



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*

DO NOT
LOOK
BACK

LUKE 9:51-62

"I am no
bird;
and no net
ensnares
me:
I am a free
human being
with an
independent
will."

- Charlotte Brontë,
Jane Eyre

3rd Sunday after Pentecost, June 26th, 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!

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 26th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Give Me Jesus

African American spiritual

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

“Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.” — Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own

Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Prayer:**

One: The way of our God is holy.

Many: Holy One, we seek your presence in our midst.

One: The way of our God is wondrous.

Many: Wondrous God, we marvel at your works and marvelous deeds.

One: The way of our God is awesome.

Many: Awesome God, we call out to you in hope.

*** Hymn of Praise:**

God of Grace and God of Glory

#436, v. 1, 2 & 4

1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
2. From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us--free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.
4. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christ-like graces, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest for liberty,
in the quest for liberty.

(Music: John Hughes, c. 1907; words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.)

*** Invocation: [UNISON]**

Liberating One, we keep you before us. Our souls rejoice and our hearts are gladdened. Our very beings find safety and security in your presence. We approach you with thanksgiving and anticipation. Enliven us to be your people in the world. Embolden us to live in freedom. Empower us to be your good news. Stand up in us and show us the path of life. Amen.

*** Prayer for Transformation and New Life:**

Reader: Restoring God, too often we accept the conditions of the world around us and impose limitations on what is possible. We bind ourselves to societal conventions, norms, and pressure rather than follow you and your way. We conform to the values of this world rather than pursue the fruit of the Spirit. Show us the path of life and freedom in you. Teach us to plant seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we perennially bear that fruit.

*** 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 5:1, 13-23 (The Voice Translation)

Second Reading Luke 9:51-62

Continuing Testament By Nelson Mandela



Time with Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

More Precious Than Silver

DeShazo

Diane Gressley, vocalist

Lord, You are more precious than silver. Lord, You are more costly than gold.

Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,

And nothing I desire compares with You.

Lord, Your love is wide as the ocean. Lord, Your love is deep as the sea.

Lord, Your love encompasses the nations,

And love that's never-ending shared with me.

And who can weigh the value of knowing You?

O, who can judge the worth of who You are?

Lord, who can count the blessings of loving You?

Who can say just how great You are? How great You are!

Lord, Your light is shining within us; Lord, Your light drives darkness away.

Lord, Your light is guiding us onwards,

And brings us loving-kindness every day. (repeat verse 1)

(Words and music by Lynn DeShazo; Copyright © 1982 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

Sermon

Butt First

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection:

City of God

Schutte

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!

A new day is dawning for all those who weep.

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

**Refrain: Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing.
For the Lord our light and our love has turned the night into day.**

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.

The One who has loved us has brightened our way. **(Refrain)**

(Bridge): God is light; in God there is no darkness.

Let us walk in the light. God's children one and all.

3. O comfort my people make gentle your words,
proclaim to my city the day of her birth. **(Refrain)**

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of Edie O'Donnell, the family and friends of Anna Mary 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]**

Giver of Gifts, receive the resources we bring. May they bless our community and our world. May bonds of scarcity be broken as we meet the needs around us with the gifts that you have first given to us. May we be gladdened by giving and rejoice in generosity. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*Hymn of Departure

O Jesus, I Have Promised

#493

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
 2. O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!
 3. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!
- (A. H. Mann, 1883; words: John E. Bode, 1868; 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

March On, My Soul, with Strength

Wright

Announcements

FLOWERS – Today's flowers are dedicated by Carol Miller and Pat Rehm, "In honor of children everywhere."

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

Attendance on Sunday, June 19th, 2022 – Adults: 41; Kids: 3; Live Stream: 8; Total: 52

Readings

First Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-23 (The Voice Translation)

Stand strong for our freedom! The Anointed One freed us so we wouldn't spend one more day under the yoke of slavery, trapped under the law.

Brothers and sisters, God has called you to freedom! Hear the call, and do not spoil this gift by using your liberty to engage in what your flesh desires; instead, use it to serve each other as Jesus taught through love. For the whole law comes down to this one instruction: "Love your neighbor as yourself," so why all this vicious gnawing on each other? If you are not careful, you will find you've eaten each other alive!

Here's my instruction: walk in the Spirit, and let the Spirit bring order to your life. If you do, you will never give in to your selfish and sinful cravings. Sometimes what the flesh desires goes against the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires goes against the flesh. There is a constant battle raging between them that prevents you from doing the good you want to do. But when you are led by the Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law.

It's clear that our flesh entices us into practicing some of its most heinous acts: participating in corrupt sexual relationships, impurity, unbridled lust, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, arguing, jealousy, anger, selfishness, contentiousness, division, envy of others' good fortune, drunkenness, drunken revelry, and other shameful vices that plague humankind. I told you this clearly before, and I only tell you again so there is no room for confusion: those who give in to these ways will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit produces a different kind of fruit: unconditional love, joy, peace, patience, kindheartedness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Readings

Second Reading

Luke 9:51-62

Jesus gathered up his courage and steeled himself for the journey to Jerusalem.

He sent messengers on ahead. They came to a Samaritan village to make arrangements for his hospitality. But when the Samaritans learned that his destination was Jerusalem, they refused hospitality. When the disciples James and John learned of it, they said, "Do you want us to call a bolt of lightning down out of the sky and incinerate them?" Jesus turned on them: "Of course not!" And they traveled on to another village.

On the road someone asked if he could go along. "I'll go with you, wherever," he said. Jesus was curt: "Are you ready to rough it? We're not staying in the best inns, you know."

Jesus said to another, "Follow me." He said, "Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father's funeral." Jesus refused. "First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent: Announce God's kingdom!"

Then another said, "I'm ready to follow you, Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home." Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day."

Continuing Testament

From ***Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela***

When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor both. Some say that has now been achieved. But I know that that is not the case. The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning. I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.

Special Thanks:

June 26, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evie Novak
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: *Volunteer Needed*
Counters: Marge Culver
Volunteer Needed
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

July 3, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeters: Dave Bernard
Nursery: *Volunteer Needed*
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: *Volunteer Needed*
Peace Candle: *Volunteer Needed*
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Set Up/Serve: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteer Needed

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