



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*

**"The mind is not
a vessel
to be filled
but a fire
to be kindled."**

-- Plutarch
(ca. 45–120 CE)



10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 14th, 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!

10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 14th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Jesus, I Come

G. Hocken Knight

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*Love is a burning thing / And it makes a fiery ring
Bound by wild desire / I fell into a ring of fire.” - Johnny Cash*

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Let us sing to the God of Hosts

People: Who provides for us, and whom we worship in this space.

Leader: How awesome is our God,

People: Creator of all that is beautiful in this universe; in whom we live and move and have our being,

Leader: Who anticipates our every need;

People: Who loves us beyond measure.

ALL: O God, our God give heed to our presence. Hear our voices lifted up to you in praise. Amen.

*** Hymn of Praise: *Awake, Awake to Love and Work***

#89

1. Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet with diamond dew; the worlds awake to cry
their praises to the Fount of Life; Christ Jesus passes by.
2. Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set your soul ablaze,
3. To give and give, and give again, as God's own grace is free;
To spend yourself nor count the cost; to serve most gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.
(Music: *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; words: G. A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1921; alt.)

*** Invocation: [UNISON]**

Most Gracious God, we greet you once again in this sacred space. We have come because we need to be reminded of your love and your expectations for our living. We are like the vine you planted, watered and protected. We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives. So we come in prayer and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us. Amen.

*** Pastoral Assurance (Rev. 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 Hebrews 11: 20-23, 27-34, 37-12:2 (The Message Translation)

Gospel Reading Luke 12:49-57 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament by Rumi



Time with Young Worshippers



Musical Offering:

Good Shepherd (Lead On)

Allison Colbert, vocalist

Lead on, lead on.

*Lord, you are our shepherd, we will lack for no good things,
For you take us to the pastures that are green.*

*You lead beside still waters, bring refreshing to our souls,
As you guide us in the paths that make us free. Lead on, lead on.
Though we walk through death's dark valley, we will fear no evil things.
You bring comfort in the presence of our foes.*

*You anoint our heads with oil; goodness and mercy hunt us down
As we dwell in your house forevermore. Lead on, lead on.*

(Words and music: David Francis Ruis, 2013)

Sermon:

A Fire to Ignite!

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection:

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#454

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Refrain: In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. **(Refrain)**
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. **(Refrain)**
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. **(Refrain)**

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

Call to Offering: (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]**

Bless, O God, these our gifts, and bless our desire to participate with you in the building of your realm among us. Accept these gifts as a sign of our love for you and for our neighbors. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure** ***Faith of the Martyrs #381, v. 1-3

1. Faith of the martyrs, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy, when we recall their faith's reward:

**Refrain: Faith of the martyrs, living faith!
We would be true in life and death.**

2. Martyrs confined in prisons bleak were still in heart and conscience free;
and no less blessed will be our fate if we, like them, live faithfully: **(Refrain)**

3. Faith of the martyrs! We will love both friend and foe in peace or strife;
and sow the seeds of hope and faith by strengthening word and fearless life: **(Refrain)**
(Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; adapt. J. G. Walton, 1874; words: F. W. Faber, 1849; 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 for a hymn in G major, 4/4 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 twice more with the same chords. The final line is: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The chords are: A, C7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

† Benediction (Rev. John)

Postlude:

Source and Sovereign
Assisted by Percussion Group

Parry



Announcements

GIFTS FROM ANNA MARY - There are two lovely floral wreaths on the inside doors of the narthex, donated in memory of Anna Mary Fisher by her family. Please take a moment to admire these wreaths.

OUR CONTRIBUTION - There will be an offering for "Strengthen the Church" next Sunday (Aug. 21). This offering reflects a shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ, to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends, through their local congregations. This fund supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation in existing congregations. Thank you.

-from Janet Renovetz

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: 20-23, 27-34, 37-12:2 (The Message Translation)

By an act of faith, Isaac reached into the future as he blessed Jacob and Esau. By an act of faith, Jacob on his deathbed blessed each of Joseph's sons in turn, blessing them with God's blessing, not his own—as he bowed worshipfully upon his staff. By an act of faith, Joseph, while dying, prophesied the exodus of Israel, and made arrangements for his own burial.

By an act of faith, Moses' parents hid him away for three months after his birth. They saw the child's beauty, and they braved the king's decree. By faith, Moses, when grown, refused the privileges of the Egyptian royal house. He chose a hard life with God's people rather than an opportunistic soft life of sin with the oppressors. By an act of faith, Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. The Egyptians tried it and drowned.

By faith, the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days, and the walls fell flat. By an act of faith, Rahab, the Jericho harlot, welcomed the spies and escaped the destruction that came on those who refused to trust God.

I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets.... Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves. They were protected from lions, fires, and sword thrusts, turned disadvantage to advantage, won battles, routed alien armies. Women received their loved ones back from the dead. There were those who, under torture, refused to give in and go free, preferring something better: resurrection. Others braved abuse and whips, and, yes, chains and dungeons. We have stories of those who were stoned, sawed in two, murdered in cold blood; stories of vagrants wandering the earth in animal skins, homeless, friendless, powerless—the world didn't deserve them!—making their way as best they could on the cruel edges of the world.

Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours.

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Readings

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:49-57 (NRSV)

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

Continuing Testament - from Rumi, 1207- 1273 AD

Do not feel lonely, the entire universe is inside you. Stop acting so small. You are the universe in ecstatic motion. Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames.

"Set your life on fire" means to destroy the false, ego-self. To unlearn relationships and your association to them. To unlearn the mind concocted delusion of separateness. To see one not two. To see rightness in everything, even good and bad. To see you are the universe... a subset of consciousness ... of you.

"Seek those who fan your flames" means to find those who will help you on this journey of awakening, who know the path to enlightenment by first hand is to unlearn what is false, what is the false self and to see what is left, is truth.

Truth is all.

Special Thanks:

August 14, 2022

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

August 21, 2022

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

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