



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*

"FORGIVENESS"

I was wrong
arrogantly
self-righteously
wrong.
So interested in
being understood,
I didn't
understand.
So anxious to be
right,
I didn't see your
pain.
How is it then
that you're the one
to bring the
flowers?

- From ***Searching
for Shalom***,
by Ann Weems



17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 28th, 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!

Sunday July 28th, 2024

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

Calm to the Waves

Pavlechko

"Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, 'Peace, be still.'"

Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear his voice."

(Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2002; © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

"Clearly the trick in life is to die young as late as possible."

- From ***Credo***, by William Sloan Coffin

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:**

Reader: God of Love, we gather to be nourished by your presence

All: God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.

Reader: We thirst for your presence. We hunger for your Word

All: God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.

Reader: You have invited us to a banquet. You are our Bread of Life!

All: We respond with all our hearts. Give us this day our daily bread.

Hymn of Praise

Holy, Holy, Holy

#277

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

Holy God, there are so many who hunger for bread in our world; so many who thirst for life-giving water; so many to whom you cannot appear except in the form of bread. Nourish us with your real and living presence. That all may respond joyfully to the banquet you have prepared.

*** Pastor's Prayer**

*** 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 - 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Gospel Reading - John 6:1-21

Continuing Testament - By Robin Wall Kimmerer



Time with Young Worshipers



Musical Offering

The Answer

Camp/S. Cash/E. Cash

Allison Colbert, alto

*1. So many questions; the world is reaching.
So many hurting, so many lost.
With all this striving, who can we lean on?
Creation's crying out from the dark.*

*Refrain: I know the answer to every question, the one solution to every fear.
I know my help and where it comes from. Jesus, He is the answer.*

*2. He sees our sadness, He feels our sorrow,
and in our weakness, He is strong.
He holds the weight of all of our failings.
Great is our sin, but greater the cross. (Refrain)*

*3. For every heart that's breaking, for every soul that's shaking,
for every sickness, there's healing in Your hands.
Let every heart awaken to see it's You who saves us.
You are my hope, and the rock on which I stand. (Refrain)*

(Words and Music: Jeremy Camp, Scott Cash and Ed Cash; © 2017 Only in You Publishing, Capitol CMG Amplifier, SESAC; Alletrop & McTyeire Music, BMI)

Sermon

***When God Speaks Simply and Clearly
in Complicated and Confusing Ways***

-- By Rev. Leroy Ford

The Church at Prayer

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]**

God of wonders, who enabled Jesus to feed the multitudes,
bless these gifts and use them to fill empty stomachs and empty hearts.
May our offerings be multiplied to abundantly nourish all the people.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

#32

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

May the God of Hope Go with Us

Argentine folk melody

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call."*

(Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984)

Readings

First Reading

2 Samuel 11:1-15

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?"

Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing."

Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Readings

Gospel Reading **John 6:1-21**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Readings

Special Message from David Pastor

Three years ago today, I received the gift of life. Three years ago today, I was blessed by being the recipient of a new set of lungs. Looking back 8 years ago, when I received the diagnosis of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, it's been quite a journey. Multiple times I have been tested, poked, prodded, scanned, x-rayed, and taught the art of patience. I am truly one of the lucky ones.

According to UNOS, the United Network for Organ Sharing:

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential organ donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated.

This national system matches available organs from the donor, with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, race, income, celebrity and social status are never considered. There is never a cost to the donor's estate or family.

Today in the U.S., over 103,000 people are awaiting a lifesaving transplant. One organ donor can save or improve up to 8 lives. On the average, a person is added to the waiting list every 8 minutes and 16 people die each day waiting for an organ transplant!

Some of the organs and tissues that can be donated are: heart, heart valves, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, intestines, corneas, skin and tendons.

In 2023, 46,630 transplants were performed. Won't you be an organ donor? You can register at:

donatelife.net or registerme.org

Readings

Continuing Testament – From *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Imagine raising children in a culture in which gratitude is the first priority.

Freida Jacques works at the Onondaga Nation School. She is a clan mother, the school-community liaison, and a generous teacher. She explains to me that the Thanksgiving Address embodies the Onondaga relationship with the world.

Each part of Creation is thanked in turn for fulfilling its Creator-given duty to the others. “It reminds you every day that you have enough”, she says. “More than enough. Everything needed to sustain life is already here. When we do this every day, it leads us to an outlook of contentment and respect for all of Creation.”

You can’t listen to the Thanksgiving Address without feeling wealthy. And while expressing gratitude seems innocent enough, it is a revolutionary idea. In a consumer society, contentment is a radical proposition. Recognizing abundance rather than scarcity undermines an economy that thrives by creating unmet desires.

Gratitude cultivates an ethic of fullness, but the economy needs emptiness. The Thanksgiving Address reminds you that you already have everything you need. Gratitude doesn’t send you out shopping to find satisfaction; it comes as a gift rather than a commodity, subverting the foundation of the whole economy. That’s good medicine for land and people alike.



Announcements:

MANY THANKS to Leroy Ford, who is filling in for Pastor John this Sunday. And belated thanks to Dave Shackle, who filled in at the last minute, when Pastor John was sick.

THE COLONY CUPBOARD deadline is August 4th – please leave your donations for BBH students in need, in the designated collection area in the narthex.

TEACHERS NEEDED - We're seeking Sunday school teachers for the Fall! The children will range from 5th – 8th grade, and the more volunteers we have, the easier the schedule will be. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Miss Mindy or call the office at (440) 526-4364.

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.

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!**



Attendance on Sunday, July 21, 2024 – Adults: 58; Kids: 8; Live Stream: 10; Total: 76

Special Thanks

JULY 28, 2024

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Carol Miller
Greeter:	Peg Duffy
Reader:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Snack:	Jenn Elting <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	Jenn Elting <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>

Thank
You



AUGUST 4, 2024

Early Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Late Usher:	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Robert Petrus
Communion Bread:	Lois Lorenzo
Flowers:	Rob Grow
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Jim Duffy
Snack:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>