



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 three hardest
tasks in the world
are neither
physical feats
or intellectual
achievements,
but moral acts;
to return love
for hate,
to include
the excluded,
and to say,
'I was wrong'."

~ Sydney J. Harris,
Journalist



Disciples of Jesus

13th Sunday after Pentecost, September 4th, 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!

13th Sunday after Pentecost – September 4th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Where'er You Walk

Handel

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

“Walking, I am listening to a deeper way. Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be still, they say. Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands.”

~ Linda Hogan (b. 1947) Native American writer.

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship: *(Based on Psalm 81)***

One: We gather to respond to the call of God's love

All: Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.

One: May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

All: Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.

One: Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

All: May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far, to know the love of this divine presence.

*** Hymn of Praise: *Where Charity and Love Prevail***

#396

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

2. With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours Christ's holy peace.

(Music: Paul Benoit, 1961; words: Latin hymn, "Ubi caritas et amor," 9th century; paraphr. by Omer Westendorf, 1961; alt.)

*** Invocation: [UNISON]**

From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light. What we experience deep in our soul is beyond words. In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered in this place, become more attentive to the Spirit, who loves us at all times and in all places.

God, of love and life, in this time of prayer be more and more in us, that we might live more and more in you. 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 Philemon 1:1-25 (The Message Translation)

Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-33 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament From Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*



Time with Young Worshippers



Sermon:

The Cost of Discipleship

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection: *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

#18

1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.
3. When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

(Music: John Hughes, 1907; words: William Williams, 1745)

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]

Gracious God we thank you for the opportunity to give our time, talent, and treasure, for the building of your Kingdom on earth. Bless every gift, tithe, and offering that's deposited into your Kingdom today; we offer this prayer in your mighty name. Amen

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: ***I Come with Joy***

#349

1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4. And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here, that Christ is risen here.

5. Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.
(Music: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977; words: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994)

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

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love, and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. 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.

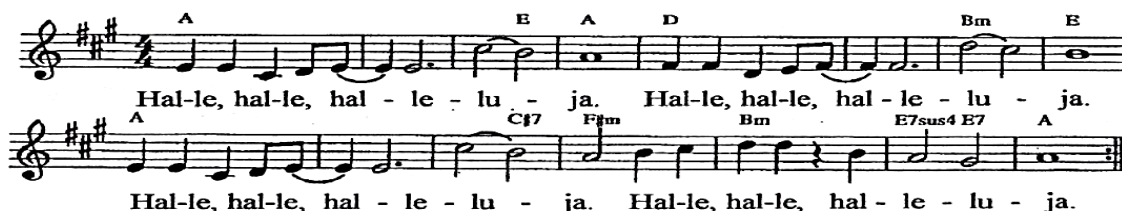
(Music: The Parish Choir, 1850; words: F. A. R. Russell, 1893; alt.)



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.



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. John)

Postlude:

Trumpet Rondo

Mozart

Announcements

SPECIAL THANKS to Pat Frank, for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are from Dorie Gabor's yard, picked and arranged by Janet Renovetz.

MUSIC MINISTRY – Practices will resume on Thursday evenings, starting this week (9/8). The schedule is as follows:

4:30-5pm: **Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble**; 5:30-6pm: **Joyful Noise***;

7-8:15pm: **Adult Choir**

Practices for **Instrumentalists** and the **Percussion Group** will be scheduled on an as-needed basis, and usually occur on Sunday morning before the service.

***Joyful Noise - For those who cannot attend on Thursdays at 5:30, Dave will offer practice during coffee hour.**

Please consider participating in one of these groups this fall. It's fun, relaxing, and spiritually rewarding. Contact Dave D. with any questions.

RALLY DAY – Rally Day is next Sunday, September 11th. To kick off the school year, the Membership/Fellowship Ministry will be running a school supply drive to collect items for *Kids In Need*. The most needed items are – single subject notebooks, pencils (12-pack), washable markers (10-pack broad-tip, classic colors), pencil pouches, scissors (5-inch blunt tip), crayons (24-count, classic colors), folders (laminated or plastic), and glue sticks. Feel free to bring items between August 28th and September 11th – there will be a collection box in Pilgrim Hall. Thank you!

A WORD OF THANKS FROM DAVE DEBICK

“Many thanks for last Sunday's coffee hour celebration of my 20th anniversary at BUCC! Thank you for your many kind words and generous gifts. Thank you for allowing me to serve here at BUCC all these years, for your wonderful support and affirmation. And a huge thank you to everyone who has given of their talent, time, enthusiasm, and dedication to our church's music ministry. Your participation and commitment have been invaluable to the success of our music program. I'm not sure everyone heard my comment last Sunday: these last 20 years have been the happiest of my life. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for making this possible.”

Attendance on Sunday, August 28th, 2022 - Adults: 63; Kids: 7; Live Stream: 4; Total: 74

Readings

First Reading

Philemon 1:1-25 (The Message Translation)

I, Paul, am a prisoner for the sake of Christ, here with my brother Timothy. I write this letter to you, Philemon, my good friend and companion in this work - also to our sister Apphia, to Archippus, a real trooper, and to the church that meets in your house. God's best to you! Christ's blessings on you! Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, "Oh, thank you, God!" I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other believers. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.

In line with all this I have a favor to ask of you. As Christ's ambassador and now a prisoner for him, I wouldn't hesitate to command this if I thought it necessary, but I'd rather make it a personal request. While here in jail, I've fathered a child, so to speak. And here he is, hand-carrying this letter - Onesimus! He was useless to you before; now he's useful to both of us. I'm sending him back to you, but it feels like I'm cutting off my right arm in doing so. I wanted in the worst way to keep him here as your stand-in to help out while I'm in jail for the Message. But I didn't want to do anything behind your back, make you do a good deed that you hadn't willingly agreed to.

Maybe it's all for the best that you lost him for a while. You're getting him back now for good - and no mere slave this time, but a true Christian brother! That's what he was to me - he'll be even more than that to you. So if you still consider me a comrade-in-arms, welcome him back as you would me. If he damaged anything or owes you anything, chalk it up to my account. This is my personal signature - Paul - and I stand behind it. (I don't need to remind you, do I, that you owe your very life to me?) Do me this big favor, friend. You'll be doing it for Christ, but it will also do my heart good.

I know you well enough to know you will. You'll probably go far beyond what I've written. And by the way, get a room ready for me. Because of your prayers, I fully expect to be your guest again. Epaphras, my cellmate in the cause of Christ, says hello. Also my coworkers Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke. All the best to you from the Master, Jesus Christ!¹

¹ Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2005), Phm 1-25.

Readings

Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-33 (NRSV)

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Continuing Testament - From *The Cost of Discipleship* (p. 47), By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a one will gladly go and sell all that they have. It is the pearl of great price for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs us our life, and it is grace because it gives us the only true life. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

Special Thanks:

September 4, 2022

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Cliff Stenzel
Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
Volunteer Needed

September 11, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Dave Bernard
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Allison Colbert &
Gayle Jackson
Snack: ***Volunteer Needed***
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed

Notes: _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.