



BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

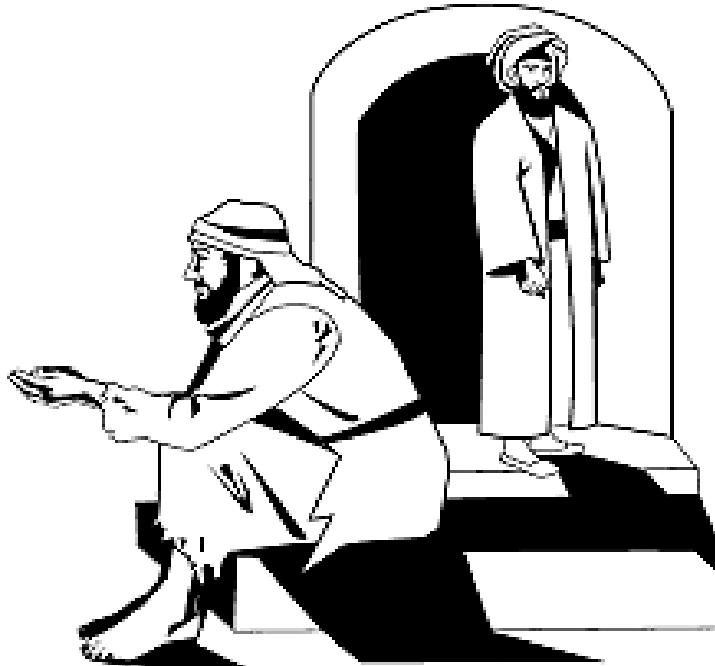
*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

“Being an American means reconciling with a history fraught with violence and injustice.

Ignoring that reality in favor of mythology is not only wrong, but also dangerous.

The dark chapters of American history have just as much to teach us as the glorious ones, and often the two are intertwined.”

~ Ken Burns



16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 25th, 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!

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 25th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling* W. A. Mozart,
arr. H. P. Main

*If you cannot cross the ocean and the distant lands explore,
you can find the needy nearer; you can help them at your door.*

*If you cannot give your thousands, you can serve with willing might,
and whate'er you do for Jesus will be precious in his sight.*

(Words: Daniel March, 1816-1909, alt.)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

—————
“If you want the future to be different from the past, study the past.” ~ Spinoza
—————

Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:** (based on *Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16* and *1 Timothy 6:11-19*)

All: Life that is really life!

Leader: Comes from the One we trust.

All: Life that is really life!

Leader: Comes from the Presence we call to.

All: Life that is really life!

Leader: Comes from the Foundation of goodness and sharing.

All: Life that is really life!

Leader: Comes to us now in this moment.

All: Let us take hold of Life that is really Life!

*** Hymn of Praise: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*** #495, v. 1-2, 4

1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

(Music: John Zundel, 1855; words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]** (based on *1 Timothy*)

Holy One, we have brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it. May we live with this humility and rootedness, especially when we feel trapped, grounded in fear, eager to run away. In the silence, may we be still and center on Your light, where generosity and sharing ebb and flow.

This is Life that is really Life.

* **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 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (FNV)

Gospel Reading Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament By Ronald J. Sider



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem

God of the Poor

Kendrick, arr. Debick

Betsey Wilson, flute

1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair, Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.

Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace, sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills, work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.

Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak, voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Refrain: *God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion, we pray,
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain. / Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear, cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.

Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green, Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams, plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed; make us content with the things that we need. (R)

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame, until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways, seek your salvation and bring you their praise. (R)

(Words and Music by Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music; arr. D. Debick)

Sermon:

Rich Man, Poor Man

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection: ***Through All the World, a Hungry Christ*** #587
(*Sung to hymn tune OLD HUNDREDTH*)

1. Through all the world, a hungry Christ must scavenge far for daily bread,
Must beg the rich for crumb and crust--we are the rich, the daily fed.
2. Beyond the church, a leper Christ takes each untoachable by hand,
Gives hope to those who have no trust, whose stigma is our social brand.
3. In torture cell, a prisoner Christ for justice and for truth must cry
To free the innocent oppressed while we at liberty pass by.
4. We do not know you, beggar Christ, we do not recognize your sores,
We do not see, for we are blind: forgive us, touch us, make us yours.

