



Brecksville

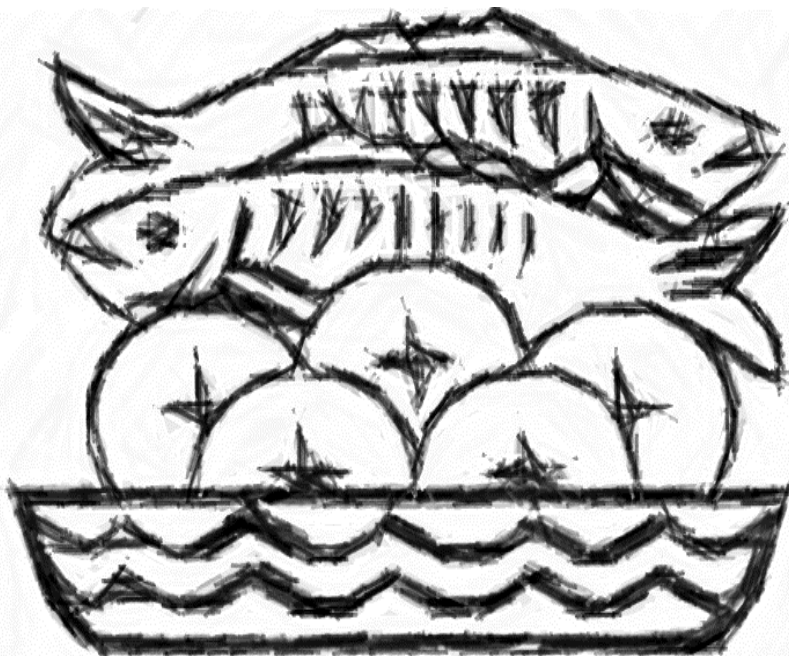
United Church of Christ

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

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

"Chronic remorse,
as all the moralists
are agreed, is a
most undesirable
sentiment.
If you have behaved
badly, repent, make
what amends you
can and address
yourself to the task
of behaving better
next time.
On no account
brood over your
wrongdoing.
Rolling in the muck
is not the best way
of getting clean."

-Aldous Huxley,
Brave New World,
20th century



18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 6th, 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!

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time - August 6th, 2023

Prelude

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Friedell

*"As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Giver, break the bread and bless the cup."
(Words Copyright © 1925, Oxford University Press)*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

(Meditation Music

I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got

Sinéad O'Connor)

*"Calvin: 'There's no problem so awful, that you can't add some guilt to it and
make it even worse.'" – Bill Watterson, Calvin and Hobbes, 20th century*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Prayer:**

One: The day breaks

All: And God cares for us

One: The hour calls

All: And in God we live and move and have our being.

One: We gather in prayer

All: And our experience of the Sacred binds us together.

One: Let us turn to God in prayer

All: We turn to God, who never turns from us.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#347

*** Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]**

O God, you see us. You see our struggles, you see our difficulties. You see our possibilities, you see our promise.

You call us from our wandering in the desert. You call us by name. You satisfy our longings as with loaves and fishes and manna from heaven. For you are a God of love, peace and justice.

And in the end, you always, always have a blessing. For this and so much more, we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ. 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 32:22-31 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

New Testament Reading - Matthew 14:13-21 (The Message translation)

Continuing Testament by Rainer Maria Rilke



Time With Young Worshippers



Musical Offering

Skye Boat Song

Scottish adaptation of Gaelic song composed c. 1782 by William Ross

Betsey Wilson, flute;

assisted by Percussion Group

Sermon

Wrestling with God

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Take My Gifts

#562

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of Dottie Faust, the family and friends of Rudy Lorenzo, Allison Colbert, 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]**

**God of abundance and bounty, source of all good things:
we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have given us.
May these gifts be as loaves and fishes
for those who find themselves in poverty or hunger.**

**May this act of giving bring about change:
change in our lives,
change in the lives we touch,
change in the systems that harm.**

Through Christ, who gave so much to save. Amen.



Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

God Be with You

#81, verses 1 & 2

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

Bourrée

Handel

Announcements:



PLEASE VOTE ON AUGUST 8th!

The Spiritual Life Ministry would like to encourage all BUCC members and friends to vote in the VERY important election coming up. ISSUE 1 is a critical issue for the state of Ohio, with bipartisan opposition to it. At Spiritual Life's request and by consensus, BUCC Council is taking the rare step in endorsing the NO position on Issue 1.

