



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***

*"If love is
the answer,
could you
rephrase the
question?"*

*- Lily Tomlin,
21st century*



27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 6th, 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 October 6th, 2024

World Communion Sunday



Prelude

One in Body, Heart and Mind

Walker

Betsey Wilson and Erin Tomlinson, flute;
Armand Eusanio, clarinet;
David Pastor, Dave Shackle, and Craig Ramsey, guitar;
Percussion group

*"We would bid you come, Lord, live with us and make your home.
Purify our hearts anew, worthy lodging fit to hold you."
(Verses adapted from traditional Irish prayers)*

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***Invitation to Prayer: (Pastor)**

People Sing: ***Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*** – Song Sheet, verse 1

***Invitation to Prayer: (Pastor)**

People Sing: ***Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*** – Song Sheet, verse 2

*** Invocation: (Pastor)**

People Sing: ***Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*** – Song Sheet, verse 3

Peace Across the Divide

Reader 1: I glimpse you from afar, and I'm suspicious.

Reader 2: I cannot understand you, and it makes me afraid.

Reader 1: What if we are too different?

Reader 2: What if you don't care about me?

Reader 1: I cannot imagine we have anything to share.

Reader 2: I'm not sure I am willing to open myself to a conversation.

(Continued on next page)

Leader: Wait.

People: Breathe.

Leader: Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

People: Breathe again.

Leader: We are not alone.

People: Christ is with us.

SHARING THE PEACE

Hymn of Praise

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

* 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 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading - Luke 6: 31-36, NRSVUE

Continuing Testament - By Art Gafke



Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

As Grains of Wheat

Rosania

1. *As grains of wheat are gathered in, we've come together;
from lives apart we bring our hearts to make one whole.*

*Refrain: For many are we, and broken we've come,
but we shall become one.*

2. *Each grain must fall and give itself: it first is broken;
then, joined with others, makes one body and one bread. (Refrain)*

3. *From many fields the harvest comes to feed the hungry;
the world cries out to taste the goodness of the Lord. (Refrain)*

4. *Your harvest, Lord, is gathered in; we stand before you
to be your bread, to be your body in the world. (Refrain)*
(Words and Music: Laurence Rosania; © 1992, published by OCP Publications)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

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]**

God of all creation, breathe your life-giving breath upon these gifts that they might be a blessing to all your people. Amen.



Communion

Communion Music *Bread of Life, Broken and Shared*

Gagnon

"In this meal we are transformed to be like Christ our Lord."

(Words and Music: Copyright © 1996 David-Roger Gagnon)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Maker, We Thank You
(on song sheet, verses 2 & 3)

Bourgeois

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Chords are indicated below the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

* Benediction

Postlude

From Glory to Glory Advancing

Lang

*"Love cures people—
both the ones who give it
and the ones
who receive it."*

- Karl Menninger, 20th century

Readings

First Reading

1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (NRSV)

Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.

For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine.

When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6: 31-36, NRSVUE

Jesus said, "Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

Readings

Gospel Reading (*continued*)

If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for [God] is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your [Abba, God,] is merciful.

Continuing Testament – “Division” by Art Gafke

A thousand years are like a watch in the night for you, O God. Yet for us, a thousand years of human history contain the stories of divisions, of warfare, of enmity, as well as the stories of meetings, sharing, and peace.

God of a thousand years, we offer our confessions about the divisions in our own lives. We find ourselves with internal quarrels, guilts, and separations. We are not always unified within. We offer in prayer the divisions within our families. Some of these are open and acknowledged; some are silent and shunned from view. We carry the pain of these divisions.

God of a thousand years, we offer the divisions within our communities and world. In this connected world we are able to immerse ourselves in pools of people who are like us, act like us, and talk like us. We become suspicious of those who are different.

God of a thousand years, we are divided: By race, by age, by nationality, by culture, by species, by language, by wealth, by poverty. And yet the distinctions among us—because each of us is a unique miracle of your making—are cause for delight and joy. My nose, your eyes, his hair, her voice—what wonderful variations and gifts we share.

God of a thousand years, teach us to reach across barriers, to listen for your lead, to extend your grace and mercy across divisions in our lives. Help us cherish our uniqueness to be shared as a gift given and received by those different than us. In the name of Jesus who came for all people. Amen.

An Art Gafke Prayer, published in ***Beside Cool Waters a Pastor's Confessional Prayers for the Christian Life.***

Announcements:

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY - The Neighbors in Need theme this year is “**Mental Health Justice for All!**” 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.

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. Simply select one of the pre-printed verses/dates that will be available during Fellowship Hour, and write a short (less than 300 words) reflection.

Submissions need to be turned in by October 31st. Please email to: buccoffice23@gmail.com. If you do not use email, please leave it in the church office or in the black mailbox outside the double doors.

SEASONAL CHOIR – If you enjoy singing in a group setting, but don't have time to commit to being in our regular choir, please consider joining us on a short-term basis to prepare for this year's Christmas cantata. It's scheduled on Sunday December 15, and our first seasonal choir practice will be Thursday October 10, from 7:00-7:45 PM. Listening tracks for each vocal part will be provided to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome to participate. Seasonal Choir provides a great opportunity to prepare for the church's annual commemoration of Jesus' birth among us. Contact Dave Debick with any questions.

AUTUMN FREE CONCERT – On Sunday October 27 at 4:00, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring the Caos String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. The conservatory-level ensemble will perform works by Bach, Haydn, and Grieg. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Please plan on joining us to enjoy some awesome classical music on Oct 27.

Announcements:

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY: Membership Ministry

Mon., 10-07 7:00 pm – Facilities Ministry

Tue., 10-08 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” in Pilgrim Hall
6:30 pm – Social Justice Ministry

Wed., 10-09 11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)
7:00 pm – Council

Thu., 10-10 7:00 pm – Seasonal Choir Practice
8:00 pm – Regular Choir Practice

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 29, 2024 – Adults: 62; Kids: 3; Online: 4; Total: 69
Next week's scripture readings will be **Isaiah 11: 6-9 (NRSVUE)** and **Mark 10:17-31**



we are thankful for you

October 6, 2024

Early Usher: Peg Duffy
Evelyn Seager
Late Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Reader: Jim Duffy
Communion Bread: Jenn Elting
Flowers: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Lori Molesky
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Snacks: Sue Stenzel
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**

October 13, 2024

Early Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Late Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Reader: **Volunteer Needed**
Flowers: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: David Pastor
Snack: **Volunteers Needed**
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**

