



# 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***

*"Even if I could  
conceive that I  
had completely  
overcome [my  
own pride],  
I should  
probably be  
proud of my  
humility."*

– Benjamin  
Franklin

AND IF, WHEN IT IS ALL OVER,  
I'M ASKED WHAT I DID WITH MY LIFE,  
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY,  
"I OFFERED **LOVE**."

- TERRI ST. CLOUD



**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 20<sup>th</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)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

**Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Prelude**

***Theme from Legends of the Fall***

Horner

**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, verses 2-3

**Peace Across the Divide**

*Reader 1: We are on opposite sides, it seems.*

*Reader 2: It is hard to even talk about it.*

*Reader 1: What if we don't see eye to eye?*

*Reader 2: What if you never see things as I do?*

*Reader 1: I cannot imagine what will happen to all of us.*

*Reader 2: I'm not sure I can handle this tension, this pain.*

*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**

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

Loving God, let each falling leaf awaken in us your invitation to pause and consider the miracle of being alive in a cosmos of eternal motion, of awe-filled love, of grace and life all around me, if only I will stop and notice.

Help us savor the same motion of Your Holy Love, revealed in leaf's fall, forming us ever anew, even in necessary seasons of surrender and release.

**\* Song of Praise:*****Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - Ephesians 4: 1-6, NRSVUE**

**Gospel Reading - Mark 10:32-45 (NRSV)**

**Continuing Testament - By John Pavlovitz**



Time with  
Young  
Worshippers

## **Anthem**

## **What You Have Done for Me**

Alonso

*1. I am the hungry, I am the poor, I am the stranger outside your door.  
So when you feed the hungry, when you clothe the poor  
I will no longer be just a stranger at your door.*

*Refrain: What you have done for the least of my children you have done for me.  
What you have given, with nothing left to give, you have given me.*

*2. Come all you blessed, come and rejoice.  
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you.  
For you are my children, called to serve  
as keepers of the vision and speakers of the word. (Refrain)*

*3. I will look to you when life on earth has ended.  
Those who give will receive, those who seek will find;  
so seek my face in every face and see the eyes of God! (Refrain)*  
(Words and Music: Tony Alonso, b. 1980; © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.)

**Sermon** by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection**

**Simple Gifts** (Song Sheet)

## **The Church at Prayer**

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Pastor John King and family, the family and friends of Dassie Matsuoka, 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]**

Loving God, may this offering assist us in continuing Christ's work in the world to heal that which could oppress and harm your creation. By these offerings, teach us again that the greatest among us will be the one who serves. Amen.



Communion



**Communion Music**

**Élévation ou Communion**

**Saint-Saëns**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: [UNISON]**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

**\* Hymn of Departure**      *What a Covenant, What a Joy Divine*

#471

**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 musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The second staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The chords are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

### \* Benediction

Postlude

**We Will Go with God**

Traditional song, Swaziland and South Africa

*"Pride makes us artificial;  
humility makes us real."*

*-- Thomas Merton*

## Readings

### First Reading

#### **Ephesians 4: 1-6, NRSVUE**

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and [Parent] of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

### Gospel Reading

#### **Mark 10:32-45 (NRSV)**

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Humanity will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"

And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

They replied, "We are able."



## Readings

### **Gospel Reading** *(continued)*

Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Humanity came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for all."

### **Continuing Testament** – From ***If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk***, by John Pavlovitz

As a twenty-seven-year pastor, I've spent decades trying to convince other people that I'm absolutely certain of everything in matters of belief while not being completely sure of much of anything.

In the quiet moments, far away from the flattering spotlights of megachurch pulpits, conference platforms, and viral blog posts, I've lived with the persistent voice that says, "You know you don't know what the hell you're doing, right?" (Maybe you recognize that voice?) I used to think that was The Enemy trying to deceive me (a convenient defense mechanism built into my default Christian story for any unpleasant experiences or uncomfortable moments) but now I realize it wasn't a lurking devil but an honest friend, keeping me grounded enough to remember that you don't become an expert in divinity as a human being, any more than you become an authority on the afterlife while you're alive.

As terrifying as it is both personally and vocationally and as much as it makes some people (including myself) uneasy, little by little I'm finally settling into a humility that can admit this vast, continual learning curve.

## Readings

### Continuing Testament *(continued)*

I'm growing more comfortable with all that I don't know; with the incomplete thoughts and the unresolved conflicts and the uncomfortable silences of trying to connect with a creator who seems reclusive on some days and downright antagonistic on others.

I suppose this infinite expanse of uncertainty is as good a place as any to start. It's where all authentic spiritual journeys begin: the cavernous gap between the need and the knowing, that messy, not-yet space of wanting more information than you have about the most pressing questions of this life.

You and I are always there (along with every other human being who's ever made their home on this planet), and it's a really freeing thing when you realize the commonality in our shared struggle regardless of our faith tradition or religious worldview. Despite our pedigree or profession or our claims of blessed assurance, none of us really knows what we're doing here. You and I and Mother Teresa and Franklin Graham and the guy on the corner with a bullhorn condemning random pedestrians and the awkward high school student handing you your value meal—we are all working with incomplete information on the infinite, and we could all use a little kindness and a bit of mercy.

John Pavlovitz, ***If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans*** (pp. 35-36). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

Attendance on Sunday, October 13, 2024 – Adults: 47; Kids: 4; Online: 13; Total: 65

Next week's scripture readings will be **1 Corinthians 12:1-26, (NRSVUE)** and **Mark 10:46-52 (NRSV)**.

## Announcements:

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are dedicated by Mindy Harris, "In loving memory of my parents, Bill & Lenore Harris, who were members for 40+ years and loved this church and the people very much."

**AUTUMN FREE CONCERT** – Next Sunday, October 27 at 4:00pm, we will be hosting a free concert, featuring the Caos String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. A free-will offering will be received, followed by a light reception in Pilgrim Hall.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** – To participate, select one of the pre-printed verses/dates and write a short (less than 300 words) reflection. The deadline is 10/31, either by email to: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com), or dropped off in the office.

**ALL SOULS SERVICE** – Please submit the names of your departed loved ones and friends to the office email at: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) by October 30<sup>th</sup>. If you want to share a picture of your loved one, please bring your photo downstairs before the service - you may include a short dedication with the picture if you'd like.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** event on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>! Volunteers are needed from 9am – 3pm, and tools and water will be provided. The site address is 10522 Grandview Ave. in Cleveland - if you would like to participate, contact Dan Maier at [dmaier68@aol.com](mailto:dmaier68@aol.com). More info to come!

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

<b>Tue., 10-22</b>	8:15 am – "Holy Grounds" at Panera 6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
<b>Wed., 10-23</b>	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor) 7:00 pm – Stewardship/Leadership
<b>Thu., 10-24</b>	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!**





we are thankful for you

**October 20, 2024**

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Communion Bread:	Armand Eusano
Flowers:	Carol Miller
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Bryan Chaikin
Snacks:	Sue Stenzel <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

**October 27, 2024**

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Greeter:	Tia Began
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Tia Began
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Snack:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

