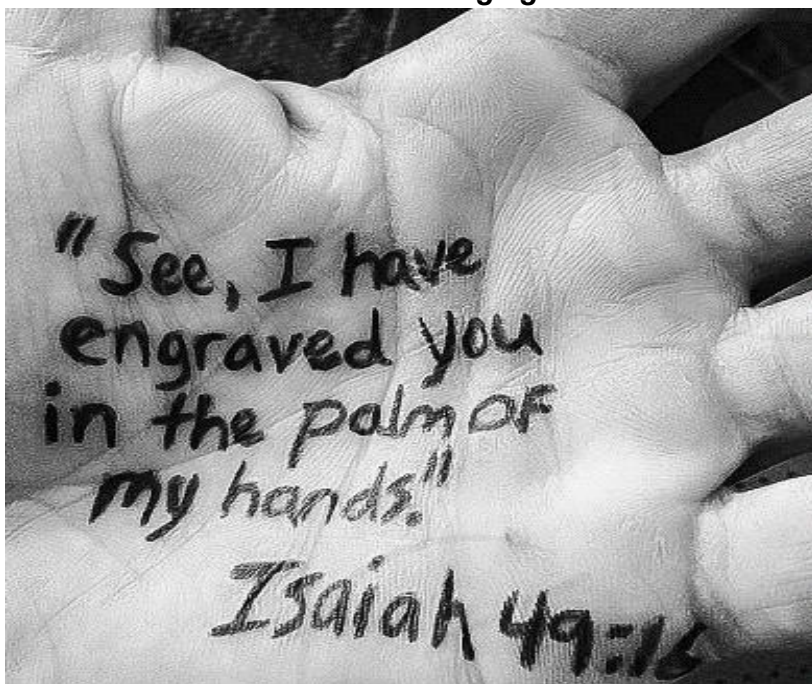




Brecksville United Church of Christ

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

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



*"More smiling,
less worrying.*

*More compassion,
less judgment.*

*More blessed,
less stressed.*

*More love,
less hate."*

— Roy T. Bennett

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, September 1st, 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 September 1st, 2024
22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel Wesley

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"When we choose to love, we choose to move against fear,
against alienation and separation.
The choice to love is a choice to connect, to find ourselves in the other."
- bell hooks*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: We gather as one as a new day begins

All: And God's care for us is abundant.

One: We see God's love revealed in the beauty of Creation

All: And in God we live and move and have our being.

One: We gather in prayer; we hear a word of truth that comes from Sacred Scripture

All: And our experience of the Sacred binds us together.

One: Sisters and brothers, let us turn to God in prayer.

All: We turn to God, who never turns from us.

Hymn of Praise

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

#13

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

Creator God, you have loved us passionately into being. We come today seeking your presence and to know we are your beloved! Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts that we may look into your loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us. Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love as we gather as your Beloved Community.

*** 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 - Isaiah 49:13-16a

Gospel Reading - Mark 7:24-30

Continuing Testament – By by Rabbi Tamar Elad Appelbaum and
Sheikha Ibtisam Mahamid

Musical Offering

Be Now My Vision

Slane

Sermon by Rev. Kate Matthews

Hymn of Reflection

Be Now My Vision

#451

The Church at Prayer

Pastor John King and family, the family and friends of Phyllis Hassler, Gayle & Allison Colbert, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, 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.



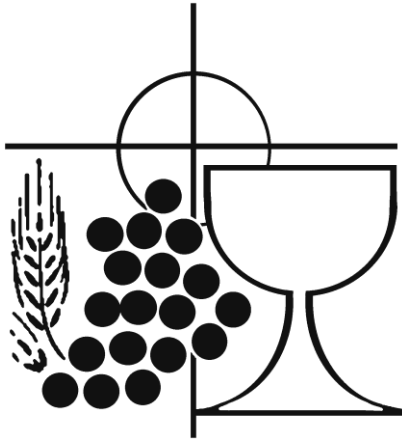
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

*** 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]**

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.



Communion

Communion Music

Adoro Te Devote

Mode V

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON] (From *Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley*)

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you, for you are our God, and God of our fathers and mothers forever. You are the refuge of our life, the shield of our help. From generation to generation may we thank you and count your praises - evening, morning and noon: for our lives which are committed into your hand, for our souls which are entrusted to you, for your miracles which are with us every day, for your wonders and goodness at all times. O Good One, your compassion does not fail. O Merciful One, your lovingkindness never ceases. Forever we hope in you. Amen.

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76

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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Carl Glazer

*God is close
to the brokenhearted
and saves those
who are crushed
in spirit.
- Psalm 34:18*

Readings

First Reading **Isaiah 49:13-16a**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For God comforts the people
and will have compassion on those who are afflicted.

But Zion said, "God has forsaken me;
Adonai has forgotten me."

Can a woman forget her nursing child
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these might forget,
yet I will not forget you.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

Gospel Reading **Mark 7:24-30**

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Readings

Continuing Testament – By Rabbi Tamar Elad Appelbaum and Sheikha Ibtisam Mahamid (Translated by Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie)

“Prayer of the Mothers”

God of Life

Who heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds

May it be your will to hear the prayer of mothers.

For you did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear, anger or hatred in your world

But rather you have created us so we can grant permission to one another
to sanctify Your name of Life, your name of Peace in this world.

For these things I weep, my eye, my eye runs down with water

For our children crying at nights,

For parents holding their children with despair and darkness in their hearts

For a gate that is closing and who will open it while day has not yet dawned.

And with my tears and prayers which I pray

And with the tears of all women who deeply feel the pain of these difficult days I
raise my hands to you:

please, God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we shall not despair,

That we shall see life in each other,

That we shall have mercy for each other,

That we shall have pity on each other,

That we shall hope for each other

And we shall write our lives in the book of Life

For your sake God of Life

Let us choose Life.

For you are Peace, your world is Peace and all that is yours is Peace

And so shall be your will and let us say Amen.

Announcements:

SPECIAL THANKS TO Kate Matthews, who is filling in for Pastor John, and Yu Sakamoto, who is filling in for Dave Debick.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated by Sue Stenzel, "In memory of Betty Einhart and Phyllis Hassler, two of my favorite sweet girls."



NEXT SUNDAY IS RALLY DAY AT BUCC!

September 8th will signal 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.

After our 10:00 AM service, we will have a Potluck Dinner in Pilgrim Hall. So please bring a main dish or dessert to share, AND some school supplies. Suggested supplies are notebook paper, binders, notebooks, rulers, pencils, erasers, crayons, pencil pouches, glue sticks, book bags/backpacks, and anything you think would be appropriate. Great places to find these items are Dollar Tree, Marc's, etc.

Thank you!

NOTE: if you're interested in learning more about volunteering within the church, please see Sherrill Witt or Bridget Sproul.

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 25, 2024 – Adults: 57; Kids: 9; Online: 7; Total: 73

Next week's scripture readings will be **James 2:1-6, 14-17 (NRSV) & Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.**

NOTES:
