



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

"Everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

- Viktor E. Frankl



Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25th, 2025 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• John King

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers – All of Our Members

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.

****LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILIABLE UPON REQUEST****

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!

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday May 25th, 2025**

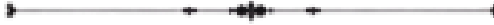
Prelude

Shall We Gather at the River

#597

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



“Carry goodness, not guns.” - Abhijit Naskar



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: Come, sisters, brothers, let's join together in prayer.

All: Let the Creator be home among us

One: In our hearts, may God be welcome

All: May God's love shape our every thought

One: May our actions lead to God's justice

All: May our words be words of life

One: May God's Spirit lead us

All: May God's peace dwell within us. Amen

Hymn of Praise

I've Got Peace Like a River

#478

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

Holy and Eternal God, may your love be our nourishment

Your truth, our liberation

Your words, our wisdom

And your peace, our home.

Welcome to the love of God

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

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: - Revelation 21:10, 21:21-22-5

Gospel Reading: - John 14:23-29

Continuing Testament- Tao Te Ching # 16 (Stephen Mitchell translation)

Time with Young Worshipers

Sermon: By Pastor John King

Anthem

Down to the River to Pray

(Insert)

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Jonathan Langham, Tony Cuninghame, Chad Sproul, Dot Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Joanne Cook, Kathy Ford, Miriam Rosewicz, Midge Cassidy, Pat Rehm, Kate Benedict, "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]

May these gifts be used to build the Beloved Community through our hands of service, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure Let There Be Peace On Earth (Insert)

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World (Acolyte)

* Circle of Community

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 notation is for a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The chords indicated above the staff are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The chords indicated below the staff are: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*Benediction

Postlude

Instrumental

Readings

First Reading Revelation 21:10, 21:21-22-5 (The Message)

The angel took me away in the Spirit to an enormous, high mountain and showed me Holy Jerusalem descending out of Heaven from God, resplendent in the bright glory of God. The City shimmered like a precious gem, light-filled, pulsing light.

The main street of the City was pure gold, translucent as glass. But there was no sign of a Temple, for the Eternal—the Sovereign-Strong—and the Lamb are the Temple. The City doesn't need sun or moon for light. God's Glory is its light, the Lamb its lamp! The nations will walk in its light and earth's kings bring in their splendor. Its gates will never be shut by day, and there won't be any night. They'll bring the glory and honor of the nations into the City.

Then the Angel showed me Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the Throne of God and the Lamb, right down the middle of the street. The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations. Never again will anything be cursed. The Throne of God and of the Lamb is at the center. God's servants will offer God service—worshipping, they'll look on God's face, their foreheads mirroring God. Never again will there be any night. No one will need lamplight or sunlight. The shining of God, the Eternal, is all the light anyone needs. And they will rule with him age after age after age.

Gospel Reading John 14:23-29 (The Inclusive Bible)

The night before He died, Jesus said, "Those who love me will be true to my word,

and Abba God will love them;
and we will come to them
and make our dwelling place with them.

Those who don't love me
don't keep my words.

Yet the message you hear is not mine;
it comes from Abba God who sent me.

This much have I said to you while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit
whom Abba God will send in my name,
will instruct you in everything

and will remind you of all that I told you.
Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you;
but the kind of peace I give you
is not like the world's peace.
Don't let your hearts be distressed;
don't be fearful.
You've heard me say,
'I am going away but I will return.'
If you really loved me,
you would rejoice because I am going to Abba God,
for Abba is greater than I.
I tell you this now, before it happens,
so that when it happens you will believe.

Continuing Testament Tao Te Ching # 16 (Stephen Mitchell translation)

The Tao Te Ching was written around 500 BCE. The author is known as Laozi, which translates as "The old master." The word "Tao" could be translated as the way, the path, or the spiritual principle.

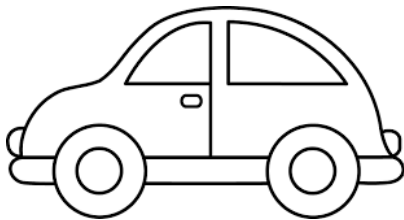
The Tao is the origin of all things, and our final destination.
Empty your mind of all thoughts.
Let your heart be at peace.
Watch the turmoil of beings,
but contemplate their return.
Each separate being in the universe
returns to the common source.
Returning to the source is serenity.
If you don't realize the source,
you stumble in confusion and sorrow.
When you realize where you come from,
you naturally become tolerant,
disinterested, amused,
kindhearted as a grandmother,
dignified as a king.
Immersed in the wonder of the Tao,
you can deal with whatever life brings you,
and when death comes, you are ready.

Announcements:

Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church-

Today at 4 pm we will be downtown to host and serve the hunger meal. Please note this is Memorial Day weekend. Let Diane Gressley know if you plan to help or serve. We will have sign up information in the narthex in May.

Seeking loan of a car for the summer-



Two students from California are traveling to Cleveland this summer as part of the Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP- <https://www.ohipintern.org/>). They will be participating in an project to identify and help prevent occupational and environmental hazards, such as heat exposure, air pollution,

and injuries for landscape workers in the Painesville area. They will be working with both Cleveland Clinic and HOLA-Ohio (<https://holaohio.org/>). They will need a car to get back and forth from Cleveland to Painesville. They are coming in at the end of the week of June 16 and will be here 9 weeks.

If you have a car or have an idea, please contact me: Kathy Fagan, 216-513-6155, occmeddoc@sbcglobal.net

Summer Music- June 1 through August 31, the choir will begin their summer sabbatical and their musical replacement will be individual solo or duet/group performances.

