



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*

*"To have faith
is to trust
yourself
to the water.
When you swim
you don't
grab hold
of the water,
because
if you do
you will sink
and drown.
Instead
you relax,
and float."*

~ Alan Watts



World Communion Sunday, October 2nd, 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!

World Communion Sunday - October 2nd, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Speak, O Lord

Getty

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

~ Martin Luther King Jr

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:**

One: We gather together.

All: Let us become God's community.

One: We gather with love.

All: The steadfast love of God never ceases.

One: We bring our curiosity.

All: We gather as one body, one spirit, one planet, one Church.

One: We gather in hope.

All: As we one bread, one cup, all are invited to the table where justice is served.

*** Hymn of Praise:**

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

#397

1. Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.

With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.

2. Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.

Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

3. Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

(Music: Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831; words: Roger Powell, 1948; alt.)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]**

O Creator of Life, Source of Justice - called to follow Jesus, we, your people, are called to be The Body of Christ, to create beauty and justice on this, your beautiful blue and green planet. As we experience your Word, may we be awakened to see how suffering and injustice hurts the entire body, and how beauty and compassion bring life and healing to us all.

Strengthen us.

Draw us in to witness your vision, to the resilience and resistance of the timeless faithful, in the work for justice.

* **Pastoral Assurance & Passing of the Peace**

(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 2 Timothy 2:8–17 (The Message)

Gospel Reading Luke 17:5-10 (The Voice & The Message translations)

Continuing Testament By Marcus Borg



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem

One at the Feast

Betsey Wilson, flute

Courtney

*He ate bread at their tables, He joined them in their feasts,
and many asked the Savior, "Why do You dine with these,
the outcast and the sinner, the dying and the poor?
There are many greater than these You sit before."*

*Refrain: Break the bread and pour the wine, let them drink, let them dine,
none is greater than the least, all are one, one at the feast.*

*So let the poor and the wealthy be seated side by side,
the sick among the healthy, the widow by the bride,
the hungry and the thirsty with those who have been fed
and share the feast together, come share the wine and bread. (Refrain)*

*Gather at the table, come and take your place, there is room for many at the feast of grace.
With the bread remember, with the wine recall Jesus gave His body and His blood for all, for all. (Refrain)*
(Music by Craig Courtney; words by Pamela Martin; © 2006 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

Sermon:

Time for a Faithlift

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection:

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

#393

1. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.
2. Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

(Music: Melody by Johann G. Nägeli, c. 1768-1836; adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845;
words: John Fawcett, 1782; 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]**

Embolden us, O God, as people of your global village, to trust a new creation is possible. May our sharing be a symbol of that trust. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: *As We Gather at Your Table*

#332

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.
(Music: The Sacred Harp, 1844; words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989)

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

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. 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:

The Trees of the Field

Stuart Dauermann

Assisted by Percussion Group

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.*

(Words: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1950-- ; Words and Music © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co.)

Announcements

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.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2022 – Your voices are needed! Practices for this year’s cantata will begin on **Thursday, Oct. 6th**. Rehearsals will be with our regular adult choir from 7-8PM. Please consider joining this year, even if you’ve never done it before - it’s a lot of fun, and a great way to prepare for the holidays! The cantata will be presented at a regular Sunday service in mid-December, and high school students are welcome to participate.

FREE CONCERT – On **Sunday, Oct. 23rd**, at 4:00 PM, BUCC will host a free concert featuring the Cleveland Wind Trio, from the Cleveland Institute of Music. The ensemble will perform works by Mozart, Schubert, and Juon. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow. Plan on joining us for a superb program of chamber music on Oct. 23!

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

2 Timothy 2:8-17 (The Message)

Fix this picture firmly in your mind: Jesus, descended from the line of David, raised from the dead. It's what you've heard from me all along. It's what I'm sitting in jail for right now - but God's Word isn't in jail! That's why I keep going here - so that everyone God calls will get in on the salvation of Christ in all its glory. This is a sure thing:

If we die with him, we'll live with him;
If we stay with him, we'll rule with him;
If we turn our backs on him, he'll turn his back on us;
If we give up on him, he does not give up -
for there's no way he can be false to himself.

Repeat these basic essentials over and over to God's people. Warn them before God against pious nitpicking, which chips away at the faith. It just wears everyone out. Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won't be ashamed of, laying out the truth plain and simple. Stay clear of pious talk that is only talk. Words are not mere words, you know. If they're not backed by a godly life, they accumulate as poison in the soul.

Gospel Reading

Luke 17:5-10 (The Voice & The Message Translations)

Jesus said, "If your brother or sister sins against you, talk to them about it. If they have a change of mind and heart, forgive them. Even if they wrong you seven times in a single day, if they turn back to you each time and say they're sorry and want to change, you must forgive them."

The apostles said, "We don't have enough faith for this! Help our faith to grow!"

So, Jesus pointed to a nearby mulberry tree and said, "You don't need *more* faith. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith like a single, tiny mustard seed, you could say to this huge tree, 'Pull up your roots and replant yourself in the sea,' and it would fly through the sky and do what you said. *So even a little faith can accomplish the seemingly impossible.*

Imagine this scenario: You have a servant - say he's been out plowing a field or taking care of the sheep - and he comes in hot and sweaty from his work. Are you going to say, '*You poor thing!* Come in and sit down right away'? Of course not! Wouldn't you be more likely to say, 'First, cook my supper and set the table, and then after I've eaten, you can get something to eat and drink for yourself'? And after your servant has done everything you told him to do, are you going to make a big deal about it and thank him? I don't think so! Now apply this situation to yourselves. When you've done everything I'm telling you to do, just say, 'We're servants, unworthy of extra consideration or thanks; we're just doing our duty.'"

(Readings continued next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament - *The Heart of Christianity*, by Marcus Borg

On a recent plane trip, the woman sitting next to me said, “I’m much more interested in Buddhism and Sufism than I am in Christianity.” When I asked why, she said, “Because they’re about a way of life, and Christianity is all about believing.” She continued, “I don’t think beliefs matter nearly as much as having a spiritual path and following a way.”

I understood her comment, even as I silently disagreed with part of it. To begin with the disagreement, Christianity is about a way of life, a path, and it has been from its very beginning. At the center of Jesus’ own teaching is the notion of a “way” or a “path,” and the first name of the early Christian movement was “the Way.”

Yet her statement reflects the most common understanding of the word “faith” in modern Western Christianity: that faith means holding a certain set of “beliefs,” “believing” a set of statements to be true, whether cast as biblical teachings or doctrines or dogma...

Prior to the modern period, the most common Christian meanings of the word “faith” were not matters of the head but matters of the heart. In the Bible and the Christian tradition, the “heart” is a metaphor for a deep level of the self, a level below our thinking, feeling, and willing, our intellect, emotions, and volition. The heart is thus deeper than our “head,” deeper than our conscious self and the ideas we have in heads.

Faith concerns this deeper level of the self. Faith is the way of the heart, not the way of the head. The virtual identification of faith with believing a set of statements is thus a serious impoverishment of the word “faith.” The word has several rich meanings that we will explore in this chapter. To see faith as “belief” not only obscures the other meanings, but also distorts the notion of faith itself. Seeing the heart of Christianity requires recovering the rich meanings of faith, a recovery that leads to a relational understanding of faith and to an understanding of Christianity as a “way”- as the way of the heart.



Special Thanks:

October 2, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan

Ushers: Allison Colbert

Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: **Volunteer Needed**

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 & Cliff Stenzel

Clean Up: Sue Stenzel

Volunteer Needed

Participants
on October 9th
will receive a
reminder this
week – our
apologies for
the delay!

notes: