



# 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***

*"Whoever wants  
to be first  
must be  
last of all and  
servant of all."*

– Jesus,  
**Mark 9:37**



Singh, Rajesh. *Foot steps* [Photograph].

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)***

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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# Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

So We Go

DeSimio

*"Come as mistakes turn into wisdom, come as the rash becomes the sage.  
Come as the blooms of youth grow into the feast and seed of our autumn days."*

(Words and Music: Pat DeSimio; © Copyright 2017 Patrick David DeSimio)

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation



*"[One] is not great who is not greatly good."* - William Shakespeare, 15th century



### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

#### **\* CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

**Many: Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

One: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them;  
and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

**Many: Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. And  
whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

One: We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world we must change the way we love and protect all children!

**Many: May we learn to protect and care for all children as siblings in Christ.**

One: May we strive for true greatness in the Kingdom of God.

**Many: May we have a heart full of grace. Let us be those who serve.**

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

Holy Wisdom of God

You call to us from the depths of our hearts,  
where we long for connection with you and with one another.

You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,  
Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.

You call to us from our sacred stories.

Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope,  
and help us see with your eyes

the ways which lead to beloved community  
where Christ Jesus is at the center.

**\* 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 3:13-4:1-3, 7-8a (The Message translation)**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 9:30-37 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By Martin Luther King**

# Time with Young Worshipers



**Anthem**

**So Little Time**

**Grant**

1. *I've got no time for hatin', no time,  
The river rolls, and so does time,  
And lovin' comes easy, once you start,  
But hatin' just takes too much heart,  
The river's rollin', and there's So Little Time, So Little Time.*

2. *I've got no time for name-callin', no time,  
The river rolls, and so does time,  
But of all the names that I could call,  
To call a person "Friend" is best of all,  
The river's rollin', and there's So Little Time, there's So Little Time*

*Refrain: So Little Time for touchin' hands.  
So Little Time for takin' stands.  
Plenty of life still in the cup. So Little Time to drink it up.*

3. *I've got no time for killin', no time,  
The river rolls, and so does time,  
Though someone may be my enemy,  
When I murder them, I murder me.  
The river's rollin', and there's So Little Time, So Little Time.*

*Refrain: So Little Time for makin' friends.  
So Little Time for reachin' ends.  
Plenty of life still in the cup. So Little Time to drink it up.  
Just time to love everyone I can.  
And leave some footprints in the sand.  
Plenty of life still in the cup. So Little Time to drink it up.  
So Little Time.*

*(Words and Music: Micki Grant; © 1972 by Fiddleback Music Publishing Co., Inc.)*

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

## Hymn of Reflection

## ***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***

Temple

1. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
2. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.
3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.
4. Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

(Text: Attrib. to Francis of Assisi, c. 1181-1226; tune and adapt. words: Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997; © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.)

## ***The Church at Prayer***

Pastor John King and family, the family and friends of Dassie Matsuoka, Gayle & Allison Colbert, Cliff Stenzel, George Snider, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, 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]**

**God of love, teach us to use these gifts  
to create compassion, insights, and wisdom  
for people within and outside of these walls.**

## ***Going with God's Love***

**\* Hymn of Departure      *God of Grace and God of Glory***

**#436**

## 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

*Let All the World in Every Corner Sing*

Routley





## Readings

### First Reading

#### James 3:13-4:1-3, 7-8a (The Message translation)

Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts.

Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn't wisdom. It's the furthest thing from wisdom—it's animal cunning, devilish conniving. Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it.

You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way.

So allow God's way to inspire you. Resist the evil one and watch evil collapse. But say a quiet yes to God and experience God's way. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before Jesus; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

## Readings

### **Gospel Reading Mark 9:30-37 (NRSV)**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Humanity is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."

But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"

But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

### **Continuing Testament - *from one of Martin Luther King's final speeches, two months before he was killed.***

If you want to be important—wonderful!

If you want to be recognized—wonderful!

If you want to be great—wonderful!

But recognize that [the one] who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

That's a new definition of greatness. By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.

# Announcements:

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are dedicated by Caroline and Bob Chandler, "In celebration of our 65th wedding anniversary."

**PET BLESSING SERVICE** - By request! Please join us on Saturday, October 5, at 11:30 am in the parking lot, as we have a brief service to bless these most cherished of family members, our pets. We ask that all pets be leashed, crated or kept under control by other appropriate means.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR** includes the following:

<b>Tuesday, 9-24</b>	8:15 am – "Holy Grounds" at Panera 6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" in Pilgrim Hall 7:30 pm – Communications & Outreach Ministry (zoom)
<b>Wednesday, 9-25</b>	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation in the Parlor 7:00 pm – Stewardship Ministry (zoom)
<b>Thursday, 9-26</b>	7:00 pm – Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

**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!**



Today's Sanctuary art is called "Simple Things" by Grace Helmer.  
Attendance on Sunday, September 15, 2024 – Adults: 49; Kids: 3; Online: 8; Total: 60  
Next week's scripture readings will be **James 5:13-20 (NRSV)** and **Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV)**.



we are thankful for you

### September 22, 2024

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Flowers:	Maggie McNamara
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Bryan Chaikin
Snacks:	Lois Lorenzo Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

### September 29, 2024

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager Evie Novak
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeter:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Reader:	Armand Eusanio
Flowers:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Jim Duffy
Snack:	Tia Began <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

