. Renew our hope for humanity so that we might rejoice in this inhabited world and delight in our siblings. Amen.

* Prayer for Transformation and New Life:

Reader: Holy and Gracious God, fear seeks to be our constant companion. It stifles us with its overwhelming presence and prolific imagination. Fear surrounds us and blocks our vision and your path. Fear keeps us from picking up our cross as much as it suppresses our joy in you. Fear invites us to believe the easy lie rather than confronting the hard truths necessary for your spiritual realm. Too often, we cast off your perfect love in favor of insidious fear. Forgive us for choosing fear when we could have you, your presence, and your way as our companion on our journey. Empower us to reject fear and all that fall complicit in dampening your truth.

*** Words 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 Galatians 3: 23–28 (The Message translation)

Second Reading Luke 8:26-39

Continuing Testament “Still I Rise”, by Maya Angelou



Time with Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

How Deep the Silence of the Soul

Dave Debick & Anne Melfo, vocalists

How deep the silence of the soul that lives within your grace.

How full the gratitude of heart in your abiding place.

What rich serenity is found, what courage and release

When wisdom teaches us to seek the gentle path to peace.

Like unseen chimes on moving air, like warm and morning sun,

Like gladdening, greening, growing things, like trees with blooms begun.

Such is your presence in our lives, you touch without a trace,

Until we turn and find ourselves held fast in your embrace.

(Music: Thomas Tallis c. 1557; words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989; Words Copyright © 1989 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.)

Sermon

Here Be Monsters

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection:

Help Us Accept Each Other

#388, verses 1, 2 & 4

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

4. God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

(Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864; words: Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of AnnaMary Fisher, Dorie Gabor, 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, 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

Invitation to Generosity: (Pastor John)

*** 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 and Thanksgiving: [UNISON]**

We give you thanks, God Our Help, for the abundance of the gifts you have planted in us as seeds that we may share in bloom. May these offerings be received and magnified for your glory.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #593**

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.
(Music: J. R. Johnson; words: J. W. Johnson, 1921; 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.

The musical notation is in G major (two sharps) and common time. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The chords are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The lyrics are repeated three times. The third time, the chords are: A, C7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† Benediction (Pastor John)

Postlude

People Rise Up

Randy W. Johnson

June 19th, 1865



Announcements

FLOWERS – Today's flowers are dedicated, "In Celebration of Jane & Cliff Cribbs' 57 years of marriage."

FATHER'S DAY – After today's service, we will have special guests from El Salvador - Lupita and her dad, Jorge, will join us for a video chat in Pilgrim Hall.

Jorge was one of the people I worked with in El Salvador. He was initiated into the MS-13 gang at age seven, and eventually turned his life around to become the first in his family to graduate from high school. Now his daughter Lupita (nickname for "Guadalupe"), is on track to become the first in their family to graduate from college. The OCWM ministry is inviting anyone who is able, to please consider a contribution to covering her college tuition, which is \$1,360 per year. Your gift would be a contribution towards both the current and future generations of this family!

So please join us for a cross-cultural, informal dialogue, and let's empower women globally through education. – Rev. John

NURSERY - If you know in advance that you will be bringing nursery age children (ages 0-3), or will be bringing a guest with children to church and would like to drop them off in the nursery, please contact the church office at 440-526-4364 or Evie Novak at 440-479-9743. This is necessary so that we may arrange for a volunteer attendant to be available. If you are unable to provide notice, please check with our Head Usher before the service (can be found in the Narthex at the back of the church), and they will enlist a volunteer if one is available. If no one is available, you are welcome to accompany your child in the nursery. If you would like to serve as an as-needed volunteer, please let Evie know.



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

Readings

First Reading

Galatians 3: 23–28 (The Message translation)

Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.

But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ, you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ's life, the fulfillment of God's original promise.

In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ.

Second Reading

Luke 8:26-39

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" - for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Readings

Continuing Testament – “Still I Rise”, by Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.



Special Thanks:

June 19, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Paul Kuzmins
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: Pat Rehm
Counters: Marge Culver
 Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers Anne Melfo
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
 Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Bob Chandler
 Caroline Chandler

June 26, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evie Novak
 Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeters: Dave Bernard
Nursery: *Volunteer Needed*
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
 Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: *Volunteer Needed*
 Volunteer Needed

NOTES: _____