

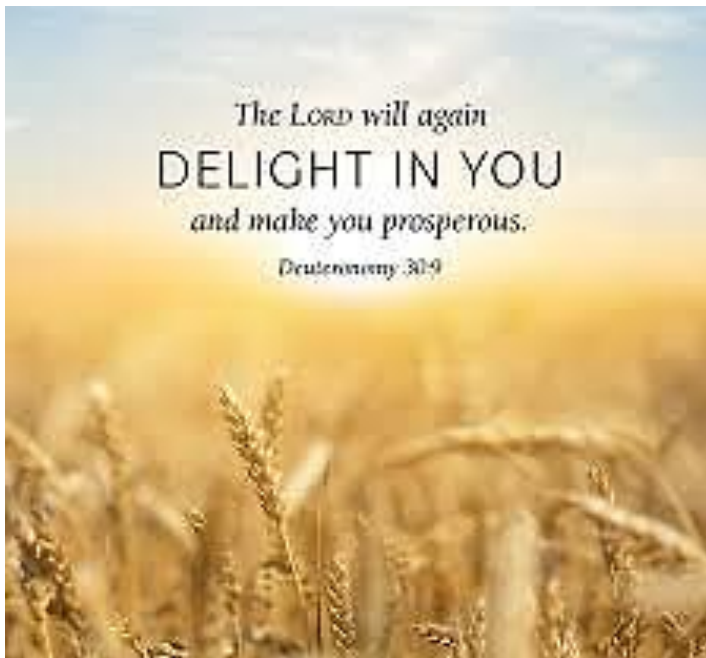


Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"There is
not enough air
in the room but
you are breathing.
There is
nobody here but you
are held.
You have broken and
the world
is breaking
and we will always
rebuild.
Do you hear me, love?
We will
always rebuild."
— Jeanette LeBlanc*



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 13th, 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!

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday July 13th, 2025

Prelude **Here I Am, Lord (Schutte) Flute Solo, Lauren Stephens**

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

“There are thousands who are in opinion opposed to slavery and to the war, who yet in effect do nothing to put an end to them; who, esteeming themselves children of Washington and Franklin, sit down with their hands in their pockets, and say that they know not what to do, and do nothing...”

–Henry David Thoreau, Civil Disobedience and Other Essays

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: We come to worship this day, knowing deeply what it means to struggle.

All: **We remember times in our lives when we've felt hopeless, yearning for someone to care for us.**

One: In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the neighbors in our midst, we need only tap into our own humanity.

All: **Because we know what it means to struggle, we are challenged each day to show radical love to our neighbors.**

One: Even those who aren't like us.

All: **Especially those who aren't like us.**

One: May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped...

All: **...and how we can become the helpers, and the hope-bearers, in this world.**

***Hymn of Praise**

Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love

#498

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

Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us into community together, onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example. may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

Let Justice Flow like Streams

#588

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Second Reading: - Romans 10:5-9

Continuing Testament- Active hope is a practice, Joanna Macy

**Time with
Young Worshipers**

Sermon: by Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer

Hymn of Reflection

I've Got Peace Like a River

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The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, The family of 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, 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 of love, we give these gifts back to you with humility, remembering time we've needed help in our own lives. Help us use the gifts we give to love others as we have been loved. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure

Be Not Dismayed

#460

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

* Circle of Community

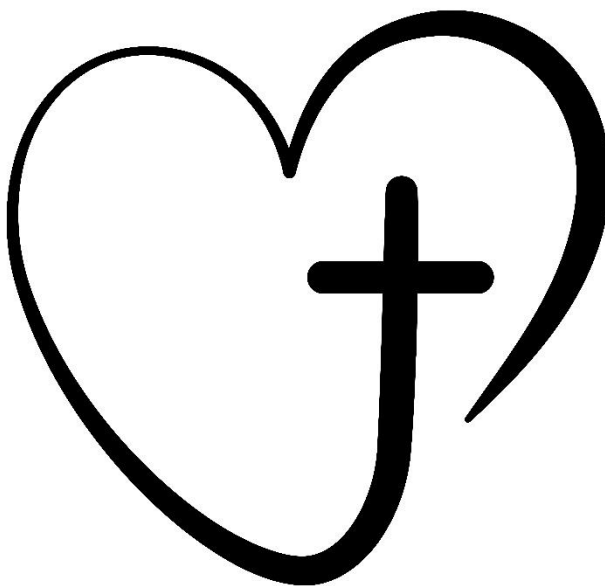
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

*Benediction

Postlude

Instrumental



Readings

First Reading Deuteronomy 30:9-14

and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away.

It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?'

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?'

No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Second Reading Romans 10:5-9

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." [a] But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" [b] (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" [c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," [d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Continuing Testament Active hope is a practice, Joanna Macy

Active hope is a practice. Like tai chi or gardening, it is something we do rather than have. It is a process we can apply to any situation, and it involves three key steps. First, we take a clear view of reality; second, we identify what we hope for in terms of the direction we'd like things to move in or the values we'd like to see expressed; and third, we take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction.

Announcements:

Ice Cream Social- Please join us after worship today outside by the back entrance for an old-fashioned Ice-cream social!

Colony Cupboard- We have a new collection box for the Colony Cupboard! This program helps support students from BBH high school and middle school by providing essentials for those who need them. We will collect over the next month and donate supplies in the middle of August in time for the next school year. Items they need at this time include: Individually packaged snacks, highlighters, tissues, headphones, spiral bound notebooks.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	Social Justice Meeting
Tue. Jul 15	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
Wed. Jul 16	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Fri. Jul 18	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

Volunteers:

<u>July 13th, 2025</u>		<u>July 20th, 2025</u>	
Early Usher:	Diane Gressley	Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed	Late Usher:	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Jim Duffy	Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel	Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Sue Stenzel Janet Renovetz	Counters:	Sue Stenzel Janet Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor	A/V:	Volunteers Needed

Attendance last Sunday, July 6th, 2025 – Adults: 32; Kids: 0; Online: 16;
Additional Views: 21; Total: 69