



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364
5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 9, 2025 • 10:00 AM

*"We need leaders
not in love with
money, but in love
with justice.*

*Not in love with
publicity, but in love
with humanity."*

Martin Luther King Jr.



Pastor
• John King

Director of Music
• David Debick
Ministers – All of Our Members

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant
Miranda Lacefield

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:

Monday – Thursday 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!

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday February 9th, 2025

Prelude From the Nets of Our Labor (We Will Rise Up and Follow)

Kleinheksel Sr.
Assisted by Percussion Group

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



*"The price good people pay for indifference to public affairs
is to be ruled by evil people."
- Plato*



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: Isaiah was surprised by a vision of the Holy One in the Temple.

ALL: He saw a vision and heard a call.

Isaiah responded by saying: "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"

One: Peter and Andrew were tired after fishing all night.
Jesus surprised them with an amazing catch of fish!

**ALL: They saw a sign of hope in Jesus. They left their net and boats
behind. They left everything else to follow Jesus.**

One: This morning, Jesus surprises us too.
Jesus asks us to walk with him, to leave the old ways behind.

**ALL: We can walk away from the tangled nets of resentment and fear.
We choose walk with Jesus now, in paths of life and love.**

One: Let us worship the One who finds us, surprises us and calls us.

Hymn of Praise

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

#172

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

One: Let us pray together:

ALL: Holy One, you are ready to meet us wherever we are in our lives, offering vision, interruption, hope where we may least expect it. Surprise us here at worship today with unexpected grace that leaves us changed, transformed and renewed. And send us into the world inspired and impassioned to do your work. In Jesus' name we pray, 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: - Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading: - Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament: by John Pavlovitz,

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans Chapter 4

Time with
Young Worshipers



Anthem

I'll Be Somewhere Listening for My Name
Craig Ramsey, guitar

Lango

1. When He calls me I will answer; (three times)
I'll be somewhere listening for my name.
Refrain: I'll be somewhere listening, (twice)
I'll be somewhere listening for my name.
Oh, I'll be somewhere listening, (twice)
I'll be somewhere listening for my name.
2. With a glad heart I will answer, (three times)
I'll be somewhere listening for my name. (Refrain)
3. When He calls you, will you answer? (three times)
Somewhere listening, listening for your name.
Refrain: You'll be somewhere listening, (twice)
You'll be somewhere listening for your name.
Oh, you'll be somewhere listening, (twice)
You'll be somewhere listening for your name.
Refrain: We'll be somewhere listening, (twice)
We'll be somewhere listening for our name.
Oh, we'll be somewhere listening, (twice)
We'll be somewhere listening for our name.

(Music and Words: Eduardo J. Lango, adapt. by Louis Sykes; © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Sermon: "Going Fishing" by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Here I Am, Lord

Schutte, see insert

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Cliff Stenzel, 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, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, Kathy Repko, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Prayers of the Church

Silent Meditation

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 you call us to participate in your vision of justice for our world,
Let these offerings become a part of our response.
Here we are, Eternal One, send us.
May we join the disciples, who left their nets behind to follow Jesus.
May these, our offerings, contribute to the building up of your church. That
one day all people may know you and walk with you. Amen.

*** Hymn of Departure Take My Life, God, Let It Be #448**

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 musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The second staff continues the melody and includes the following chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, 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

Commit Your Way to God

Weed



Readings

First Reading Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Holy One seated on a throne, high and lofty, wearing a robe that filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the Sovereign, Eternal of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; those fishing had gotten out of the boats and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Teacher, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Continuing Testament – by John Pavlovitz, If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans Chapter 4

We all have an aspirational theology, a best-case-scenario belief system that we'd like to have in a perfect world—and tend to imagine already exists. That's the steadfast faith and expansive love we glean from the songs and the prayers and the doctrinal statements. The problem is, we don't always embody that love as well as we'd like or assume we do—which means we are usually a lot less sure and kind than we tell ourselves we are. Not only that, but it might be our very theology that needs alteration in order to make us more loving. This may be encouraging or terrifying information, depending on how comfortable you are with existential crises and admitted fraudulence; just know that if you ever feel a nagging sense of hypocrisy or a persistent, hovering doubt, you're in good company. That's a biblical thing and God is OK with it, so you should be too.

For example, for the apostle Paul to fully embrace the teachings and way of Jesus, he had to become a traitor to his former self, passionately advocating for the very movement he once believed deserving of persecution. As his understanding of the love of the God he served expanded, so did his expression of that love, breaking down barriers that would not have fallen without a bit of what he first imagined to be heresy. He ended up providing shelter for the very people he'd assailed before...

