



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

"I'm not convinced that the world is looking for Christians who are perfect, but for Christians who are honest.

And the problem is that we haven't been honest, and we have pretended that we are perfect."

~ Shane Claiborne

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



30th Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 27th, 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 27th, 2024
30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prelude

October

Tchaikovsky

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

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

Peace Across the Divide

Reader 1: If you are my sibling, then this family is in trouble.

Reader 2: No kidding! What in the world are you thinking

Reader 1: What if you really hate me?

Reader 2: What if we never find common ground

Reader 1: I cannot imagine getting beyond this divide.

Reader 2: I'm not sure I am willing to work to repair all of this.

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

Gather Us In (Song sheet)

Haugen

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

God of All of Us, we ask you to hover close, for we are a divided world, and we are not sure how to regard one another in this moment. Bind us as your beloveds, and invite us to “do unto others” in ways that build up your KIN-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.

*** 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 12: 4-13 NRSVUE

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:1-20. (NRSVUE)

Continuing Testament - by Rev. Michael Howard

Youth Anthem

Open My Eyes

Manibusan/Zaragoza

1. *Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.*
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
 2. *Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.*
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
 3. *Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.*
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.
 4. *I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.*
I live within you. Rest now in me. Rest now in me.
- (Words and Music: Jesse Manibusan and Rufino Zaragoza, © 1988, 1998)



Time with Young Worshippers

Anthem

We Want to See Your Face

Inwood

*Refrain: We want to see your face, long to be near you, thirsting to hear you.
We want to see your face, feel your grace: God, change our lives today!*

- 1. In the eyes of a child, in the glance of a friend, we meet you;
in those who are homeless and cold,
in those who are poor and afraid, we can greet you!*
- 2. In the taste of a kiss, in a scent on the air, we meet you;
in those who are hungry for food,
in those who are hungry for love, we can greet you! (Refrain)*
- 3. In the warmth of a smile, in the touch of hand, we meet you;
in those who are held at arm's length,
in those who are racially oppressed, we can greet you!*
- 4. In a loving embrace, in the strength of an arm, we meet you;
in those who are dying of AIDS,
in those whom the world gives no hope, we can greet you! (Refrain)*
- 5. If we look, we will see; if we seek, we will find your presence.
We ask you to open our eyes, we ask you to open our minds to your radiance!*
(Words and Music: Paul Inwood; Copyright © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.) (Refrain)

Sermon

"The Balancing Act of Congregational Polity" by Rev. Gene McAffe

Hymn of Reflection

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

#393

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, 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]**

Reform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world into which we send them. Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love!

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

O for a World

#575

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.

* Circle of Community (continued)

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 contains the melody for the first two phrases of the hymn, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' Chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E are written above the staff. The second staff contains the melody for the next two phrases, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' Chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A are written above the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

* Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in C Major

Handel

*"The principle on which Christians must vote
is the principle:
does this look like love of neighbor?"*

*~ Rev. Michael Curry,
presiding bishop of the Episcopal church*

Readings

First Reading

1 Corinthians 12: 4-13 NRSVUE

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:1–20. (NRSVUE)

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the reign of heaven?” Jesus called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

“If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!

“If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into Gehenna.

Readings

Gospel Reading (continued)

"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Abba in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, do they not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if they find it, truly I tell you, they rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Abba in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Abba in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Continuing Testament – Excerpts from *Knowing in Community* by Rev. Michael Howard, Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association

In today's world, we face a dual challenge as congregations: internally, we struggle with disconnection—from each other, from our mission, and often from our understanding of how faith is lived out in daily life. Externally, the larger community around us is equally fragmented, disconnected from institutions, from place, and from a shared sense of what is true and just.

At our best, our churches have historically been spaces where people come together not just to worship but to form relationships, cultivate values, and discover how to live faithfully in the world. Yet, many of us find ourselves today unsure of how to reconnect with our communities or how to build relationships across the many divides— social, economic, political—that fragment us.

Readings

Continuing Testament (continued)

How do we move beyond merely serving our congregants or our communities to becoming spaces where truth, justice, and wholeness are realized in relationship—with each other and with our neighbors?

For our congregations, this means that truth is not dictated from the pulpit alone but is cultivated as we engage with the world around us—through service, dialogue with neighbors, and reflection on shared experiences. This idea should resonate deeply with those of us in the Congregationalist tradition. Our polity- rooted in the autonomy of each local congregation, yet committed to a broader covenantal relationship with other churches— mirrors this vision of communal truth. Congregationalist polity is a lived expression of how we believe truth emerges, not imposed from above but discerned together in community. The way we organize ourselves as churches reflects our belief that God is discovered in the shared discernment and the wisdom of the gathered community.

With these Congregationalists influences, we are well-positioned to speak into the public square about this understanding of truth. Our structure and our theology equip us to embody a vision of communal truth in a world increasingly fractured by misinformation and individualism. We can offer the world an alternative - a way of knowing and discovering truth that is rooted in relationships, shared inquiry, and mutual trust.

If we are to be churches where the gospel is understood as a call to justice and well-being for all, then we must embody this communal process of truth in everything we do.

If the church is to carry us into the next phase of humanity and be part of whatever we become, then it will come from those who have recognized this shifting in our understanding of truth. We are poised to offer an experience of truth that the world is hungry for: truth as something that is lived, discovered, and shared together. We can create spaces where the fullness of the gospel - truth, justice, and well-being—is not just a message but a lived reality.

Attendance on Sunday, October 20, 2024 – Adults: 35; Kids: 4; Online: 8; Total: 47

Next week's scripture readings will be **Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NIV)** and **Matthew 22: 34-40 (NRSVUE)**.

Announcements:

AUTUMN FREE CONCERT – Join us at 4 pm today for 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, 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 by October 30th. 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 23rd! 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. More info to come!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

Today, Sunday 10-27 4:00 pm - FREE CONCERT & RECEPTION

Tue., 10-29 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

Wed., 10-30 11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)

Thu., 10-31 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 27, 2024

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Greeter:	Tia Began
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Tia Began
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snacks:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Carol Miller Volunteer Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

November 3, 2024

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Jill Zedan
Communion Bread:	Jenn Elting
Flowers:	Annette Pedersen
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Volunteer Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

