



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*

"Filled with the
Spirit...
On fire...
Gathered...
Bewildered...
Amazed...
Astonished..."

- from Acts of the
Apostles, 2:1-13



Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, 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!

Pentecost Sunday - May 19th, 2024

Prelude

Spirit of Love

Gibson

"Come, work with us, and weave us into one."

(Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020; © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.)

Welcome & Announcements

Meditation Music

Holy Spirit, Come to Us

Berthier (Taizé Community)



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Reader: People of the living God. On this day of Pentecost, rise up in shouts of song. Though we are scattered at this time, the Spirit poured out on Pentecost joins us as one.

ALL: The Spirit of God is moving among us, offering healing, power, and wholeness.

Reader: Let us open our hearts and minds to receive the Holy Spirit, who speaks with our spirit to tell us that we are all Children of God.

ALL: On that day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God gave those fearful disciples a new voice. May that same Spirit give us a new voice, to speak boldly in new words and new ways.

Reader: God's Spirit is present, is here, and is for all people and for all time.

God's Spirit spreads among all who would share it, bringing with it new dreams, mighty visions, amazing actions.

ALL: The Spirit brings healing and wholeness, offers peace and hope, grants renewal and strength. So let us receive the Spirit. Let us open our hearts and receive the One Jesus promised - the Advocate, the Comforter, the Consoler, the Helper. Let us receive the Holy Spirit, and may our hearts be set on fire. May we let God's Spirit enter us, change us, fill us, and use us.

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

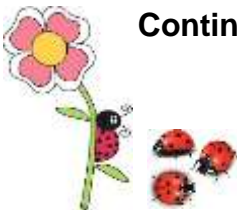
O God of life and growth, revive and quicken our spirits. Renew this gathering of believers by breathing Your Spirit upon us in this hour of prayer. Free us, that we may recognize you and dream new dreams. Today, may Your Spirit of excitement, and power of presence flow through each life, young and aged, who have gathered at this time in this place. Breathe upon us, O Holy One. Spirit of peace, descend on us like a dove. Spirit of Fire rest upon each one of us. Spirit of Wisdom, of Life – Come Holy Spirit.

*** Pastor's Prayer***** Song of Praise:*****Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading – Acts of the Apostles 2:1-18 (NRSV)**Gospel Reading - John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15****Continuing Testament - By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson***Time with Young Worshipers*

Anthem

***Send Us Your Spirit* Haas**

Betsey Wilson, flute; Dave Shackle, trumpet

Refrain: Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth. (twice)

*1. Come to us, Spirit of God, breathe in us now, we sing together.
Spirit of hope and of light, fill our lives. Come to us, Spirit of God! (Refrain)*

*2. Fill us with the fire of your love, burn in us now, bring us together.
Come to us, dwell in us, change our lives, O Lord. Come to us, Spirit of God! (Refrain)*

*3. Send us the wings of new birth, fill all the earth with the love that you taught us.
Let all creation now be shaken with love. Come to us, Spirit of God! (Refrain)*

(Words and Music: David Haas, © 1981, 1982 David R. Haas; published by Cooperative Ministries,
distributed by OCP Publications)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

#292

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, Dassy Matsuka, 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**

Offertory Meditation

Spirit of the Living God

Iverson

Betsey Wilson, flute; Armand Eusano, clarinet;
David Pastor and Dave Shackle, guitar

"Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me."

(Words and Music: Daniel Iverson, 1926)

*** Doxology: [UNISON]**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER: [UNISON]**

We delight in your Creation, Loving God. We rejoice in your hopes, visions and dreams. In a spirit of thanksgiving, we ask that you give us the courage To strengthen your Church in the world. Amen.

Communion

Communion Music

Spirit of Truth and Grace

Vaughan Williams

*"Spirit of truth and grace, come to us in this place
as now in Jesus' name God's people gather.*

*Open our eyes to see truths that will ever be,
and in communion draw us close together."*

(Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; words: Iain D. Cunningham, b. 1954)

Prayer of Thanksgiving: [UNISON]

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

#282

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

* Benediction

Postlude

Come, Holy Ghost

Plainsong melody,
metrical version:
Mechlin, 1848

Readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-18 (NRSV)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Gospel Reading

John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15

Jesus said, "The coming Advocate, whom I will send to you from my Creator, the Spirit of truth who comes from God, will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to the One who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send the Advocate to you. The coming Advocate will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to God and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will guide you into all the truth; for the Spirit will not speak independently, but will speak God’s word, and will declare to you the things that are to come. The Spirit will glorify me, taking what is mine and declaring it to you. All that the God has is mine. For this reason I said that God will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Continuing Testament – “Together” by Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson,
General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ

we walk side by side
people of faith
boldly building new communities
connected by Spirit’s fire
balancing bounty and need
we flourish
committed to the body of Christ
together
we are the gift
the presence of God revealed
reflected in the beauty of all we are
at one across the miles of our differences
we embrace unity in our diversity
the church as one
impacting the world around us

Readings

Continuing Testament (*continued*)

together
we like trees firmly planted
blossom and bloom
courageously changing lives
we nurture each others spirits
needing each other
learning from each other
we are the Holy Spirit poured out
together
we breathe love
visioning the possibilities:
new churches
revitalized worship communities
developing new leaders
providing for our neighbors in crisis
we are evidence of the church in action
together
we are miracles
insightful and creative
Spirit-inspired, generosity-filled
children of love and life
giving from the abundance of who we are
giving to build the whole church
giving to strengthen the Church
together
we emanate the spirit of Pentecost
extending extravagant welcome
with arms outstretched we heal
touching each others lives with grace
tearing down walls and building bridges
erasing borders and boundaries
we are the church
growing stronger
together

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.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH (STC) – A special offering will be taken today 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.

FREE CONCERT TODAY! Please join us at 4:00 pm today, for a free concert in the sanctuary, featuring the **Cleveland State University Percussion Ensemble**. 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!**



Attendance on Sunday, May 12, 2024 – Adults: 77; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 9; Total: 94

Special Thanks

MAY 19, 2024

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
David Pastor
Ushers: Kathy Pastor
Annette Pedersen
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Flowers: Annette & Fred
Pedersen
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: Fred Pedersen
Snack: Annette Pedersen
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**



MAY 26, 2024

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Lori Molesky
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Flowers: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V Team: David Pastor
Snack: Jen Elting
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Jenn Elting
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**