



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

"We are all visitors to  
this time, this place.  
We are just passing  
through. Our purpose  
here is to observe, to  
learn, to grow, to  
love... and then we  
return home".

-Queen Elizabeth II



**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 24<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!**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prelude**                      **Flute Duet- Betsey Wilson & Erin Tomlinson**  
**“Flower Duet” by Leo Delibes**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

*"Anybody can observe the Sabbath, but making it holy  
surely takes the rest of the week."*

*- Alice Walker*

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO PRAYER (Inspired by Psalm 71)**

One:     Let us worship the Holy One, our refuge, hope and trust. Our  
praise is continually of our God!

**All:        God will not put us to shame. God is our rock!**

One:     Turn to the God who saves and delivers. Our praise is continually  
of our God!

**All:        God's righteousness redeems. God is our shelter!**

One:     Find rest and delight in the Holy One. Our praise is continually of  
our God!

**All:        We lean upon the Holy One. God is our sure foundation!**

**Hymn of Praise**

**Come, We Who Love God's Name**

**#379**

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

***God of the Sabbath, you make this day holy. As we gather in your name,  
redeem the days when our focus wandered and draw us back to you. Let your  
wisdom, justice, and compassion guide us. Slow our pace to attend to those  
things that matter. Open our understanding to the good that needs to be  
done. Sustain us for the challenges we face, Make your name known among  
us and through us. We glorify and honor you in spirit and in truth, in word and  
in deed, in season and out of season. Amen.***

**\*Assurance of Grace**

**\*Gathering Song:**

**Glory to God**

**Pablo Sosa 1988**



## **Readings**

**(See back of bulletin for complete readings)**

**First Reading: - Isaiah 58:9b-14**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 13: 10-17**

**Continuing Testament- Kathleen Norris on community, in "Image" issue 75**

*Time with Young Worshipers*

**Sermon:** *by Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer*

**Hymn of Reflection:**

**Here I Am, Lord**

**Insert**

## **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]**

Gracious and Generous God, receive these gifts in faith and trust. Help us to be good stewards of the resources you have given to us and bless our generosity for your glory. Amen.

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

**O My Soul, Bless Your Creator**

**#13**

**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.' repeated twice. Chords are indicated above and below the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

### **Instrumental**

## **Readings**

### **First Reading Isaiah 58:9b-14 (The Message)**

"If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins,  
If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,  
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.

I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones.

You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

"If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don't use my holy day for personal advantage,

If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God's holy day as a celebration, If you honor it by refusing 'business as usual,' making money, running here and there—

Then you'll be free to enjoy God! Oh, I'll make you ride high and soar above it all.

I'll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob."

Yes! God says so!

### **Gospel Reading Luke 13:10-17 (The Message)**

He was teaching in one of the meeting places on the Sabbath. There was a woman present, so twisted and bent over with arthritis that she couldn't even look up. She had been afflicted with this for eighteen years. When Jesus saw her, he called her over. "Woman, you're free!" He laid hands on her and suddenly she was standing straight and tall, giving glory to God. The meeting-place president, furious because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, "Six days have been defined as work days. Come on one of the six if you want to be healed, but not on the seventh, the Sabbath."

But Jesus shot back, "You frauds! Each Sabbath every one of you regularly unties your cow or donkey from its stall, leads it out for water, and thinks nothing of it. So why isn't it all right for me to untie this daughter of Abraham and lead her from the stall where Satan has had her tied these eighteen years?"

When he put it that way, his critics were left looking quite silly and red-faced. The congregation was delighted and cheered him on.

## **Continuing Testament Kathleen Norris on community, in "Image" issue 75**

*I often ask an audience to imagine that the people they encounter daily, on the job, in school, in the neighborhood, are the people they will be spending the rest of their lives with. Praying, working, and engaging in recreation with them, all day, every day. The shock in the room is palpable; the groans begin. Now, I add, imagine that God has called you to remain with these people, and that your eternal life depends on how well you establish community with them here and now. This is what monastics take on, I tell them, but to some extent this is also what we do as church. At this point I have people's full attention, but they aren't necessarily happy with me. Christian community challenges us to give up so much that we hold dear. In Galatians we are told that for the Christian no one can claim status as Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for we have all been brought together to be one in Christ Jesus. In a world in which there is an increasing gap between rich and poor, and tribalism and identity politics are as much a scourge as terrorism, the cause of so-called "little wars" around the world, Paul's concept of community is hard for us to grasp. And it's more difficult still to act as if we believe that such community is possible. And yet that is our call and our commission.*

## **Announcements:**

### **Nursery Attendant Needed**

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.

If you or someone you know is interested in this important ministry role, please contact the church office at [BUCCoffice23@gmail.com](mailto: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!

**Rally Day-** Be sure to join us as we celebrate our BUCC kids as they embark on their new school year Sunday, September 7. Our amazing choir will return that day as well, so we have lots to be grateful for! We will (of course) start things off with a celebratory potluck with the theme of "Best Dish Ever." Bring your families' favorite! Mark your calendar today!

**House needed-** Marianne Hoppel is moving back from California and is looking for a house to rent. She needs a pet friendly home, for at or below \$2,250/month. If you have any leads please contact her at 916-208-9843 or 216-375-7642 or email her at Hoppel.marianne@gmail.com

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following**

- Tue. Aug 26                    6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
- Wed. Aug 27                    11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation  
                                      6:00 pm – Braver Angels
- Fri. Aug 29                    6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares
- Sat. Aug 30                    8:30 am – AA literature stuffing event

**Volunteers:**

<u>August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025</u>		<u>August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</u>	
Early Usher:	Betsey Wilson	Early Usher:	Diane Gressley
Late Usher:	Sue Stenzel	Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Dave Bernard	Greeter:	Carole Snider
Reader:	Armand Eusanio	Reader:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Counters:	Sue Stenzel Kathy Pastor	Counters:	Carole Snider Sue Stenzel
A/V:	David Pastor	A/V:	Fred Pedersen

Attendance last Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 48; Kids: 2; Online: 5;  
Total: 55