



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*



Rally SUNDAY

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, September 8th, 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

*"Go put your
creed into your
deed."*

- Ralph Waldo
Emerson,
19th century

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 September 8th, 2024
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude ***In the Name of Christ We Gather*** 19th century French melody
Assisted by Percussion Group

*"In the name of Christ we gather, in the name of Christ we sing,
as we celebrate the promise of your servant's offering,
here ordained to lead God's people at the Gospel's beckoning."
(Words: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931; © 1992, Hope Publishing Co.)*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

—————
"Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" – James 2:17
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Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:** *(From Isaiah 58)*

Leader: The Prophet Isaiah calls us from ancient days, saying, "Shout out, do not hold back!"

ALL: Hear the voice of the prophet: "Lift up your voice like a trumpet!"

Leader: Isaiah challenges us: "Loose the bonds of injustice; "

ALL: Hear the voice of the prophet: "Let the oppressed go free."

Leader: Isaiah tells us plainly: "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

ALL: then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up.

ALL: Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'I AM HERE.'"

Hymn of Praise

All Are Welcome (see insert)

Haugen

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

Loving God, Heavenly Father, Gentle Mother, you surround your people with love. You call us to see your broken people, to respond to those in need. Open our eyes, that we may care for one another. Open our hearts that we may love one another, according to the words and example of Jesus of Nazareth, our brother, our Light, our Salvation. 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 - James 2:1-6, 14-17 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading - Mark 7:1-8, 21-23 (God's Word Translation)

Continuing Testament

Youth Anthem

You Are Welcome Here

DeMan

*Refrain: You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey.*

*You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ!*

*Verse: Lifting each other; doing what's right;
standing together, whatever may come;
praising our Savior, shining our light, sharing the joy of Christ. (Refrain)*

(Words and Music: Gerard DeMan; Copyright © 2007)



Anthem

Building Up the Kingdom

Holland II

*1. My hands are your hands, to pray and to serve,
to do works of justice, to heal where there is hurt,
to touch the untouchable as God did in the flesh.*

Greater works you said we'll do, if in your name we'll ask.

*Refrain: I wanna be used for the building up of the kingdom of God;
keep my hand on the gospel plow, never gonna stop.*

*I wanna be used for the building up of the kingdom of God.
I'm gonna build it up until I get home.*

*2. My feet are your feet, to go where you please,
clothed in your righteousness with the gospel of peace.*

*I'll run and not get weary, walk and not faint,
strengthened by your Spirit to run this Christian race. (Refrain)*

*3. My tongue is your tongue, to speak your holy word,
spreading the gospel, to bless and not curse,
to sing with the angels, their song from above.*

I dedicate my life to you, an offering of love. (Refrain)

Ain't gonna stop, never, never, never stop.

Ain't gonna stop, never gonna stop, no! (repeated)

Ain't gonna stop, never gonna stop, until I get home.

(Music and words: M. Roger Holland II; Copyright © 2014 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

When I Needed a Neighbor (see insert)

Carter

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.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION: [UNISON]**

Generous God,

**Bless the gifts we have gathered today
that we may use them to protect the afflicted
and bring healing justice to your world. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed*

#537

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.

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 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. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

* Benediction

Postlude

Postlude Cantique

Dubois

CHURCH
Potluck
JOIN US FOR FOOD
& FELLOWSHIP

Readings

First Reading

James 2:1-6, 14-17 (NRSV)

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that God has promised to those who love God? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 21-23 (God's Word Translation)

The Pharisees and some experts in Moses' Teachings who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw that some of his disciples were unclean because they ate without washing their hands. (The Pharisees, like all other Jewish people, don't eat unless they have properly washed their hands. They follow the traditions of their ancestors. When they come from the marketplace, they don't eat unless they have washed first. They have been taught to follow many other rules. For example, they must also wash their cups, jars, brass pots, and dinner tables.)

The Pharisees and the experts in Moses' Teachings asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples follow the traditions taught by our ancestors? They are unclean because they don't wash their hands before they eat!"

Readings

Gospel Reading *(continued)*

Jesus told them, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites in Scripture: ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me is pointless,
because their teachings are rules made by humans.’

“You abandon the commandments of God to follow human traditions.”

Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand? Don’t you know that whatever goes into a person from the outside can’t make us unclean? It doesn’t go into your thoughts but into your stomach and then into a latrine.” (By saying this, Jesus declared all foods acceptable.)

He continued, “It’s what comes out of a person that makes them unclean. Evil thoughts, sexual sins, stealing, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, cheating, shameless lust, envy, cursing, arrogance, and foolishness come from within a person. All these evils come from within and make a person unclean.”

Continuing Testament

This text was posted on the BBH Pride Community Facebook page. BBH Pride is a local community group that supports the LGBTQ+ community. The following text was written by a homeowner whose BBH Pride yard sign had been stolen from her property:

“My heart melted. Tonight, as I’m getting my kid ready for bed, our doorbell rings. It’s late. It’s dark out. I was too busy and scared to answer the door, so I made my husband do it. LOL. He comes back carrying our BBH Pride yard sign. The young man that had stolen it returned it.

He apologized for taking it and promised it would never happen again. His parent came with him. This kid was visibly scared. I know that had to be so scary for him and embarrassing. I’m proud of him for doing this. I’m thankful that his parents are teaching him and holding him accountable. My husband thanked the young man and now it’s over. I don’t know how the parents learned about what their son did, but somehow, he learned that you can’t do stuff like that.”

Announcements:

POTLUCK TODAY! – Today is the official start of our Fall and Winter church season! Please join us downstairs after today's service, for the Rally Day Potluck Dinner. And if you didn't bring a dish to share, come down anyway - we always have more than enough for everyone!

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.
- 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!**



Attendance on Sunday, September 1, 2024 – Adults: 49; Kids: 7; Online: 4; Total: 60
Next week's scripture readings will be **James 3:1-12 (NRSV)** & **Mark 8:27-36 (NRSV)**.



we are thankful for you

September 8, 2024

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|---------------|--|
| Early Usher: | Evelyn Seager Bryan Chaikin Mira Corrado |
| Late Ushers: | Natalie Corrado Holden Esser Peter Kuzmins Carol Miller Eddie Elting |
| Greeters: | Graham Esser Evelyn Kuzmins Robbie Tomlinson Jenn Elting |
| Readers: | Cammie Rogers-Ward Sean Tomlinson |
| Flowers: | Jenn Elting |
| Counters: | Marge Culver Janet Renovetz |
| A/V: | Jim Duffy |
| Snacks: | POTLUCK |
| Set Up/Serve: | Membership/ Fellowship Ministry M/F Ministry |
| Clean Up: | Volunteers Needed |



September 15, 2024

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|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Early Usher: | Volunteer Needed |
| Late Usher: | Volunteer Needed |
| Greeter: | Volunteer Needed |
| Reader: | Rose Kaval |
| Flowers: | Katie MacKeigan King |
| Counters: | Marge Culver Janet Renovetz |
| A/V: | Fred Pedersen |
| Snack: | Volunteers Needed |
| Set Up/Serve: | Volunteers Needed |
| Clean Up: | Volunteers Needed |

NOTES:
