



# Brecksville

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# 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*

*"I'd rather be  
excluded  
for who I  
include,  
than  
included  
for who I  
exclude."*

— Rev. Eston  
Williams

## The Parable of the Wedding Banquet



**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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# 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time - October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Prelude

*Children of God*

Scott-Gatty

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

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*"Do the best you can until you know better.  
Then, when you know better, do better."* -- Maya Angelou

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## ***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**

***God Is Truly with Us***

#68

**\*INVOCATION:** [UNISON]

Eternal One, God of Love, 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 Grace**

**\*Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

Glory, glory, glory!  
Glory to God in the highest, (twice)  
And on earth be peace to all people,  
for God loves us all. (twice)

***Readings***

**(See back of bulletin for complete readings)**

**First Reading - Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)**

**Second Reading - Matthew 22:1-14 (NRSV)**

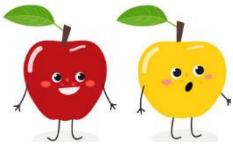
**Continuing Testament by Rabbi Sheila Weinberg**

**Youth Anthem**

***What Can I Do? / There Is Peace***

*What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*  
(Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy, © 2005)

*There is peace, there is hope, and it's not so far away. (twice)  
Focus your light within us. Focus your peace through us.  
Focus your love -- Shine, shine, shine, shine, shine.*  
(Words and Music: Maureen Jenci Shelti and Jill Hendrix, © 2008)



**Time with Young Worshippers**



**Anthem**

***Hold Fast to What Is Good***

Purifoy

*Refrain: Hold fast to what is good, hold fast to what is true.  
Come and laugh with those who laugh, also weep with those who weep.  
So far as it may depend on you, live peaceably now with all.  
Let love be ever true, hold fast to what is good.*

*Bless even those who persecute you, render no evil for evil.  
Take thought for what is noble in the sight of all who pass your way.  
if your enemy is hungry, give him food and relieve his thirst.  
Be aglow in the Spirit, serve the Lord. (Refrain)*  
(Words and Music: John Purifoy; Copyright © 2006 Choristers Guild)

**Sermon** by Rob Grow

**Hymn of Reflection**

***O Savior, Let Me Walk with You***

**#503**

### ***The Church at Prayer***

Pastor John, 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, Bee 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.**

**Stewardship Sharing** by Bridget Sproul

### ***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]**

Gracious God, receive the gift of our lives and this offering of our service to carry your love from this place to a world in need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure**

***God Be with You***

**#81, v. 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**

**Prelude**

***Beams of Heaven as I Go***

**Tindley**

## Readings

### First Reading

#### **Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to Abba God through him.

### Second Reading

#### **Matthew 22:1-14 (NRSV) - *The Parable of the Wedding Banquet***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The reign of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'

"But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

## Readings

### Second Reading (continued)

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

For many are called, but few are chosen."

### Continuing Testament – By Rabbi Sheila Weinberg – Jewish Community of Amherst. Amherst, MA

Two peoples, one land,  
Three faiths, one root,  
One earth, one mother,  
One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny,  
One broken heart,  
One God.

We pray to You:  
Grant us a vision of unity.  
May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.  
May you, Life of All the Worlds,  
Source of All Amazing Differences  
Help us to see clearly.  
Guide us gently and firmly toward each other,  
Toward peace. Amen.



# Announcements:

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are dedicated by Mindy Harris, "In loving memory of Bill & Lenore Harris, who were members for 40+ years and loved this church and the people."

**SEASONAL CHOIR** - It's not too late to join this year's Christmas cantata seasonal choir! All that you need to have is a love for singing Christmas music and availability on Thursday evenings from 7:00-7:45 PM. This year's cantata is called *Sing Christmas*, and it will be performed on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, during the service. It includes a variety of contemporary and traditional music. If you enjoy singing in a group setting but don't have time to commit to regular choir, please consider joining seasonal choir - it's a great way to prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons, and it's a lot of fun! Listening tracks are provided to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome to participate. Contact Dave D with any questions.

