



# 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*

"And those who  
were seen dancing  
were thought to be  
insane by those  
who could not  
hear the music."

-- Friedrich Wilhelm  
Nietzsche,  
19th century



**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](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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# Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Prelude**      **Fire of God, Undying Flame**      Plainsong melody, adapt. Walther  
Assisted by Percussion Group

*"Love of God, your grace profound knows not either age or bound.  
Come, my heart's own guest to be; dwell forevermore in me."  
(Words: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984; Copyright © 1988 Oxford University Press)*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Quiet Meditation

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*"To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak."  
-- Hopi Indian Saying*

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## ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO PRAYER:** *(Based on 2 Samuel and Psalm 24)*

Leader: Come, let us gather in prayer and gratitude.

**People: We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all that dwells within.**

Leader: The God of life and love beckons us to hear the voice of the Divine Spirit resounding through the ages.

**People: Open our ears to hear your Word.**

Leader: We set aside this sacred hour of prayer. We gather in community to seek the grace of God's healing love.

**People: Open our eyes to see your faithfulness and wisdom.**

**All: Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word.**

**God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

**Hymn of Praise**

***From All That Dwells below the Skies***

**#27**

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

**O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promises. We seek you with open hearts, and open minds. Renew your people with your holy grace. May we receive your spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, ever witnessing your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**\* Pastor's Prayer**

**\* Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988



## ***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-15 (NRSV)**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 6:12-29 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By David Thomas Moore**



## ***Time with Young Worshipers***



**Musical Offering**

***Take the Path of the Disciple***

Cliff Cribbs, vocalist

Pratt

*1. Called by God to make the journey in community, with Christ, learning, sharing, reconciling, seeking justice, peace and light.*

*Refrain: Take the path of the disciple, join the journey to new life!*

*Seek the ways that God would lead us, the community of Christ.*

*2. Though the way will not be easy, and we sometimes feel alone, breaking bread, our eyes are opened, and we meet Christ on the road. (Refrain)*

*3. On the path we go together, let the Spirit gently lead.*

*We proclaim Jesus as Savior and find joy, hope, love, and peace! (Refrain)*

(Words and Music: Randall Pratt, b. 1963; © 2001 Community of Christ)

**Sermon**

***“Why Are You Dancing?”***

by Pastor John King

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

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]**      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.

#### **\* BLESSING OVER THE GIFTS: [UNISON]**

Beloved Jesus, you surprise us by naming us your friends. Your dance of faithfulness and life open before us a way of unexpected justice, mutuality and joy. Take these gifts and bless them and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends.

## Going with God's Love

\* Hymn of Departure      *Lord of the Dance* (see insert)

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.

\* Benediction

Postlude

*Sing to the Lord No Threadbare Song*

Fedak

*"Heavens rejoice, and earth be glad! Exult, you roaring seas!  
Let fields and plains resound with joy that echoes from the trees!  
As nature sings, let people join and human discord cease,  
for God shall come to rule the world with justice, love, and peace.*

(Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944; © 1995 Hope Publishing Company)

## Readings

### First Reading

#### 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-15 (NRSV)

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.

David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

### Gospel Reading

#### Mark 6:12-29 (NRSV)

[The disciples] went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him.

***(Continued)***

## Readings

### **Gospel Reading (*continued*)**

But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

**Continuing Testament** – By David Thomas Moore, Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer for Dance With Me USA

Why do people dance? Perhaps dance is the way we express ourselves when words are insufficient. The joy we feel over newfound love, the determination we have in the face of great sorrow or adversity, the passionate fire of our youth and the peacefulness of our softer and more graceful years – maybe they are never expressed more fully than through a waltz, or a tango, or a jive. We all want to be understood, and if we could truly speak the words that describe our feelings, how deep and powerful they would surely be. But alas, those words never seem to come to us just right.

***(Continued on next page)***



## Readings

### Continuing Testament (*continued*)

MAYBE DANCE IS SIMPLY A TRANSLATOR FOR THE HUMAN HEART.

Perhaps dance is the medium through which we show the world who we truly are and who we can be. All of us, if we are honest, believe deep down that we are not ordinary. We know ourselves to be wonderfully unique, with many layers of personality and talent woven in such a way that no one on earth could possibly have our same make-up. We know it. We just do not always know how to prove it.

MAYBE DANCE GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY.

And perhaps dance is how we choose to remember, how we hold on to the past. It is how we relive the fun-filled days of our youth or the time we looked in their eyes and knew they were the one. It is our tribute to the heroes of yesterday who jitterbugged like carefree boys and girls, when tomorrow they would march as men and women to defend freedom's cause. It is the chance to be a princess again, waiting for an out-stretched hand and the call to a romance that is graceful, true, and not as forgotten as the cynics say. When we dance, we can remember them all a little better, feel the butterflies once again, and if only for a moment, return to the purest part of our lives when time was of no matter...for we were dancing.

Why do we dance? Every answer will be different, and that is as it should be. Perhaps the better question is, "Why would we not?"



At the beginning of the Sunday service you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these 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.

# *Announcements:*

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY** will be collecting items for an initiative with Brecksville Broadview Heights School District called the Colony Cupboard. The goal of the program is to provide students in need with basic necessities, such as school supplies, toiletries, and food supplies. A collection area will be set up in the narthex, along with copies of their wish list. Please provide donations for the initial stocking of the cupboard before 8/4/2024.

**A NOTE FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY** - Are you interested in helping the youth and adults of BUCC? Please consider becoming the chairperson of the Christian Education Ministry. No experience necessary! Miss Mindy does a wonderful job with the kids, so what we need is someone to help coordinate activities for adults and report to council. Please talk to Bridget Sproul or Pastor John if interested.

**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.

# Announcements: *(continued)*

**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 Worshipers” 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.
- We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But keep in mind that HIPAA laws do not permit us to disclose personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either:
  - Ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers, OR
  - Keep them anonymous by the way you phrase your prayer.
- 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.

**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. **Thank you!**



Today’s Sanctuary art is by Lori Molesky.

Attendance on Sunday, July 7, 2024 – Adults: 57; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 12; Total: 77

# Special Thanks

## JULY 14, 2024

Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Late Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Bridget Sproul
Flowers:	Maggie McNamara
Counters:	Marge Culver Kathy Pastor David Pastor
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Snack:	Lois Lorenzo <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>

Thank  
You



## JULY 21, 2024

Early Usher:	Lori Molesky
Late Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Counters:	Marjorie Culver <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
A/V Team:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Snack:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>