



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

*"Encouraging  
someone  
to be themselves  
is the  
loudest  
way to  
love them."*

*- Kalen Dion*



***Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 • 10:00 AM***

***Financial Secretary***

• Joy Garapic

***Office Manager***

• Miranda Lacefield

***Music Director***

• Rob Keshock

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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prelude**

**Instrumental**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase,"  
- Martin Luther King Jr.

***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO PRAYER (Inspired by Psalm 50)**

One: The mighty one, God the Holy One, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**All: Out of the kingdom, the perfection of beauty, the splendor of creation, the wonder of ages, God shines forth.**

One: The mighty one, God the Holy One, speaks and calls to the heavens above and to the earth in order to judge the people.

**All: Out of justice and righteousness, God shines forth.**

One: The mighty one, God the Holy One, speaks and receives our thanksgiving, honor, and praise.

**All: Out of our witness, worship, and testimony, God shines forth.**

**Hymn of Praise**

**Forward Through the Ages**

**#377**

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

***Wonderful God, set your kingdom before us anew. Dwell with us as we bring our songs and prayers, our hopes and hesitations, our faith and our disbelief before you. Demonstrate your kingdom to us and through our time of gathering so that we may be firm and steadfast in love and action to make your way known. Reveal the path you trail before us so that we may follow you clearly with distraction or detour. May your Spirit enliven, challenge, and guide us in all things and for all days. 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: - Hebrews 11:1-3**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 12:35-40**

**Continuing Testament- from The New Century Hymnal Companion**

Time with  
Young Worshipers

**Sermon:** by Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer

**Hymn of Reflection: Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name**

**#604**

**The Church at Prayer**

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Jonathan Langham, Tony Cuningham, 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]**

Generous God, as we bring our gifts, we ask for you to receive them and endow us with wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of your abundant blessings. Amen.

### **\* Hymn of Departure**

**Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing**

**#77**

**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 score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

### **Instrumental**

## **Readings**

### **First Reading Hebrews 11:1-3**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

## **Gospel Reading Luke 12:32-40**

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."


## **Continuing Testament from The New Century Hymnal Companion**

(The African American hymn "Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name") sounds like a lullaby. The opening stanza presents an image of a person aware of the approach of death yet wishing to hide from it. However, the tone moves from one of dread to one of rejoicing when it is discovered that Jesus is the one who is calling. Many African American spirituals do not picture death as disagreeable; instead they associate death with reward, deliverance, and the final step toward freedom. Often in spiritual songs about death, reunion with loved ones who have gone before is eagerly anticipated. This African American tune was arranged for The New Century Hymnal by Jeffrey Radford... who served on the hymnal committee. Radford arranged eight African American spirituals for the hymnal, most of them in gospel style. Jeffrey Radford has provided a gentle, rocking arrangement for this syncopated melody, filling in the pauses between words with rhythmic patterns and "hallelujahs." To perform this song quickly would not do justice to its quiet intensity.

## **Announcements:**

**Worship in the Park-** Join us Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> at Sagamore Hills TWP. Park Rosemary Snell Pavilion 11550 Valley View Rd Sagamore Hills OH 44067 for worship in the park followed by BUCC World Diversity Potluck- Bring a shareable dish that reflects your heritage or a culture you admire for our annual potluck luncheon!

**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.

 **Nursery Attendant Needed**  As Amelia Elting prepares to leave for college in mid-August, we are seeking a caring and dependable individual to serve as our Nursery Attendant.

### *Position Overview:*

The Nursery Attendant will provide safe, secure, and nurturing care for children ages 0 through 4 years old during church services and events. This individual may also assist Miss Mindy in the classroom as needed.

The position pays \$50/Sunday. The hours are 9:45 am until the children are secured by their parents after the service.

### *Qualifications:*

Experience caring for children ages 0–4

At least 18 years of age (we will consider current church members 16 and older)

CPR certification for infants and children is preferred

A heart for ministry and a love for children

If you or someone you know is interested in this important ministry role, please contact the church office at BUCCoffice23@gmail.com or 440-526-4364 or speak with a member of the Christian Education Committee.

Let's continue to provide a warm and welcoming space for our youngest members to grow in God's love!

**Fellowship Ministry-** It's already that time again! As usual we are collecting school supplies to help supplement those in need. Items to consider bringing in -- pencils, notebooks, folders, backpacks, art supplies, Kleenex, wipes... Please start bringing them in as early as possible -- we're getting a jump on our Rally Day donations this year!

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Aug 12	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Aug 13	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation 7:00 pm – Council
Thu. Aug 14	10:30 am – Called to Care
Fri. Aug 15	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

### Volunteers:



#### August 10th, 2025

Early Usher:	Evie Novak
Late Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Jill Zedan
Flowers:	Carole Snider
Counters:	Kathy Pastor Sue Stenzel
A/V:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

#### August 17th, 2025

##### **Worship in the Park**

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Counters:	Kathy Pastor <b>Volunteers Needed</b>
A/V:	Fred Pedersen

Attendance last Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 42; Kids: 4; Online: 12;  
Additional Views: 14; Total: 72