



Brecksville

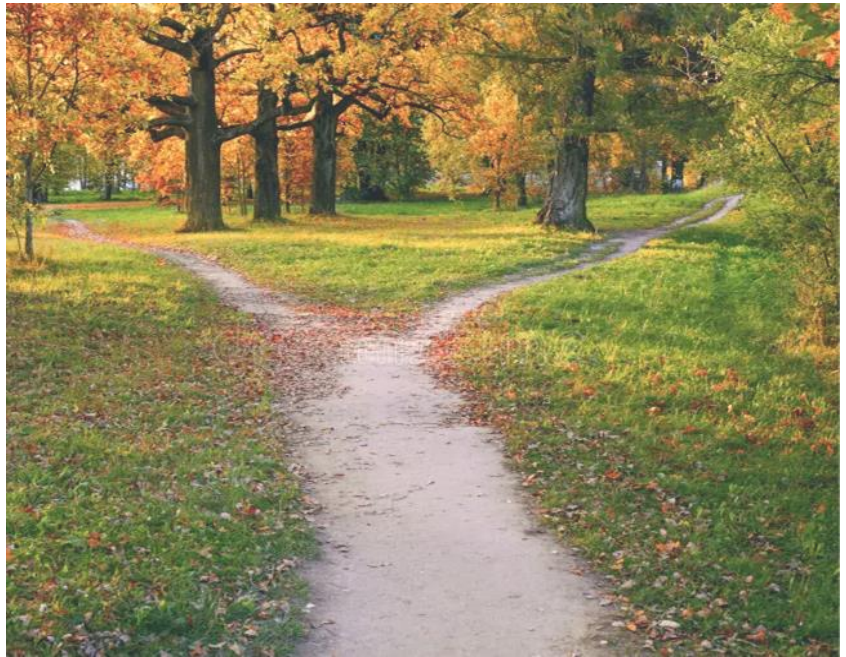
United Church of Christ

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

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

"There is a
stubbornness
about me that
never can bear
to be frightened
at the will
of others.
My courage
always rises at
every attempt to
intimidate me."

- Jane Austen,
***Pride and
Prejudice,***
19th century



26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, September 29th, 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 29th, 2024
26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

I Will Choose Christ

Booth

Assisted by Percussion Group

*"I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve.
I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to you."
(Words and Music: Tom Booth, Copyright © 1991)*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation

*"The only clear line I draw these days is this: when my religion tries to come
between me and my neighbor, I will choose my neighbor...
Jesus never commanded me to love my religion."* — Rev. Barbara Brown

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** CALL TO PRAYER:**

Leader: I am the church; you are the church.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We depend on our seniors and long-time members
to remember where we came from and where we have been.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We depend on our children to retell our sacred stories as they
grow.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We depend on our youth and young adults to ask us why we do
things this way and to suggest something new.

Congregation: We are the church together.

Leader: We need each other to be the church.

Congregation: We are the church together.

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

Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you, draw near to us that we may draw near to you, and grant us the grace to love and to serve you that we may find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. 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 5:13-20 (The Message Translation)

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament - By Martha L. Moore-Keish

Time with Young Worshipers

Dave Shackle, trumpet

We have come to sing with glory; we have come to sing with praise.

In joyful celebration our voices now we raise.

As we gather in God's presence, every spirit is renewed.

Let us join as true believers and share the hope and promise of God's truth.

*We are called by Christ to serve Him; we will follow where He leads
and act with true compassion to comfort those in need.*

As we walk within His footsteps every life will know His grace.

Let us join as true disciples and share the love that grows within this place.

Serve the Lord with gladness; walk within God's light.

Speak in words of kindness; share the peace of Christ.

Use your gifts and talents; trust Him and obey.

Be His humble servant and follow Him in faith.

We will lift our grateful voices; we will let our song be heard.

With joyful alleluias we'll sing to all the world.

As we learn the joy of giving, every heart is blessed once more.

Let us join as faithful servants and share the hope, share the love;

come share the glory of our Lord. Serve the Lord!

(Music: Don Besig; words: Don Besig and Nancy Price; © 2011 by Hal Leonard Corp.)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

What Wondrous Love is This

#223

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, 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]**

**May these tangible gifts
and all the intangible gifts we share among us
make known to the world that God is within us and among us.**

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure *God Our Author and Creator***



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

Chaconne

Couperin

Readings

First Reading

James 5:13-20 (The Message Translation)

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing.

Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of Christ. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will restore you. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

Make this your common practice: Acknowledge your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV)

John spoke up, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel demons and we stopped him because he wasn't in our group."

Jesus wasn't pleased. "Don't stop him. No one can use my name to do something good and powerful, and in the next breath cut me down. If he's not an enemy, he's an ally. Why, anyone by just giving you a cup of water in my name is on our side. Count on it that God will notice.

"On the other hand, if you give one of these simple, childlike believers a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you'll soon wish you hadn't. You'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck.

"If your hand or your foot gets in God's way, chop it off and throw it away. You're better off maimed or lame and alive than the proud owner of two hands and two feet, godless in Gehenna. And if your eye distracts you from God, pull it out and throw it away. You're better off one-eyed and alive than two eyed in Gehenna.

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

"Everyone's going through a refining fire sooner or later, but you'll be well-preserved, protected from the eternal flames. Be preservatives yourselves. Preserve the peace."

**NOTE – verses 44 & 46, are lacking from the most reliable ancient texts and seem to be later additions that are therefore omitted from this reading.*

Continuing Testament – By Martha L. Moore-Keish

Passages like this one in Mark 9 have given rise to one popular interpretation of the afterlife as a system of rewards and punishments for behavior here on earth. Those who behave well will be rewarded with eternal life in heaven, while those who behave badly will be cut off from God and dwell in "unquenchable fire."

Dante's *Inferno* presents one classic version of this view of hell.

Yet it is important to note that this is not the only way of understanding hell, and it does not even make particularly good sense of the passage at hand. There is a strong countercurrent in Christian theology that resists speculation about eternal torture and focuses instead on hell as a strong symbol of separation from God.

Many Christian theologians ... reject a literal hell because it contradicts the basic Christological affirmation that God loves the whole world and desires that all be saved. Instead, as Daniel Migliore puts it, "hell is simply wanting to be apart from God's grace and in isolation from others. Hell is self-destructive resistance to the eternal love of God."



D. Blazek 1/13

Announcements:

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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL COLLECTION - In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is “**Mental Health Justice for All!**” This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice, and a special offering will be given next Sunday, October 6th. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey. Notably, one-third of this offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry \(CAIM\)](#). Two-thirds are used by [Justice and Witness Ministries](#) to provide [grants](#) to UCC churches and organizations, as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. We thank you for your support and generosity.

ADVENT - Our annual Advent Devotional is always highly anticipated. This is a booklet containing daily scripture passages and corresponding reflections, written by members of BUCC. In 300 words or less, write on pretty much whatever you wish - here are some suggestions:

- Reflection on what the scripture you chose means to you - don’t worry about using the passage in its entirety. You may want to select a single thought from it and go from there.
- A Christmas memory that may hold special significance to you
- Something going on in the world and what scripture seems to say in response
- Something you may have heard or read related to the scripture passage that has special meaning for you

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Devotional *(continued)*

- Description of a special family (or church) tradition
- The whole meditation may be written as a prayer.
- Sometimes a poem or the lyrics to a special carol works well.
- Conclude your passage with a one or two sentence prayer.

Simply select one of the pre-printed verses/dates that will be available during Fellowship Hour and write a short reflection. To give Anne plenty of time to produce the booklet, submissions need to be in her hands by October 31st. Please email your writing to the church office at buccoffice23@gmail.com. If you do not have email capabilities, please leave it in the church office or in the black mailbox outside the double doors.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

- Tue., 10-01** 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” in Pilgrim Hall
7:00 pm – Spiritual Life (Parlor & zoom)
- Wed., 10-02** 11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)
- Thu., 10-04** 6:15 pm – Music Ministry
7:00 pm – Choir Practice (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 entitled, "Gray and Gold," by John Rogers Cox. 1942-43.
Attendance on Sunday, September 22, 2024 – Adults: 49; Kids: 2; Online: 17; Total: 68
Next week's scripture readings will be **1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (NRSV)** and **Mark 14:16-25 (NRSV)**.



we are thankful for you

September 29, 2024

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Betsey Wilson
Greeter:	Evie Novak
Reader:	Armand Eusanio
Flowers:	Carol Miller
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Jim Duffy
Snacks:	Tia Began Maureen Stanley
Set Up/Serve:	Betsey Wilson Volunteer Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

October 6, 2024

Early Usher:	Peg Duffy Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