If you are interested in singing at one of these Sunday services, please contact David Pastor who is putting a list together. You can contact David on Sundays or at ridave@hotmail.com or 440.552.4403



On Saturday June 7 the CLE pride event will take place in Downtown Cleveland. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Sherrill Witt as we will have our BUCC banner and carry it in the parade. The Cleveland Pride parade leaves at 11 am. Staging for the march will begin at 10AM in Downtown CLE Public Square. The march will begin at Public Square and flow again through the streets down towards the Malls where the festival will take place. The Route for Pride is just at 1 mile long and lasts 20-25 minutes. Please let us know if you plan to join us.

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. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!



SHARING GOOD NEWS

At the beginning of the Sunday service you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these brief by avoiding details. Share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

A vibrant rainbow-themed poster for 'Pride Fest!' on June 14 from noon to 7pm. The poster features a QR code for registration, a circular inset photo of a crowd at an outdoor event, and the BBH Pride logo. Text includes the venue 'Broadview Heights Amphitheater' at '9543 Broadview Road, Broadview Hts., OH 44147', 'FREE Entrance! Scan QR to register', and a list of activities: 'SECONDHAND RADIO BAND | DJ & DANCING | PERFORMERS SPOTLIGHTS THEATER | WINDSONG FEMINIST CHORUS ARTS & CRAFTS | FUN FOR ALL AGES | OVER 65 VENDORS!'. At the bottom, it says 'For a complete vendor list, visit BBHPride.org'.

On Saturday June 14 the BBH Pride event will be held from noon to 7pm. We do have a booth and are looking for several members to participate at the booth to have conversations with attendees about our church. Melanie Falls and Diane Gressley will have sign up information so please reach out if you are interested in joining us. We plan to have Rainbow Rocks and other BUCC swag to engage the community.

Little Annie's Hope Train - We will continue to collect items for the homeless in Northeast Ohio and chemotherapy care packets through the end of August. Members of Little Annie's Hope Train go into homeless camps and pass out food, toiletries and other items. The founder of the organization is battling cancer herself, so she's started a side project of providing Chemotherapy Care Packets to various chemotherapy centers. If you stay in any hotels this summer, please save the mini soaps, shampoos, etc. If you get take-out, please save the pre-wrapped silverware. If you are doing spring/summer cleaning, you can donate journals or pens you don't need. Below is a more extensive list of items being distributed.

Place any donations in the bin on the pew bench at the parking lot entrance door. Claudia Griesmer will collect them (regularly) and deliver them to the organization. There is also a copy of this list on the pew bench

Items Distributed in Homeless Camps

- Personal sized toiletries (what you get from hotel rooms)
- Travel size dental floss and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Mini hand sanitizers
- Small combs
- Chapstick
- Kleenex packets
- Individually wrapped toilet paper
- Wrapped plastic silverware (what you get with carry-out food)
- NEW adult heavy socks
- Inexpensive manual can openers
- Canned items with pull tabs (but no cream soups)

Items Included in Chemotherapy Care Packets

- Puzzle books
- Journals
- Pens
- Saltine crackers
- Ginger tea
- Spearmints
- Kleenex packets

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

TODAY 4:00 pm – Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church

Mon. May 26 *OFFICE CLOSED* Happy Memorial Day

Tue. May 27 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

Wed. May 28 11:00 am -- Mindfulness and Meditation

Thu. May 29 7:00 pm -- Choir Practice

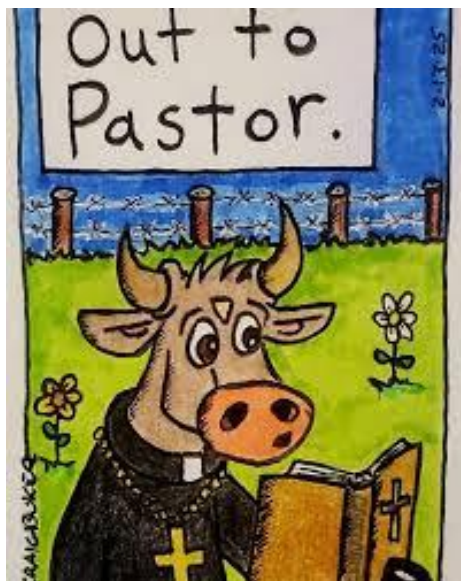
PRIVACY MATTERS- Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind: Children who come up for the “Time with Young Worshipers” will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online. We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But avoid disclosing personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either:

Ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers,

OR

Avoid details or keep anonymity by the way you phrase your prayer.

If you sit in the first few pews, you will be visible online. If you prefer to avoid being seen online, avoid those pews. But if you don't mind, please consider migrating to the front pews. When our videos show empty pews, the sanctuary looks vacant even when it is full. So, please populate those first pews to ensure that our online presence accurately depicts the vibrant and growing congregation that we truly are.





May 25th, 2025

Early Usher:	Evie Novak
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Janet Renovetz Volunteers Needed
A/V:	David Pastor
Snacks:	Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel

June 1st, 2025

Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Peg Duffy
Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Mindy Harris-Wade
Counters:	Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Peg Duffy
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
Communion Bread:	Volunteers Needed



The sanctuary art this week is a Photo by Katie MacKeigan King of the Cuyahoga River in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Attendance last Sunday, May 18th, 2025 – Adults: 56; Kids: 6; Online: 30; Total: 92
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21** and **John 17:20-26**