



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*



*"Holding a
grudge does
not make you
strong,
it makes you
bitter.
Forgiving
doesn't make
you weak,
it sets you
free."*

- Dave Willis

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 10th, 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 - 1:30pm

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!



September 10th, 2023

Prelude *There's a Spirit of Love in This Place*

Miller

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." -- Booker T. Washington

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Inspired by Psalm 27*)**

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**People: God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble and our hope
and joy on the days of celebration!**

Leader: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

People: O God, be our guide and our light.

Leader: One thing we ask of God:

**People: That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life, and
never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

Leader: Beloved of God, we gather in this sacred place with joy

**People: We enter this sacred time with gratitude, for God is among and
within us!**

*** Hymn of Praise**

Amazing Grace

#547

***INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

Light of the World, into the shadows of our isolation bring light into our lives and our communities. Challenger of our lives, you call us from places of isolation to lead us more deeply into the world you love. With your gentle touch you heal the broken relationships of our lives and you heal the wounded places of the earth. So teach us to welcome you, even in the most difficult aspects of our lives. 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 - *Colossians 3:12-15 (God's Word Translation)*

New Testament Reading - *Matthew 18:15-20 (NRSV)*

Continuing Testament by Rumi

Youth Anthem

Welcome to This House

Cowen

*Welcome to this house, open and affirming.
In God's Son we are all one.
Hand in hand we stand.
Welcome to this house, caring and accepting.
In God's Son we are all one.
Welcome to this house of God.*
(Words and Music: David Cowen, Copyright © 2007)



Anthem

Lord Most High

Harris/Sadler/Grant/Haydn

Erin Tomlinson, flute; Dave Shackle, trumpet

*From the ends of the earth, from the depths of the sea,
from the heights of the heavens your name be praised;
from the hearts of the weak, from the shouts of the strong,
from the lips of all people this song we raise, Lord.*

*Refrain: Throughout the endless ages you will be crowned with praises,
Lord Most High; exalted in every nation, Sov'reign of all creation,
Lord Most High, be magnified, O Lord Most High, be magnified.*

*O worship the Lord, all glorious above,
and gratefully sing God's power and God's love.
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

*O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space!
God's chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm. (Refrain)*

(Lord Most High: Music and Words by Don Harris and Gary Sadler; O Worship the King: Music and Words by Robert Grant and Johann M. Haydn; Choral arrangement: Larry Shackley, ©2003 Hope Publishing Co.)

Sermon

Letting Go of Resentments

by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Prayer of St. Francis

Temple

1. Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury your pardon Lord,
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

3. O Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of your peace,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive.
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

(Words and Music: Sebastian Temple; Copyright © 1967 OCP)

The Church at Prayer

Carol Miller, Allison Colbert, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, 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, 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]**

In your Creation, O God, we stand on the holiest of ground. May these gifts be a blessing to all that you have made. May the church, organizations and people that receive them act as your hands. May needs be seen and met, and may the giving fit the need.

Through Christ, who models infinite giving. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

#393

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.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

* Benediction

Postlude

Bless God, O My Soul

Morris

CHURCH
Potluck
JOIN US FOR FOOD
& FELLOWSHIP

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Colossians 3:12–15 (God's Word Translation)

As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Put up with each other and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. And be thankful.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 18:15-20 (NRSV)

If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector.

Continuing Testament – by Rumi (1207 –1273)

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
there is a field.
I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass,
the world is too full to talk about.
Ideas, language, even the phrase "each other"
doesn't make any sense.

The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.

You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.

People are going back and forth across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.

Announcements:

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Allison Colbert, "Happy 1st anniversary my beloved Gayle! I love you more every day, for always in all ways!"

POTLUCK TODAY! – Today is the official start of our Fall and Winter church season! Please deposit your school supply donations in the boxes provided. And please join us downstairs after today's service, for the Rally Day Potluck Dinner. And if you didn't bring a dish to share, no worries - we still want you to join us, as we always have more than enough for everyone!

COMMUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Gayle Colbert prepares communion for us twice monthly, and for that we are exceedingly grateful. ON OCCASION, however, she needs a Sunday reprieve. We have a back-up helper but could use one or two more. You'd need to follow Gayle one Sunday to learn how she prepares communion, and then just be available on the very rare instance when she can't be with us. Interested/willing? Please touch base with either Anne Melfo or Gayle. Many thanks from the Spiritual Life Ministry!

PRIVACY MATTERS – Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind:

- Children who come up for the "Time with Young Worshippers" will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online.
- If you sit in the first few pews, you will be visible online. If you prefer to avoid being seen online, avoid those pews. But if you don't mind, please consider migrating to the front pews. When our videos show empty pews, the sanctuary looks vacant even when it is full. So, please populate those first pews to ensure that our online presence accurately depicts the vibrant and growing congregation that we truly are.

Special Thanks:

RALLY DAY **SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

Head Usher: Evelyn Duffy
Ushers: Arthur & Dorothy Cook
Holden & Graham Esser
Lay Readers: Claire Esser
Cammie Rogers-Ward
Greeter: Edison Elting
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Miss Mindy & CE
Anne Melfo
Snack: **POTLUCK**
Set Up/Serve: Ministries
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Head Usher: ***Volunteer Needed***
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Heidi Spangler
Natalie Corrado
Acolyte: Mira Corrado
Peace Candle: Jon Thompson
Lay Reader: Peg Duffy
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Annette Pedersen
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

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