



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*

“Weeds are
flowers too,
once you
get to
know them.”

– unknown, but
often attributed to
A. A. Milne



16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 23rd, 2023 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• 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 of Ordinary Time - July 23rd, 2023

Prelude

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

Gabaraín

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the night."*

(Copyright 1979, Cesáreo Gabaraín; published by OCP Publications)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*"Simple and fresh and fair from winter's close emerging,
As if no artifice of fashion, business, politics, had ever been,
Forth from its sunny nook of shelter'd grass - innocent, golden, calm as the dawn,
The spring's first dandelion shows its trustful face."* — Walt Whitman

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:**

One: When Jacob experienced the Sacred, he exclaimed,

All: "Surely God is in this place"

One: We gather now to explore the Sacred mystery

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see God in this community of seekers.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to pray, to grow, and offer ourselves to God.

All: Surely God is in this place! Let us pray!

* Hymn of Praise

All Are Welcome (see insert)

Haugen

* Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]

Holy One, long ago the Dream of Jacob's ladder inspired one man to draw nearer to you, and inspired a community to grow so that they would no longer be separated from you.

As we Gather now, Divine Creator, we open our hearts and minds to experience the Sacred.

Sometimes we feel like wheat and weeds, growing side by side. We strive to ascend to holiness, but in our weakness, we fall back into selfishness and wrongdoing.

And so we gather, O Sacred One for we need your Spirit

To revive us,

To renew us,

To redeem us,

To restore us.

Yes, restore our vision of the Kingdom of God, as we climb Jacob's ladder.
Amen.

Assurance of Grace

* Song of Praise:

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be



peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

Old Testament Reading - Genesis 28:10-19 (NRSV)

New Testament Reading - Matthew 13:24-30 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament by Carl Sagan



Time With Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

Softly and Tenderly

Jan Renovetz, vocalist

Thompson

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

#465

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of Dottie Faust, the family and friends of Rudy Lorenzo, Marilyn Pay, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Russ King, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson, Rose Kaval, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, 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.

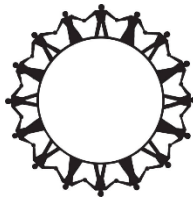
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

*** Invitation to the Offering**

*** 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.**

*** Dedication Prayer: [UNISON]**

**Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given:
our treasure, our time, and our lives.
Bless our gifts and multiply them for your purposes. Amen.**



Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure *In Christ There Is No East or West***

#394

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

Postlude

Pleasure It Is (Summer)

Waldis

"Know that
I am with you
and will keep you
wherever you go . . ."

Genesis 28:15



Announcements:

FOR OUR WEBSITE – If you have a couple of minutes after worship today, please remain in the sanctuary. We are making some short videos of people talking about Brecksville UCC. Don't worry about planning something brilliant to say, just be natural and genuine.

What do you love about Brecksville UCC? What were your first impressions? Why do you keep coming back? With so many worthy causes, why do you choose to contribute to Brecksville UCC? These are some of the questions you can consider as we make the videos.

We will add these videos to our website to give people a feeling of what it is like here, and how they can expect to be welcomed. Just imagine that you are talking to a friend about BUCC. Imagine that they asked you some of the questions above - you wouldn't write a dissertation; you would speak from the heart. That's all we are asking you to do.

“AIR QUALITY” – Too hot? Too cold? Feel free to send Pastor John a text - we care about you and want to make sure you feel comfortable.

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

Welcome
So glad you're here

Attendance on Sunday, July 16th, 2023 – Adults: 65; Kids: 4; Live Stream: 1; Total: 70

Readings

Old Testament Reading Genesis 28:10-19 (NRSV)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the LORD stood beside him and said:

"I am the LORD, the God of Abraham and Sarah your ancestors, and the God of Isaac and Rebecca; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!"

And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Readings

New Testament Reading Matthew 13:24-30 (NRSV)

Jesus put before them another parable:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Continuing Testament - by Carl Sagan

Human history can be viewed as a slowly dawning awareness that we are members of a larger group. Initially our loyalties were to ourselves and our immediate family, next, to bands of wandering hunter-gatherers, then to tribes, small settlements, city-states, nations. We have broadened the circle of those we love. We have now organized what are modestly described as super-powers, which include groups of people from divergent ethnic and cultural backgrounds working in some sense together – surely a humanizing and character-building experience. If we are to survive, our loyalties must be broadened further, to include the whole human community, the entire planet Earth.

Special Thanks:

JULY 23, 2023

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler

Lay Reader: David Ritchey

Greeter: Lori Molesky

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V Team: David Pastor

Flowers: Lorenzo Family

Snack:

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*



JULY 30, 2023

Head Usher: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers: *Volunteers Needed*

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy

Greeter: *Volunteer Needed*

Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V Team: *Volunteer Needed*

Flowers: *Volunteer Needed*

Snack: Jenn Elting
Lois Lorenzo

Set Up/Serve: *Volunteers Needed*

Clean Up: *Volunteers Needed*



NOTES
