



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*

"Has anyone ever told you that you're just a little preachy? Just a little bit. We like ourselves, don't we. Look at that face. We love ourselves. 'Cuz we think we're just a little bit special. There it is. That's that happy superior face 'cuz we love Jesus more than anybody."

~ *The Church Lady*,
(Dana Carvey, SNL)



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 23rd, 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!

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 23rd, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*
Isao Koizumi (1907-1992)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*“Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and
that God’s Spirit lives in you?” – 1 Corinthians 3:15*

Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:** *(Based on Psalm 65)*

Leader: Praise waits for you, O God, in all your world!

People: You hear our prayers, forgive our sins and call us to dwell with you!

Leader: God of our hope, you are the life of the entire world.

People: Your faithfulness calls forth songs of joy from the ends of the earth.

Leader: You formed the mountains and still the roaring sea. You calm the uproar of the nations. You care for the land, bless it with water, and fill it with grain to feed the people.

People: Let all creation shout and sing for joy.

*** Hymn of Praise:** *All Are Welcome* (see insert)

*** Invocation:** [UNISON]

We give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you and hearing your word. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

***Assurance of God’s Grace**

* 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 4:6-8, 16-18 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading Luke 18:9-14 (The Message)

Continuing Testament by Stephen Covey



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem

Canticle of the Turning Irish melody, arr. Cooney/Debick

1. *My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

2. *Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

3. *From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

4. *Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)*
(Words based on Luke 1:46-55; paraphrase Rory Cooney, b. 1952)

Sermon:

The Flaw in the Floor

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection:***In Christ There Is No East or West***

#395

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

(Music: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836; words: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.; Stanza 3: L. H. Stookey, 1987)

The Church at Prayer

Family and Friends of Lenore Harris, Friends of Bill Toneff, Dorie Gabor, Mac Hopple, Allison Colbert, Phyllis Hassler, Jeanne Cowden, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Dassie Matsuoka, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, 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

Stewardship Moment

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]**

Loving God, we give thanks for the visions and dreams that you share with your people. We offer these gifts in response to your abundant blessings and ask that you use them and the commitment they represent to share your good news with all the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure Now Is the Time Approaching #609**

1. Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,
 when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.
 Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,
 all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.
2. Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,
 like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.
 Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,
 a closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.
3. O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!
 Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.
 O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on
 to pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.
 (Music: George J. Webb, 1837; words: Jane L. Borthwick, 1859; 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.

† Benediction (Rev. John)

Postlude:

***De Colores* (Sing of Colors)**

With Percussion Group

Mexican folk song

*"Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all."*

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 Pat Rehm & Carol Miller, "In loving memory of Howard Meisner and for his family."

DON'T MISS the Cleveland Institute of Music's *Cleveland Wind Trio*, performing TODAY at 4 PM, in the sanctuary. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow.

SELF-CARE SESSIONS with Carol VanDuyne (long time member of BUCC) are happening **every Wednesday in October**. Join Carol **in the Parlor from 11am to noon** - the sessions are free and open to all. Please plan to wear a mask to keep everyone protected.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2022 – Your voices are needed! Rehearsals for this year's cantata are on **Thursday evenings, from 7- 8 pm**. Please join us 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.

ADVENT BOOK – The deadline for submissions to this year's advent book is **OCTOBER 31**. Please see an usher for the signup sheet, then submit your reflections/devotion to **Anne** at buccoffice23@gmail.com. We look forward to reading your contribution!

VOTE FORWARD LETTER WRITING – For people of faith, voting and sharing our ideas on public policy is a way of living out Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor. To that end, OCWM has started a monthly letter/postcard writing project.

The first of these is a non-partisan way to encourage others to vote – and this can be done on your own! Start by going to the website VoteFWD.org, where you will create an account and wait a day or two to be "approved." Then, you can "adopt" groups of 5 or 20 people to receive your letters. Using information provided by VoteFWD.org, you'll add handwritten messages to a printed letter, and personally encourage others to get out and vote. All letters are to be mailed on October 29. Feel free to contact **Ann Kelley** (contact information can be found by going to the church website and logging into Breeze or by contacting the church office) with any questions.