(Music: Attrib. to L. Bourgeois, c. 1510-c. 1561; words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1992; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Dorie Gabor, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Jeanne Cowden, 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]**

All good gifts around us come from you, O god. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure *For the Healing of the Nations

#576

1. For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

(Music: Henry Purcell, c. 1680: words: Fred Kaan, 1965)



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:

Allegro

G. F. Handel

Be *Strong* and *Courageous*

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,

For the *Lord* your *God*

Will be with you wherever you go.

~ Joshua 1:9

Announcements

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Carol Miller and Pat Rehm, "In memory of Carol's cousin, Craig Talty, who died recently."

THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY invites you to take part in some much-deserved "Self-Care Sessions", with Carol VanDuyne, long time member of BUCC. The sessions will include meditation, mindfulness, gentle movement, and breath work. They will take place on each of the four Wednesdays in October. Join Carol in the Parlor from 11am to noon. Please plan to wear a mask to keep everyone protected. The sessions are free and open to all.

MUSIC MINISTRY – The Thursday practice schedule is as follows:

4:30-5pm: **Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble**

5:30-6pm: **Joyful Noise***

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

As Needed: **Instrumentalists and the Percussion Group**

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

Please contact Dave D. with any questions.

BILL TONEFF VISITS – Our wonderful Bill Toneff, who is 103+ years old, would love to see his friends from BUCC from time to time. We are trying to work out a visitation schedule for Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact **Sherrill Witt** at **216-244-6916** or **sherrill@lollytrolley.com** for further information and scheduling.

"PORTRAITS OF HOMELESSNESS" –This event begins on Sunday, October 2nd, and runs through the 9th. More details are posted on the bulletin board in our lobby – please check there for important details and the schedule of events.

OHIO FAIR TRADE TEACH-IN & EXPO – One of the largest regional fair-trade events in the country is happening at John Carroll University on Saturday, October 8th! If you strive to be a socially/environmentally conscious consumer, you won't want to miss it - for more details, information cards are available in the lobby and the narthex.

ADVENT BOOK – We are moving up the BUCC Advent Book submission date this year to OCTOBER 31. See one of the ushers for the clipboard with the list of scriptures/dates. Meanwhile, please be on the alert for examples of God's wonder, and jot down your thoughts. Then submit your reflections/devotion to **Anne** at **buccoffice23@gmail.com**, as soon as the moment strikes - we look forward to reading your contribution!

Readings

First Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19 (FNV)

It is true that following the ways of the Great Spirit will lead to great possessions, but only when people are at peace with what they have. For we came into this world with nothing and can take nothing with us when we leave it. So, as long as we have food to eat and a roof over our heads, we should be at peace with what we have.

Those who long for more and more possessions stumble into temptation and are trapped by many foolish desires that drag them down and take them to a bad end. For the love of possessions is the root of many evil, thorny branches. Some, who have made possessions their aim in life, have walked away from the good road and have been pierced by thorns that bring them much pain and sorrow.

But you, who follow the Great Spirit, run away from these things and pursue doing what is right, living in a sacred way, trusting, loving, never giving up, and walking softly and in a humble manner. Fight the good fight of trusting Creator. Get a firm hold on the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony. The Great Spirit called you to this life when you said yes and made it known before many people that you had chosen to walk the good road with Creator Sets Free, the Chosen One.

As you stand before the Great Spirit who gives life to all things, and before Creator Sets Free, the Chosen One, who told the truth in a good way when he stood before Spear of the Great Waters (Pilate), I call on you to follow through with this way of life to which he has called you. Keep walking a path that no one can find fault with until the day comes when our Honored Chief, Creator Sets Free the Chosen One, will appear.

That day will be revealed when the time is right, by the Blessed One who alone rules above all others, the Grand Chief Above All Chiefs. The only one over whom death has no power, whose life shines so brightly no one can even come near, and no human eye has ever been able to fully see. To Creator Sets Free belongs all honor and power to the time beyond the end of all days. Aho! May it be so!

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.

(continued on next page)

Readings

Gospel Reading (continued)

The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.'

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house - for I have five brothers - that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.'

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Continuing Testament - *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, by Ronald J. Sider (sixth edition, 2015)

Can overfed, comfortably clothed, and luxuriously housed persons understand poverty? Can we truly feel what it is like to be a nine-year-old boy playing outside a village school he cannot attend because his father is unable to afford the books? (Which, incidentally, would cost less than my wife and I spent on entertainment one evening during the writing of this book.) Can we comprehend what it means for poverty-stricken parents to watch with helpless grief as their baby daughter dies of a common childhood disease because they lack access to elementary health services? Can we grasp the awful truth that eighteen thousand children die every day, most of hunger and preventable diseases?

To help us imagine what poverty means, a prominent economist itemized the "luxuries" we would have to abandon if we were to adopt the lifestyle of our 1.2 billion neighbors who live in desperate poverty trying to survive on \$1.25 per day: We begin by invading the house of our imaginary American family to strip it of its furniture. Everything goes: beds, chairs, tables, television set, lamps. We will leave the family with a few old blankets, a kitchen table, a wooden chair. Along with the bureaus go the clothes.

(continued on next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament *(continued)*

Each member of the family may keep in his "wardrobe" his oldest suit or dress, a shirt or blouse. We will permit a pair of shoes for the head of the family, but none for the wife or children. We move to the kitchen. The appliances have already been taken out, so we turn to the cupboards . . . The box of matches may stay, a small bag of flour, some sugar, and salt. A few moldy potatoes, already in the garbage can, must be hastily rescued, for they will provide much of tonight's meal. We will leave a handful of onions, and a dish of dried beans. All the rest we take away: the meat, the fresh vegetables, the canned goods, the crackers, the candy. Now we have stripped the house: the bathroom has been dismantled, the running water shut off, the electric wires taken out.

Next we take away the house. The family can move to the toolshed. Communications must go next. No more newspapers, magazines, books - not that they are missed, since we must take away our family's literacy as well. Instead, in our shantytown we will allow one radio . . .

Now government services must go. There is a school, but it is three miles away and consists of two classrooms . . . There are, of course, no hospitals or doctors nearby. The nearest clinic is ten miles away and is tended by a midwife. It can be reached by bicycle, provided that the family has a bicycle, which is unlikely . . .

Finally, money. We will allow our family a cash hoard of \$5.00.

It is difficult to obtain precise statistics, but the World Bank estimates that 1.2 billion people live in that kind of grinding poverty - trying to survive on \$1.25 a day. In addition to these 1.2 billion who live in almost absolute poverty, another 1.2 billion are very poor, living on two dollars or less a day. That means almost one-third of the world's people (2.4 billion) struggle to exist on two dollars a day or less.

...We live at a time of swelling affluence combined with persistent poverty. How will we as Christians respond? Will we dare to remember that the God we worship tells us that "whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord" (**Prov. 19:17 NRSV**)? Will Christians have the courage to seek justice for the poor, even if that means disapproval from affluent neighbors?

Where will you and I stand? With the starving or the overfed? With poor Lazarus or the rich man? Most of the rich countries are at least nominally Christian. What an ironic tragedy that an affluent, "Christian" minority in the world continues to hoard its wealth while hundreds of millions of people hover on the edge of starvation!

Special Thanks:

September 25, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evie Novak
 Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Snack: Betsey Wilson
Set Up/Serve: Julie Bernard
 Betsey Wilson
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**
 Volunteer Needed

October 2, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
 Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
 Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Gina Cook
Snack: Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
 Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
 Volunteer Needed