



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***

"Can a mother
forget the infant at
her breast,
walk away from
the baby
she bore?
But even if
mothers forget,
I'd never
forget you –
never."

- Isaiah 49:15

Hildegard
of Bingen's
artistic
depiction of
the Trinity
(12th Century)



Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12th, 2024 • 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!



Ascension Sunday May 12th, 2024



Prelude

Lucerna Laudoniae (Lamp of Laudonia)

Evans

*"For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise."*

(Music: David Evans, 1874-1948; words: F. S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"The ferocious motherly love of God never ceases." - Mike Frost

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: On the night before he died Jesus prayed for his disciples and for "those who would come after them."

All: Jesus prayed "that they may all be one."

One: God is our mother

All: Whose love is everlasting, nurturing, and creating still.

One: The Risen One at work in us, offering us eternal life:

All: Opening our minds to God's justice, our hearts to God's mercy, our world to the place where God is all in all.

One: Eternal life starting here, starting now:

All: let us celebrate!

Faith of our mothers, living still,
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air:

**REFRAIN: Faith of our mothers, living faith!
We will be true to thee always.**

Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler peace: **(REFRAIN)**

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
Is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds: **(REFRAIN)**

(Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; words: Arthur B. Patten, 1920)

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

Gracious and loving God, remind us of your prayer, your dream for us that we become one to share each other's hopes and burdens, to create a world where resources are shared so that all have enough for full human life.

Transform our separate lives into one life shared in you; take away the armor that shields us from the pain of others and fill us with joy that radiates from the core of our being. In the joyful spirit of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

*** Pastor's Prayer**

*** 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.

WELCOME **NEW MEMBERS**

Kathy Fagan & Linda Gagnon
Bryan Chaikin & Maggie McNamara
Robert Petrus

Invitation

Statement from Scripture

Questions of New Members

* Congregational Welcome

Pastor: I invite all in the congregation to stand as you are able. Let us, the members of Brecksville United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you joyfully as members of this congregational family. We will walk this path with you. We promise you our friendship, our support and our prayers. Empowered by the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's grace and give witness to Jesus Christ by our faith, our hope and our love.

* Closing Prayer

* Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor and Representatives: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Brecksville United Church of Christ, we welcome you as members of this church.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - Psalm 131 (Psalms Anew translation)

Gospel Reading - John 17:20-23

Continuing Testament - By Hildegard of Bingen



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

One Family

Spring Harvest

Craig Ramsey, drums

*1. We are a flame that is burning bright, lifting hope in the darkest times.
From every land, every tribe and tongue, a world of hearts that are joined as one,
With arms open wide, we are family.*

*Refrain: So ring the bells, fling wide the doors, young and old and rich and poor,
All around the world, one family.*

*From our neighbor to the farthest land, we carry light and the truth in hand,
All around the world, one family.*

*2. We are alive in the kingdom come, a voice of change for the unheard ones.
Awaken joy to defeat despair, the grace of God is the hope we share.
With arms open wide, we are family. (Refrain)*

*God is love, and love is endless. God is love, and love's relentless.
God is love, and love wins over all. (twice)*

*God is love, and love's an ocean. God is love, and love has spoken.
God is love, and love wins over all. (Refrain)*

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

#351

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of David Ritchey, of Ann Kelly and of Joanne Frable, Leroy Ford, Phyllis Hassler, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Russ King, Jon Thompson, Gayle & Allison Colbert, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, "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**

*** Doxology: [UNISON] Our Lord has risen as he said,
And life has triumphed over death.
We celebrate these holy days
With gifts of gratitude and grace. Amen.**

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER: [UNISON]**

Bountiful God, may these gifts nourish your beloved children with wisdom, compassion, and life so that your Beloved Community is deepened and recognized. May your will be done and your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

Going with God’s Love

*** Hymn of Departure *Now Thank We All Our God***

#419

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 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' repeated twice. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

* Benediction

Postlude

God Beyond Glory

Silesian melody

*"God beyond glory, gracious and holy, in your own image each life is made.
Love is the treasure, love is the measure of all your Son on earth displayed."*

(Words: John L. Bell, b. 1949 and Graham Maule, b. 1958, © Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community)



Readings

First Reading

Psalm 131 (Psalms Anew translation)

Yahweh, my heart has no false pride; my eyes do not look too high. I am not concerned with great affairs or things far beyond me.