We'll meet at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of each month (at Panera), to write to our legislators - drawing on resources endorsed by the UCC, we'll make our voices heard.

(Continued on next page)

Announcements (continued)

FAMILY FALL FEST MEAL BENEFIT - In partnership with students in the Tri-C Hospitality Management Program, BUCC is planning a fundraiser on **Thursday November 10, 2022 , 5:30 to 8:00 PM**. Menu: Hearty Chicken Paprikash with handmade Spaetzle, Seasoned Braised Cabbage with Carrots & Onions, Festive Fall Salad, Coffee/Tea/Cider, and Warm Apple Crisp with decadent Caramel Sauce. *Vegetarian and Gluten Free Options available.* Dine In: Buffet Style or Take Out. See the Online Order Form at BrecksvilleUCC.org. Or call 440-526-4364 with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY TURKEY DINNER - On Sunday, November 13th, after our 10am Stewardship service where we make our financial pledges for 2023, we will be once again celebrating together the annual Turkey Dinner! This special potluck returns after two long years of the pandemic.

The turkeys will be roasting downstairs in the kitchen, beginning early on that morning. You are requested to bring your most wonderful dish to share. Soon you will be able to sign up at church or online to let us know how many people will be attending and what you will be sharing with us. Maybe you make the best dressing or vegetable casserole. Or maybe your pie is award winning. Mashed potatoes or cranberry salad is more your style? How about rolls and butter? Please bring it with you along with a serving utensil that morning down to Pilgrim Hall. And if you don't bring anything, don't worry - all are welcome!! There will be more than enough to share. Come enjoy the food and fellowship!!

SNOW HERDING – It's that time of year again when the Facilities Ministry is looking for "snow herders" to attack the winter snows. Please sign up through Breeze, beginning with the first Sunday after Thanksgiving (11/27). Thank you for volunteering!

Readings

First Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (NRSV)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the righteous judge will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for Christ's appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But God stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. God will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for the heavenly realm. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14 (The Message)

Jesus told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people - robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.' Meanwhile the tax collector, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, 'God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.'"

Jesus commented, "This tax collector, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."

(Readings continued next page)

Readings

Continuing Testament – From *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*, by Stephen Covey

I remember a mini-paradigm shift I experienced one Sunday morning on a subway in New York. People were sitting quietly - some reading newspapers, some lost in thought, some resting with their eyes closed. It was a calm, peaceful scene. Then suddenly, a man and his children entered the subway car. The children were so loud and rambunctious that instantly the whole climate changed. The man sat down next to me and closed his eyes, apparently oblivious to the situation. The children were yelling back and forth, throwing things, even grabbing people's papers. It was very disturbing. And yet, the man sitting next to me did nothing. It was difficult not to feel irritated. I could not believe that he could be so insensitive as to let his children run wild like that and do nothing about it, taking no responsibility at all. It was easy to see that everyone else on the subway felt irritated, too. So finally, with what I felt was unusual patience and restraint, I turned to him and said, "Sir, your children are really disturbing a lot of people. I wonder if you couldn't control them a little more?"

The man lifted his gaze as if to come to a consciousness of the situation for the first time and said softly, "Oh, you're right. I guess I should do something about it. We just came from the hospital where their mother died about an hour ago. I don't know what to think, and I guess they don't know how to handle it either."

Can you imagine what I felt at that moment? My paradigm shifted. Suddenly I saw things differently, and because I saw differently, I thought differently, I felt differently, I behaved differently. My irritation vanished. I didn't have to worry about controlling my attitude or my behavior; my heart was filled with the man's pain. Feelings of sympathy and compassion flowed freely. "Your wife just died? Oh, I'm so sorry! Can you tell me about it? What can I do to help?" Everything changed in an instant.

Special Thanks:

October 23, 2022

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 Dave Bernard
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Tia Began
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: Arthur Cook
Peace Candle: Dorothy Cook
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Tia Began
Snack: Bill Witt
 Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Bill Witt
 Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Bill Witt
 Volunteer Needed

October 30, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: **Volunteer Needed**
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteer Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**
 Volunteer Needed