



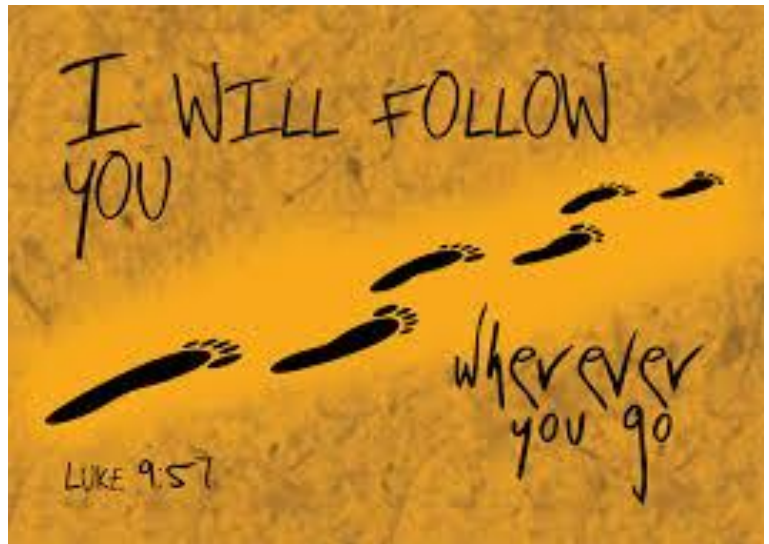
Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"I am no bird;
and no net
ensnares me:
I am a free human
being with an
independent will."*

- Charlotte Brontë,
Jane Eyre



Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 29th, 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!

Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday June 29th, 2025

Prelude

Instrumental

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



“Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.” — Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*



Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER** (Inspired by Psalm 77)

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

ALL: You work wonders and display your glory. How great is our God!

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so merciful as our God?

ALL: You redeem your people from generation to generation. How merciful is our God!

One: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so just as our God?

ALL: You hear the cries of the troubled and move in righteousness. How just is our God!

Hymn of Praise

All Are Welcome

Insert

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

God who journeys with us, we gather together as we follow you. You have made rough ways smooth. You have parted seas. You have given us strength to climb mountains and courage to traverse valleys. We open ourselves to the heartbreak of caring for the world that you love. We claim hope and joy as our inheritance and portion. We remember that you are with us and give you thanks for the journey. Hallelujah and amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

Spirit of the Living God

#283

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Gospel Reading: - Luke 9:51-62

**Continuing Testament- From Long Walk to Freedom: The
Autobiography of Nelson Mandela**

**Time with
Young Worshipers**

Sermon: By Rev. Monica Harmon

Hymn of Reflection

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#539

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, "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 our Provider, receive these gifts for your creation, for your kingdom, for your glory. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure Let There Be Peace On Earth Insert

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.

Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A

*Benediction

Postlude

Instrumental

Readings

First Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Gospel Reading Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival,

but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

But he turned and rebuked them.

Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."

And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Continuing Testament From *Long Walk to Freedom*: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor both. Some say that has now been achieved. But I know that that is not the case. The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning. I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.

Announcements:

Flowers- The flowers this Sunday are “ In honor of our eldest son David's 30th birthday on June 29” – Joe and Betsey Wilson

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!



Snacks Following Service will return this fall. Coffee, tea and lemonade will still be available.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

- Tue. Jul 1

6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
- Wed. Jul 2

11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation

4:00 pm – Stewardship/Leadership

Volunteers:

June 29 th , 2025		July 6 th , 2025	
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Late Usher:	Jill Zedan	Late Usher:	Eveyln Seager
Greeter:	Kathy Pastor	Greeter:	Sue Stenzel
Reader:	Sherrill Witt	Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Joe/Betsey Wilson	Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Kathy Pastor	Counters:	Sue Stenzel
	Joe Wilson		Volunteers Needed
A/V:	David Pastor	A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Sue Stenzel	Communion	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel	Bread:	
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel		

Attendance last Sunday, June 22nd, 2025 – Adults: 27 ; Kids: 1; Online: 20;
Additional Views: 13 Total: 61