



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

"There is no them.
There's only us."

- U2, "Invisible"



Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 22nd, 2025 • 10:00 AM

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant

• Miranda Lacefield

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.

****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!

Second Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday June 22nd, 2025

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

*"We must learn together as brothers and sisters, or perish together as fools."
- Martin Luther King Jr.*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so we long for you, O God.
As the plants turn toward the sun, so we turn to you, O God.
As the tide ebbs and flows, so we move with you, O God.

All: Hope in God! Again, we worship the Holy One, our help and our God.

One: When tears are our constant companion, when our souls become weary, when we feel forgotten or alone, we may ask the question, "Where is God?"

All: Trust in God! Again, we honor the Present One, our strength and our God.

One: Deep calls to deep. The steadfast love of God surrounds us. The Spirit of Truth leads us to everlasting joy.

All: Rejoice in God. Again, we praise the Living One, our source and our God.

Hymn of Praise

Come All You People

Insert

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

God in whom we take refuge, we seek you as the calm in the storm, the path in the wilderness, and the order in the chaos. Renew our strength with a vision of your kingdom made real and expanding before us. Encourage us with a word of possibility and an encounter with your presence. Enliven us as we pray, sing, laugh, cry, witness, listen, ponder, and imagine in your midst and in our own way. We come to you with our full selves knowing you offer us the fullness of your being. May we find hope and challenge, joy and rest, peace and power as we immerse ourselves in you and glorify your name. Amen.

***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: - Galatians 3:23-29

Gospel Reading: - Luke 8:26-39

Continuing Testament- "Still I Rise", by Maya Angelou

Time with Young Worshipers

Hymn

Beautiful Jesus

#44

Sermon: By Rev. Monica Harmon

Musical Offering

Soloist Angela Lynard- Till We Reach That Day

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, 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, Marge Culver, Joy Garapic, "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]

Generous God, through our giving, we acknowledge the role you have delegated to us in meeting our collective needs and allocating our resources of time, talent, and treasure for the good of all. May these offerings nurture ministry, further community engagement, and bring glory to your name. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure Glory, Glory Hallelujah #2

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

* 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 first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half). The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The guitar chords are: A (above first staff), E A D (above second staff), Bm E (above third staff). The fourth staff has the same melody as the first: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The guitar chords are: A (above first staff), C#7 F#m (above second staff), Bm (above third staff), E7sus4 E7 (above fourth staff), A (above fifth staff).

*Benediction

Postlude

Readings

First Reading Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Gospel Reading Luke 8:26-39

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him.

For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" - for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by

demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Continuing Testament from "Still I Rise", by Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and
wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the
tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and
fear

I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously
clear

I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors
gave,

I am the dream and the hope of
the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

Announcements:

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!



THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

- Tue. Jun 24 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
- Wed. Jun 25 11:00 am -- Mindfulness and Meditation

Volunteers:

<u>June 22nd, 2025</u>		<u>June 29th, 2025</u>	
Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen	Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley	Late Usher:	Jill Zedan
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt	Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Kate Matthews	Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel	Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Janet Renovetz	Counters:	Volunteers Needed
	Sue Stenzel		Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Fred Pedersen	A/V:	David Pastor
		Snack:	Sue Stenzel
		Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel
		Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel

Special Thanks to our musical guests- Special Thanks to Angela Lynard and Glenn Brackens

Attendance last Sunday, June 15th, 2025 – Adults: 46; Kids: 8; Online: 8;
Additional Views: 21 Total: 83