**RETREAT** - Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Fall Mini-Retreat has been postponed. Please join us in the Spring of 2024 for a Lenten Retreat. Watch this space for more information!

**FREE CONCERT** - On Sunday **October 29<sup>th</sup>** at **4:00 PM**, BUCC will host a free concert featuring The Western Campus Chorale of Tri-C. Also performing will be the Tri-C Community Band. The ensembles will be playing a variety of light classical and popular music. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Make sure to reserve October 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 on your calendars, so you can enjoy this free musical event with us!

**ALL SOULS SERVICE** – The All Souls service is a loving and reverent remembrance of loved ones who passed away this year (between last November and today). Please submit the names of your departed loved ones and friends to the office email at: **buccoffice23@gmail.com** by November 1st. This year's service will take place on Sunday, November 5th.

## **Memorial Mug Tree**

Following the service during our coffee hour in Pilgrim Hall, we will dedicate our new Memorial Mug Tree. The mugs (or another symbol), displayed in our community gathering space, will be a lasting memory of folks from our church family who have gone before us. If you have your loved ones BUCC mug, please bring it that day. A few spirited mugs are still congregating in the vicinity and will be lovingly placed on all Souls Day.

A heartfelt Thank You to Leroy Ford, the designer and builder of our new memorial, and Sue Maier for initiating this project.

*(continued on next page)*

# Announcements:

## **ALL SOULS SERVICE** *(continued)*

### **We Remember Table**

Pictures are a lovely way to remember family and friends who have passed into the next life, recently or long ago. A dedicated table space will be available in Pilgrim Hall after our All Souls Day Sunday Service (11/5), for you to share a picture of someone who was dear to you. Please bring your loved one downstairs to the WE REMEMBER TABLE before church. You may write a short dedication at that time or bring one with the picture.

**BUCC NURSERY** – If you love little children and want to share some of your time with our infants and toddlers, please consider signing up on Breeze to be a Nursery helper on Sundays during the church service. Our own Amelia Elting has volunteered to be our Nursery Attendant, and although very capable, she might require a helping hand on occasion. We are looking for several volunteers to check in with her prior to the start of the service, to see if she needs help.

If you are thinking about utilizing the nursery on Sunday, please let Amelia know, prior to the start of service. We ask parents to please fill out an information form, which can be found in the Nursery in a binder near the door. Thank you. - Evie Novak, SCR

**THE UCC IS MAKING HISTORY!\*** – Join us for the historic installation of the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, the first woman to serve as the General Minister and President (GMP) of the United Church of Christ!

When: Friday, October 20, 5:00 – 6:30 PM at Lakewood Congregational Church in Lakewood, Ohio. For information about registration for the in-person service, or the link to attending virtually, go to this link: <https://www.ucc.org/gmp-installation/>. Lakewood Congregational Church's sanctuary is fully accessible! More information about accessibility, parking, etc. will be emailed to registrants.

***\*See the bulletin board in the Lobby.***

# Special Thanks:

## OCTOBER 15, 2023

**Head Usher:** Jill Zedan  
**Ushers:** Evie Novak  
***Volunteer Needed***  
**Lay Reader:** Kate Matthews  
**Greeter:** Carol Miller  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**A/V Team:** David Pastor  
**Flowers:** Carole Snider  
**Snack:** Lois Lorenzo  
Connie Schultz  
**Set Up/Serve:** Carol Snider  
Betsey Wilson  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***



## OCTOBER 22, 2023

**Head Usher:** Diane Gressley  
**Ushers:** Evelyn Seager  
Sue Stenzel  
**Lay Reader:** Jon Thompson  
**Greeter:** Lori Molesky  
**Counters:** Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
**Acolyte:** Cammie Rogers Ward  
**A/V Team:** Fred Pedersen  
**Flowers:** Janet Renovetz  
**Snack:** Armand Eusanio  
Lois Lorenzo  
**Set Up/Serve:** Carole Snider  
**Clean Up:** ***Volunteers Needed***

QR code for  
Questionnaire →



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