



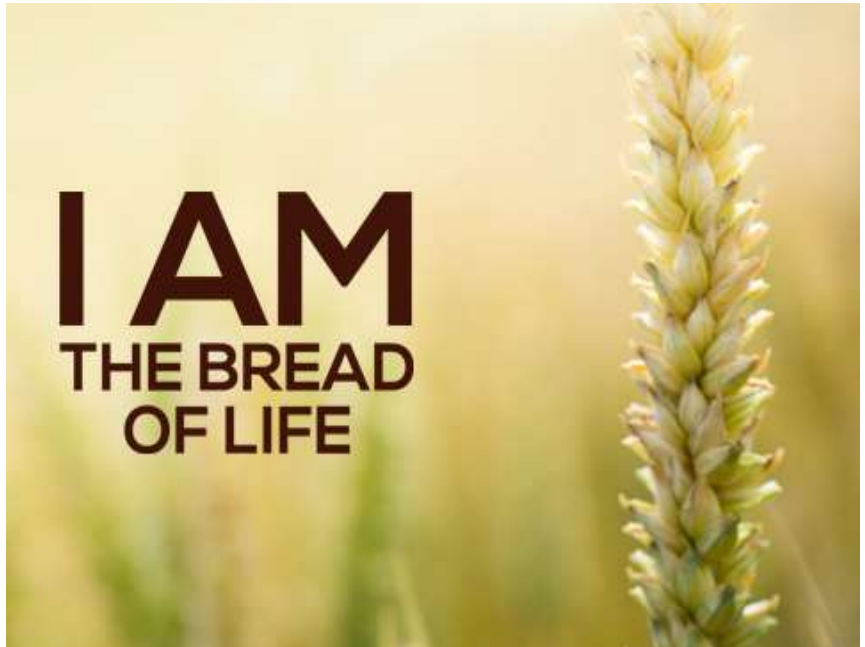
Brecksville United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

*"The desire to
reach for
the stars is
ambitious.
The desire to
reach hearts is
wise."*

- Maya Angelou,
20th century



20th Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 18th, 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

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| Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You! |
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Sunday August 18th, 2024

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

This Is the Hour of Banquet

Williams

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee."*

(Words: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, alt.)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"Grain, once scattered across the hillsides,
was gathered as one in this bread we break.
So may God's people be gathered from the ends of the Earth
and become one body, one people in Christ."*

– ***The Didache***, ~ 80 A.D.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come into this household of God, that we might all listen to God's Word and discern the wisdom that comes only from God.

People: How can we discover such wisdom?

Leader: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom. When we choose to live according to God's will and plan, God will give to each of us a wise and discerning heart.

People: May God fill us with the bread of life. Whoever eats of this bread will be satisfied.

Leader: Jesus is here in our midst as living bread. We want to be nourished and strengthened that we may remain with him. Jesus is so close to us that we can taste his presence.

All: Praise God! Learn of God's compassion and mercy. Let us praise God with all our hearts!

Hymn of Praise

I Come with Joy

#349

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

Loving God, we thank you this day.

In your son, Jesus, we receive the bread of life.

Jesus said, "Whoever eats this bread will never be hungry.

Whoever believes in my will never thirst."

O Jesus, you are our sustenance,

You are our nourishment, our strength.

Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might live each day

according to your will and plan for us and for your world.

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.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading - Ephesians 5:15-20 (The Message)

Gospel Reading - John 6:50-59 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament – By Buzz Aldrin



Time with Young Worshipers



Musical Offering

In the Garden
Jan Renovetz, soloist

Miles

Sermon

Hymn of Reflection *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

#347

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, the family and friends of Phyllis Hassler, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Russ King, Jon Thompson, 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 Jesus, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fish: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to nourish your family throughout the world. As you have told us, those who come to you will never be hungry and those who believe in you will never thirst. Bless these, our offerings, and nourish your people with peace.