It is enough for me to keep my soul still and quiet like a child in its mother's arms, as content as a child that has been weaned. Israel, hope in Yahweh, now and for always!

Gospel Reading – *Jesus's Prayer for Unity*

John 17:20-23

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, God, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Continuing Testament – By Hildegard of Bingen (Medieval abbess, physician, philosopher, naturalist, composer, poet, author and linguist), on describing a vision she had about the Divine Feminine

"I heard a voice speaking to me: 'The young woman whom you see is Love. She has her tent in eternity... It was love which was the source of this creation in the beginning when God said: 'Let it be!' And it was. As though in the blinking of an eye, the whole creation was formed through love. The young woman is radiant in such a clear, lightning-like brilliance of countenance that you can't fully look at her... She holds the sun and moon in her right hand and embraces them tenderly... The whole of creation calls this maiden 'Lady.' For it was from her that all of creation proceeded, since Love was the first. She made everything... Love was in eternity and brought forth, in the beginning of all holiness, all creatures without any admixture of evil. Adam and Eve, as well were produced by love from the pure nature of the Earth.'" – Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Announcements:

At the beginning of the Sunday service, you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep this brief by avoiding details - share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

EDNA HOUSE – Diane Gressley of our Social Justice Ministry received this note from Jenn Lasky, who spoke at church last week:

“Dear Diane,

Thank you so very much for having us speak to the church members about The Edna House for Women. As I sat on the altar and watched the congregation listen so intently to Murphy – I was so moved by their care and compassion. Thank you for inviting us to the reception immediately following because we had so many one-on-one meaningful conversations. Many people were interested, and I invited them all to our tours because if they like our mission now, they will love it even more in person.

Please note, the tours start promptly at 9 am and last one hour. Everyone must be able to do 3 flights of stairs – what’s the tour without seeing how the women start in the attic?!?!?

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak. I am aware of the many nonprofits in the area that you could choose – thank you for letting us be the recipient of not only financial giving but for the prayers for our residents and staff too!

*With Gratitude,
Jenn*

*Jenn Lasky, Executive Director – The Edna House
216-281-7751”*

In celebration of Mother’s Day, we are taking a special collection for The Edna House today. In case you weren't here last Sunday, The Edna House is a structured sober living facility designed to provide food, shelter, and sobriety services to women in need, regardless of their ability to pay. The Edna House provides women with the tools they need for a lifetime of freedom from the disease of alcoholism and chemical dependency.

Announcements: *(continued)*

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH (STC) – A special offering will happen on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, for STC. This collection reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ, to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

SAVE THE DATE! – Next Sunday, May 19th, at 4:00 PM, we are hosting a free concert here in the sanctuary, featuring the **Cleveland State University Percussion Ensemble**. The group is directed by Luke Rinderknecht, and the program will include works by Becker, Cage, Green, Keown, Marceau, and Mellits. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program.

COMMUNION BREAD – If you're interested in baking/providing bread for one of our communion Sundays, please put your name on the sign-up sheet located in the narthex. The bread needs to be at the church no later than 9:15 on Sunday morning. Call Pastor John if you have any questions.

TO DONATE ELECTRONICALLY – If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code.

Open the camera on your smartphone, just like you would if you were taking a picture. Point your phone at this image to open a website where you can make an electronic donation. **Thank you!**



Today's sanctuary artwork is "Wild Hyacinth", a photograph taken by Pastor John in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Attendance on Sunday, May 5, 2024 – Adults: 83; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 5; Total: 96

Special Thanks

MAY 12, 2024

Head Usher:	Diane Gressley
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Robert Petrus
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King
Counters:	Marge Culver <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snack:	Lois Lorenzo <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>

Thank
You



MAY 19, 2024

Head Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers:	Annette Pedersen <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Lay Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Flowers:	Annette & Fred Pedersen
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Annette Pedersen <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>