



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*

"Man does not
weave this web
of life.
He is merely
a strand of it.
Whatever he
does to the web,
he does
to himself."

- Chief Seattle,
chief of the
Suquamish and
Duwamish tribes



8th Sunday after Pentecost, July 31st, 2022 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Rev. Leroy Ford

**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!

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 31st, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Sing Praises to God

Kirkland

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

“Mother Earth is not a resource. She is an heirloom “.

- David Ipina, Yurok tribe

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: O give thanks to our GOD who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever!

People: The people God loves have been gathered in from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader: Some have wandered, finding no safety, hungry and thirsty.

People: In their trouble they cried out to God who delivered them from distress.

Leader: Let us thank our GOD for steadfast love for all creation.

People: For God satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things.

All: O give thanks to our GOD who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever!

*** Hymn of Praise: *From All That Dwell below the Skies* #27**

1. From all the dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise 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: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623; words: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]**

Holy God, we gather this day to give thanks for your steadfast love and to experience afresh your desire to gather all people into communities of safety, justice and peace. Send your Spirit among us and inspire our imaginations and wills in the things that make for peace, for we pray in the name of the One who was called the Prince of Peace, 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 **Genesis 28:10-17 (The Message translation)**

Gospel Reading **Luke 12:13-21 (NRSV)**

Continuing Testament - By Richard Rohr



Time with Young Worshippers

***Spirit of the Living God* #283**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; (twice)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

(Music and words: Daniel Iverson, 1926)



Musical Offering:

***Jesus Is Calling* Stebbins Becky Anderson, flute**

*Jesus is tenderly calling thee home--calling today, calling today;
Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam farther and farther away?
Calling today, calling today, Jesus is calling, is tenderly calling today.
Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)*

Sermon:

Sacred Space

Rev. Leroy Ford

Hymn of Reflection:

This Is My Song

#591

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

(Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; words: Lloyd Stone, 1934)

The Church at Prayer

Dorie Gabor, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, George Snider, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, 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 Share: (Rev. Leroy)

*** 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]**

Loving and merciful God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all the ways in which you have blessed our lives. We offer these gifts to remember that you are the source of our hope and our peace. With these gifts we commit ourselves to serve you and to work for peace in this world. Bless these gifts that they might be used in ministries of restoration and reconciliation. Amen.

Going with God's Love

1. God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

**Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

3. God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
 Put unfailing arms around you:

God be with you till we meet again. **(Refrain)**

(Music: William G. Tomer, 1880; words: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; 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 (Rev. Leroy)

Postlude:

O God, You Are My Rock

Jean Slates Hawk

**The Lord
your God is
with you
wherever
you go.**

JOSHUA 1:9

Announcements

THE OPERA IS COMING TO BUCC! – Next Saturday, August 6th, the premier of a locally produced oratorio/opera, “Coming Home”, will be performed in the sanctuary. It’s the true story of Jim Stulz’s journey from teaching high school to becoming one of the moral leaders of San Francisco’s gay community. Jim was instrumental in establishing both a “Gays and Grays” ministry and America’s first residential AIDS hospice, called “Coming Home”. It’s an uplifting story about being the best one can be “under the circumstances” and concludes with an audience sing along. Afterwards, there will be a question/answer period with the work’s principal lyricist. The performance begins at 4 pm, and free-will donations will be used to defray production costs, with any excess revenue going to BUCC’s LGBTQIA+ ministries.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - The family of Ada and Howard Carter, former long-time members of BUCC, would like to announce a memorial service for Nancy Carter Trantum and her husband, Tom. Family and friends will be celebrating their lives in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 7th, at 1:00 pm, followed by a small reception in Pilgrim Hall. Any members who have had a connection with the Carters are welcome to join the family in remembering Nancy and Tom.

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.

Attendance on Sunday, July 17th, 2022 - Adults: 51; Kids: 4; Live Stream: ?; Total: 55
Attendance on Sunday, July 24th, 2022 - Adults: 46; Kids: 4; Live Stream: 6; Total: 56

Readings

First Reading

GENESIS 28:10-17. The Message translation

Jacob left Beersheba and went to Harlan. He came to a certain place and camped the night since the sun had set. He took one of the stones there, set it under his head and lay down to sleep. And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground and it reached all the way to the sky; angels of God were going up and down on it.

Then God was right before him, saying, "I am God, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. I'm giving the ground on which you are sleeping to you and your descendants. Your descendants will be as the dust of the earth; they'll stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will bless themselves in you and your descendants. Yes. I'll stay with you, I'll protect you wherever you go, and I'll bring you back to this very ground. I'll stick with you until I've done everything I promised you."

Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place - truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:13-21 (NRSV)

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

But Jesus said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Readings

Continuing Testament - from *The Universal Christ*, by Richard Rohr

I suspect that Western individualism has done more than any other single factor to anesthetize and even euthanize the power of the Gospel. Salvation, heaven, hell, worthiness, grace, and eternal life all came to be read through the lens of the separate ego, crowding God's transformative power out of history and society. Even Martin Luther's much needed "justification by faith" sent us on a five-hundred-year battle for the private soul of the individual, thus leaving us with almost no care for the earth, society, the outsider, or the full Body of Christ.

The lone individual is far too small and insecure to carry either the "weight of glory" or the "burden of sin" on his or her own. Yet that is the impossible task we gave the individual. It will never work. It creates well-disguised religious egocentricity, because we are forced to take our single and isolated selves far too seriously - both our wonderfulness and our terribleness - which are both their own kind of ego trips, I am afraid.

.....

Unless we find the communal meaning and significance of the suffering of all life and ecosystems on our planet, we will continue to retreat into our individual, small worlds in our quest for personal safety and sanity. Privatized salvation never accumulates into corporate change because it attracts individualists to begin with. Think about that.



Special Thanks:

July 31, 2022

Head Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Ushers: **Volunteer Needed**
 Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
 Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Set Up/Serve: Kathy Ford
 Carole Snider
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**
 Volunteer Needed

August 7, 2022

Head Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Ushers: Allison Colbert
 Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeters: **Volunteer Needed**
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
 Volunteer Needed
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
 Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**
 Volunteer Needed

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