



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***

"I don't preach a
social gospel;
I preach the
Gospel, period.
The gospel of our
Lord Jesus Christ
is concerned for
the whole person.
When people were
hungry,
Jesus didn't say,
'Now is that
political or social?'
He said,
'I feed you.'
Because the
good news to a
hungry person
is bread."

- Bishop Desmond
Tutu, 20th century



18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 4th, 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 August 4th, 2024

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

I Am the Bread of Life

Talbot

*"All who eat of this heavenly bread, all who drink this cup of the covenant:
you will live forever, for I will raise you up."
(Words based on John 6:35-58)*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them
except in the form of bread."
- Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: Eternal One, You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways.

Many: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.

One: As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures — faith, hope, and love.

Many: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.

One: All life is created and nourished by you! You are the Bread of Life.

Many: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

Hymn of Praise

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

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

**Sustainer of Life and Love, we receive the things you desire to offer us
today and each new day! Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word.
Nourish us in body and spirit.**

*** 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.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - 2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a

Gospel Reading - John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament - By Rev. James Martin



Time with Young Worshipers



Musical Offering

Remembrance

Maher/Redman

Jon Thompson, bass

1. Oh, how could it be that my God would welcome me into this mystery.
Say, "Take this bread, take this wine?" Now the simple made divine for any to receive.
By your mercy we come to your table. By your grace you are making us faithful.

Refrain: Lord, we remember you, and remembrance leads us to worship.
And as we worship you, our worship leads to communion.
We respond to your invitation. We remember you.

2. See his body, see his blood; know that he has overcome every trial we will face.
And none too lost to be saved, none too broken or ashamed. All are welcome in this place.
By your mercy we come to your table. By your grace you are making us faithful. (Refrain)

3. Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory. Lord Jesus, come in glory. (twice)

Jesus, come. By your mercy we come to your table. By your grace you are making us faithful.
(Refrain)

(Words and Music: Matt Maher and Matt Redman; Copyright © 2009 Thankyou Music, admin. by EMI CMG Publishing)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Bread Blessed and Broken
(see insert)

Lynch

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of 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]**

O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to nourish all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists.

Communion

Communion Music

Djembe Meditation

Joyful Beats Drumming

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Maker, We Thank You

Bourgeois



1. Mak - er, we thank you that you plant-ed your ho - ly name with-
2. Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer-cy, save it from e - vil,



- in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it,



Je - sus your Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have
cleansed and con - formed un - to your will. As grain, once



made all for your plea - sure, and giv'n us food for all our days,
scat - tered on the hill - sides, was in this bro - ken bread made one,



giv - ing in Christ the bread e - ter - nal; yours is the
so from all lands your church be gath - ered in - to your



pow'r, yours be the praise.
king - dom by your Son.

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

Postlude

West African Rhythms, including **Moribayassa** (women), **Joyla** (welcoming), **Call of the Women** (freedom), and **Peanut Butter Jelly** (fun!)

Readings

First Reading

2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Eternal, and the Eternal sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.” Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man.

He said to Nathan, “As the Eternal lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Eternal, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Eternal, to do what is evil in God’s sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Eternal: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”

David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Eternal.”

Readings

Gospel Reading

John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life."

Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom God has sent."

So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is God who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Readings

Continuing Testament – From “*A New Serenity Prayer*”, by Rev. James Martin

A New Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.
And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change about myself,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.
It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.
Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking about except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.
Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom
to remember that I'm
not you.
Amen.

Announcements:

WE ARE GRATEFUL today for the inspiring musical presence of Joyful Beats Drumming, directed by Julie Evonna. The group includes members of Brecksville UCC and Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church. The drummers are: Jane, Patty, Kathy, Valerie, Bruce, Dodi, Sarajane, Kathy, Julie, and Carol.

TODAY'S COMMUNION BREAD has been provided by Lois Lorenzo. Many thanks to all who've offered to cover future Sundays, and please remember that the bread needs to be at the church no later than 9:15 on Sunday morning. If you're interested in baking/providing bread, please let Pastor John know.

THE COLONY CUPBOARD deadline is today, 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.

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 28, 2024 – Adults: 53; Kids: 4; Live Stream: 5; Total: 62

Special Thanks

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:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	Jim Duffy
Snack:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	Carol Miller
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>

Thank
You



AUGUST 11, 2024

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Greeter:	Peg Duffy
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Snack:	Maggie McNamara
	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Set Up/Serve:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>