Communion

Communion Hymn

We Are People on a Journey
(Congregation sings Refrain only)

#340

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 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#82

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 *I Wish God's Love to Be with You* Anonymous; arr. Swee-Hong Lim

Readings

First Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20 (The Message)

Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how they look in the light of Christ.

Wake up from your sleep, climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light!

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!

Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what Christ wants.

Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of the Spirit. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading

John 6:50-59 (NRSV)

"This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The authorities then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Messiah and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living God sent me, and I live because of God, so whoever is nourished by me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Readings

Continuing Testament – By Buzz Aldrin, published in *Guideposts Magazine*, October 1970

For several weeks prior to the scheduled lift-off of Apollo 11 back in July, 1969, the pastor of our church, Dean Woodruff, and I had been struggling to find the right symbol for the first lunar landing. We wanted to express our feeling that what we were doing in this mission transcended electronics and computers and rockets.

I wondered if it might be possible to take communion on the moon, symbolizing the thought that God was revealed there too, as we reached out into the universe.

I spoke with Dean about the idea and he was enthusiastic.

What happened there, of course, the whole world knows. The Saturn 5 rocket gave us a rough ride at first, but the rest of the trip was smooth. With only seconds' worth of fuel left, we touched down on the Moon at 3:30 p.m.

Now Neil and I were inside Eagle, while Mike circled in lunar orbit, unseen in the black sky above us. In a little while, Neil would give the signal to step down the ladder onto the powdery surface of the moon. Now was the moment for communion.

So I unstowed the elements in their flight packets. I put them and the scripture reading on the little table in front of the abort guidance-system computer. Then I called back to Houston.

"Houston, this is Eagle. This is the LM Pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whoever they may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in their own individual way."

For me this meant taking communion. In the radio blackout I opened the little plastic packages which contained bread and wine.

I read John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."

I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements.

I sensed especially strongly my unity with our church back home, and with the Church everywhere.

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:



NEXT SUNDAY! WORSHIP IN THE PARK & THE CHURCH PICNIC

Please join us next Sunday, August 25th at 10 am, for our annual “Worship in the Park” service, followed by the annual church picnic. We are returning to the Rosemary Snell Pavilion, in Sagamore Hills Township Park, at 11550 Valley View Road, Sagamore Hills, 44067 (maps are available in the narthex). We will be having a breakfast casserole contest, so find those great recipes!

RALLY DAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION - Sunday September 8th is Rally Day at BUCC! This signals the beginning of our Fall and Winter church season. It is our way of both coming together as a congregation and giving back to the community, by providing much-needed school supplies for students at underserved schools. More details to come!

Announcements: (continued)

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, August 11, 2024, was not recorded.
Next week's scripture readings will be Ephesians 6:10-20 & John 6:56-69.

Special Thanks

AUGUST 18, 2024

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Early Usher: | Sherrill Witt |
| Late Usher: | Bill Witt |
| Greeter: | Lori Molesky |
| Reader: | Rose Kaval |
| Communion | Linda Gagnon & |
| Bread: | Kathy Fagan |
| Flowers: | Janet Renovetz |
| Counters: | Marge Culver Janet Renovetz |
| A/V Team: | Tim Wallis |
| Snack: | Dave Bernard Carole Snider |
| Set Up/Serve: | Sue Stenzel Volunteer Needed |
| Clean Up: | Volunteers Needed |

Thank
You



AUGUST 25, 2024

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Early Usher: | Jill Zedan |
| Late Usher: | Volunteer Needed |
| Greeter: | Volunteer Needed |
| Reader: | Sherrill Witt |
| Flowers: | Carole Snider |
| Counters: | Janet Renovetz Volunteer Needed |
| A/V Team: | Jim Duffy |
| Snack: | PICNIC POTLUCK |
| Set Up/Serve: | Jenn Elting Volunteers Needed |
| Clean Up: | Volunteers Needed |