For detailed information on this dangerous issue, please go to Cleveland.com. Information will also be made available during coffee hour following worship for those interested in learning more. Your voice matters!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The CE Ministry is inviting all who are interested in learning more about our children's programs, to an informal meeting on Sunday, August 13th. Supporting our young people is the most important service we can offer! No one will be required to join the ministry (although we'd be thrilled if you're interested), so bring your coffee hour refreshments over to the library and see what we have planned for our kids!

WORSHIP IN THE PARK & CHURCH PICNIC – On Sunday August 27th at 10am, we will return to our tradition of a "Worship in the Park" service, followed by the annual church picnic! The location will be Sagamore Hills Twp. Park (maps are available). So pack your picnic basket with your favorite side dish-dessert to share, and we will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, table service and lemonade and/or iced tea. We are bringing back the pie baking contest, so find those great recipes and get ready for a possible prize. If you bring a cold dish, we ask that you please pack it in some ice. There are electrical outlets for crockpots.

We need a head count to ensure that we order enough for the grill, and the sign-up sheet will be available after today's service - please see Kathy Smith to add your name to the list!

Attendance on Sunday, July 30th, 2023 – Adults: 58; Kids: 3; Live Stream: 3; Total: 64

Readings

Old Testament Reading – “The Man Who Wrestled with God” Genesis 32:22-31 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Yabbok River. After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, and he was completely alone.

And there, someone¹ wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip², and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled.

Then Jacob’s contender said, “Let me go, for day is breaking.” Jacob answered, “I will not let you go until you bless me.”

“What is your name?” the other asked. “Jacob,” he answered.

The other said, “Your name will no longer be called ‘Jacob,’ or ‘Heel-Grabber,’ but ‘Israel’—‘Overcomer of God’³—because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed.”

¹ Literally, “a mortal.” Tradition has called this mysterious stranger an angel, or God in human form. But the Hebrew in the following passage is almost completely lacking in proper names—each line of dialogue begins, “And he said,” without any indication of who is speaking, a dizzying construction which gives the reader the idea that Jacob and the Other are mirror images of one another—Jacob in effect wrestling with himself, or figuratively wrestling with his twin, Esau, whom he is about to confront. Indeed, in the next chapter Jacob says of Esau, “Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God,” which of course is what he names the site of the encounter in verse 30.

² “Socket”—literally, “hollow”—figuratively means power or essence; “hip,” or “thigh,” euphemistically refers to the genitals, and figuratively means the seat of one’s being; and the word “dislocated” can also mean overpowered or alienated. So in saying that Jacob’s hip was dislocated, the writer is indicating that he was struck at the center of his being, and that he was changed—losing his own power, but gaining God’s.

³ The name may actually mean “God Wrestles” or “God Rules.” “Overcomer of God” is a double entendre: God, in the form of a mysterious being, is overcome, yet Jacob himself becomes God’s overcomer or valiant one. Another translation might be “Dominion-Getter.” This is one of two biblical explanations for the name Israel; the other is “One Who Sees God,” an etymology referred to later in Genesis.

Readings

New Testament Reading - “Jesus Feeds the Multitude” Matthew 14:13-21 (The Message translation)

When Jesus got the news, [that John the Baptist had been beheaded] he slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by himself. But unsuccessfully—someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. When he saw them coming, he was overcome with pity and healed their sick.

Toward evening the disciples approached him. “We’re out in the country and it’s getting late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.”

But Jesus said, “There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.”

“All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish,” they said.

Jesus said, “Bring them here.” Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.



Readings

Continuing Testament – By Rainer Maria Rilke

The Man Watching

I can tell by the way the trees beat, after
so many dull days, on my worried windowpanes
that a storm is coming,
and I hear the far-off fields say things
I can't bear without a friend,
I can't love without a sister.

The storm, the shifter of shapes, drives on
across the woods and across time,
and the world looks as if it had no age:
the landscape, like a line in the psalm book,
is seriousness and weight and eternity.

What we choose to fight is so tiny!
What fights with us is so great.
If only we would let ourselves be dominated
as things do by some immense storm,
we would become strong too, and not need names.

When we win it's with small things,
and the triumph itself makes us small.
What is extraordinary and eternal
does not want to be bent by us.
I mean the Angel who appeared
to the wrestler of the Old Testament:
when the wrestler's sinews
grew long like metal strings,
he felt them under his fingers
like chords of deep music.

Whoever was beaten by this Angel
(who often simply declined the fight)
went away proud and strengthened
and great from that harsh hand,
that kneaded him as if to change his shape.
Winning does not tempt that man.
This is how he grows: by being defeated, decisively,
by constantly greater beings.

Special Thanks:

AUGUST 6, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Heidi Spangler
Volunteers Needed
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed



AUGUST 13, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Rob Grow
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Volunteer Needed

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