My meandering, five-decade pilgrimage as a theological mutt—from obedient Catholic altar boy to disenchanted teen to hopeful agnostic to defiant atheist to overconfident United Methodist megachurch pastor to deconstructing progressive to humanist Christian to whoever and whatever I am today—hasn't yielded much in the way of definitive statements. In fact, the single conclusion I've come to as a result of all my study and prayer and wrestling

and preaching, the sole fixed truth I can hold on to is this: faith shouldn't make you a jerk. That's it.

For me, that means that your theology is only valid to the degree that your life is loving... If God is actually love, then there's no other acceptable alternative. Jesus is in your living room and on your timeline. He is the person you love dearly and the person you don't at all like. He is the one you believe you have everything in common with and the one you can find no connection to. For the love of God, don't be a jerk to him.

Announcements:

BUCC Pasta Fundraising Dinner- Sunday Feb 16, 2025, 4:00pm-6:00pm in Pilgrim Hall. Advanced Ticket sales can be purchased for \$10/pp (children under 6 free) from Armand Eusanio (apeusanio@gmail.com, 216-469-11359), or Diane Gressley (digressley@gmail.com, 440-417-2675) Sign-up sheet will be posted in Narthex, rear lobby, and Pilgrim Hall. Friends and family welcome. Volunteers would be gratefully appreciated for set-up, serving, clean-up, and to provide Desserts.

MARDI GRAS- Plan on joining us for incredible New Orleans-style music and a festive potluck on Sunday, March 2. Sign up to bring your best potluck dishes, Creole or otherwise, with Kathy Smith or Mary Kidd following worship. Fellowship will provide the King Cake dessert: as you know, whoever finds the baby hidden in the cake is believed to have increased luck and prosperity in the new year. Best of luck to all!

Soup Supper- Our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper will be held March 5 beginning at 6:30 with the service beginning at 7. We are looking for two more soups, including a vegetarian option for approximately 50 guests. An 18 bean soup has already been committed. Attendees with the last names, beginning with the letter A-L can bring bread. M-Z will bring bread for Maundy Thursday. We will have juice, soda and the usual coffee and tea to accompany the meal. Please contact David Pastor at ridave@hotmail.com or 440.552.4403 to commit to making soup or with any questions.

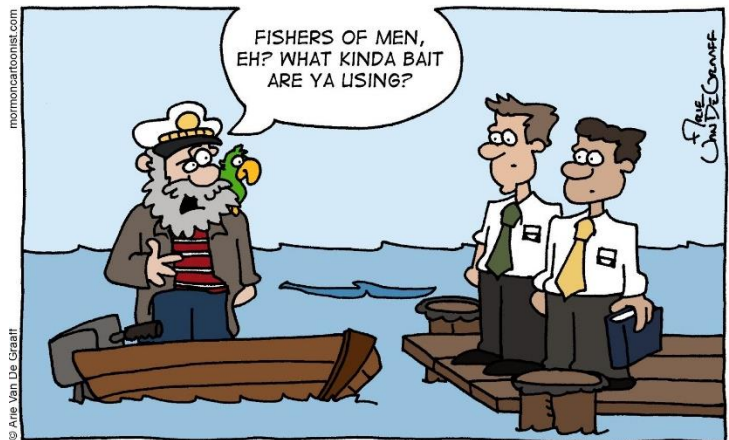
THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Feb 11	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 6:30 pm – Social Justice
Wed. Feb 12	11:00 am - Mindfulness & Meditation 7:00 pm – Council
Thur. Feb 13	5:30 pm – Youth Choir-Per Distributed Schedule 7:00 pm - Choir Practice

SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to Pastor John buccpastor23@gmail.com)

You'll notice scriptures for upcoming weeks listed in the Sunday bulletin – ideas that connect to those particular scriptures are especially welcome. In October, our Music Director started a once-monthly brainstorming session scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary.

Everyone is invited! At BUCC, WE ARE ONE, and we look forward to your unique input into our shared journey.





February 9th, 2025

Early Usher: Evelyn Seager
Late Usher: Annette Pedersen
Greeter: Carol Miller
Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: Bryan Chaikin
Snacks: Carole Snider
Sherrill Witt
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Sherrill Witt
Snow Herder: Wes Novak

February 16th, 2025

Early Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Late Usher: Mark Lehman
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Reader: Rose Kaval
Flowers: **Volunteers Needed**
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: David Pastor
Snack: Sherrill Witt
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Sherrill Witt
Snow Herder: **Volunteers Needed**
Communion Bread: Lois Lorenzo



The sanctuary art this week is by Wauba,
from the Netherlands.

Attendance last Sunday, February 2, 2024 – Adults: 67; Kids: 7; Online: 30; Total: 104
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Amos 5:21–24** and **Luke 6:17–26**