



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*

**"Encouraging
someone
to be
themselves
is the
loudest
way to
love them."**

- Kalen Dion



9th Sunday after Pentecost, August 7th, 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!

9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 7th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music *Spirit of Faith, Come Down* Sacred Harp (Mason), 1840

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"I'm not sure what all this angry, chest-thumping, bullying, "don't tread on me" thing that we've come to call Christianity is, but here's what I do know: It isn't the Gospel. It isn't Good News for the poor and marginalized. It isn't Jesus by any measure.

It's a toxic cocktail of power, control, fear, nationalism, and white privilege - and it looks much more like the bloated opulence of Rome than the early Church that resisted it." - John Pavlovitz

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:** *(Based on Psalm 50)*

Lector: Come, listen to the Eternal One -

People: Who speaks and summons the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Lector: Come, see the Eternal One –

People: Who shines forth in the perfection of beauty.

Lector: Come, bring thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the Eternal One -

People: Who shows the salvation of God.

*** Hymn of Praise:** *Morning Has Broken* Traditional Gaelic melody

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

(Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931; by permission of David Higham Assoc., Ltd.)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]** (*based on Psalm 50 and Luke 12*)

God of salvation, all the earth cries out for the beauty within us that comes from the covenant you made with creation. We, your little flock of young and old, rich and poor, strong and weak, are not afraid, for it is your good pleasure to give us now your kingdom on earth as in heaven. We have come: we are dressed for action and have our lamps lit, we are ready for a new dawn that brings an everlasting day. 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 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading Luke 12:32-40 (The Inclusive Bible)

Continuing Testament by Thich Nhat Hanh



Time with Young Worshippers



Musical Offering:

The Decision

McKay

Jon Thompson, bass

1. *It's your decision who you will live for.
Will it be Jesus or some other god?
Since He decided to die just to save you,
it's your decision, what will you do?*

Refrain: *It's a privilege to live for Jesus;
getting to know Him makes my life worthwhile.
He fills my emptiness with peace and happiness.
I have decided, have you decided?
I have decided to live for Him.*

2. *Oh, I've decided who I will live for.
I chose Jesus as my Lord and King;
Oh, He decided to die just to save me,
I have decided to live for Him. (Refrain)*

(Music and words: V. Michael McKay, © 1992, Shaff Music Publishing Co.)

Sermon:

Faith and the Miracle of Mindfulness

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection: ***We Live by Faith and Not by Sight***

#256

1. We live by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
2. We may not touch Christ's hands and side, nor follow where Christ trod;
But in confessing we rejoice: our Savior and our God!
3. Help then, O Christ, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:
4. That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

(Sung to hymn tune ST. ANNE by William Croft, 1708; words: Henry Alford, 1844;lt.)

The Church at Prayer

Dorie Gabor, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, 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. 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: [UNISON] (based on Hebrews 11)**

Life-giving God, by faith we heed your call to set before you the promise and inheritance of who we are and what we have, which you have first given to us in love. May our humble offering be pleasing in your sight and multiply, as the stars of heaven and as the grains of sand by the seashore, for the greater good of all creation.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup* #788

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you shall not thirst. (twice)

(Music: Jacques Berthier, 1983; words: The Taizé Community, 1983) pass the Word around: loaves abound! (twice)

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

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed* #537**

1. Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true, raise your work and life anew.
2. Hearts around you sink with care; you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light, strengthen them to do the right.
 3. Offer others hope and joy, and God's worship your employ;
Giving thanks in humble zeal, learning all God's will to feel.
4. Come then, law divine, and reign: faith that doubt assails in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear, born in heaven and radiant here.

(Music: The Parish Choir, 1850; words: F. A. R. Russell, 1893; 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.

A E A D Bm E

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

A C7 F#m Bm E7sus4 E7 A

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

† Benediction (Rev. John)

Postlude: *I Know Whom I Have Believed* McGranahan

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

JOSHUA 1:9

Announcements

THANK YOU to Rev. Leroy Ford, for filling in as our pastor last Sunday!

WE APPRECIATE YOU

MEMORIAL SERVICE - The family of Ada and Howard Carter, former long-time members of BUCC, are having a memorial service for Nancy Carter Trantum and her husband Tom, today at 1:00. Family and friends will be celebrating their lives in the sanctuary, 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.



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

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NRSV)

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God. By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise - for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust.

As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore. All of them died in faith. They didn't obtain what had been promised, but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and exiles on the earth, they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country from which they had come, they'd have been able to return to it. But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God isn't ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That's why God has prepared a place for them.

Readings

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:32-40 (The Inclusive Bible)

Jesus said “Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba to give you the kingdom. “Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that don’t wear out - treasures that won’t fail you, in heaven that thieves can’t steal and moths can’t destroy. For wherever your treasure is, that’s where your heart will be.

“Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. Be like the household staff awaiting the owner’s return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you’ll open the door without delay. It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at table and proceed to wait on them. Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them.

“Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! So be on the watch - the Promised One will come when least expected.”

Continuing Testament - from *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, by Thich Nhat Hanh

Sitting in mindfulness, both our bodies and minds can be at peace and totally relaxed. But this state of peace and relaxation differs fundamentally from the lazy, semi-conscious state of mind that one gets while resting and dozing. Sitting in such lazy semi-consciousness, far from being mindfulness, is like sitting in a dark cave. In mindfulness one is not only restful and happy, but alert and awake.

Meditation is not evasion; it is a serene encounter with reality. The person who practices mindfulness should be no less awake than the driver of a car; if the practitioner isn’t awake they will be possessed by dispersion and forgetfulness, just as the drowsy driver is likely to cause a grave accident. Be as awake as a person walking on high stilts - any mis-step could cause the walker to fall. Be like a medieval knight walking weaponless in a forest of swords. Be like a lion, going forward with slow, gentle, and firm steps. Only with this kind of vigilance can you realize total awakening.

- Thich Nhat Hanh., *The Miracle of Mindfulness: An Introduction to the Practice of Meditation* (p. 92-93). Beacon Press. Kindle Edition.

Special Thanks:

August 7, 2022

Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Caroline Chandler
Allison Colbert
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Sherrill Witt
Clean Up: Sherrill Witt
Volunteer Needed

August 14, 2022

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