



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"And those who were
seen dancing
were thought
to be insane
by those who could
not hear the music."*

-Friedrich Nietzsche



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 31st, 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 – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday August 31st, 2025

Prelude **I Know That My Redeemer Lives (J. Hatton)**

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

Condemning others as bad or sinful is a way to feel righteous. Such a feeling is a powerful mood alteration and can become highly addictive.

— John Bradshaw

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: In the oneness of this place...

All: **In the oneness of the body of your child...**

One: We come in heart, body, mind and soul from our individual spaces...

All: **To transcend the divisions inside ourselves, inside this community, inside the wider world.**

One: We will sing in Your spirit in the face of our exhausted spirits.

All: **For we are simply called to love You, ourselves, this community, and the world around us.**

Hymn of Praise

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#539

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]** *(From Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman)*

Give to us the listening ear. We seek this day the ear that will not shrink from the word that challenges us to deeper commitment and higher resolve. The word that lays bare the needs of the world that make our own days uneasy. The word that seizes upon every good and decent impulse of our nature. Please channel us into paths of healing in the lives of others. Amen

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa 1988



Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel Reading: - Luke 14:1, 7-14

Continuing Testament- from Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

Time with Young Worshipers

Sermon: *by Rev. David Loar*

Musical Offering

Diane Gressley, David Pastor and Friends

The Old Account Was Settled (F.M. Graham)

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]**

In the beauty of the earth You have given us so much to grow. In the beauty of our beings You have given us so much to share. In the beauty of this congregation You have given us so much praise in the world. Please receive our offerings in gratitude for what You have given us. Amen

*** Hymn of Departure** **How Firm a Foundation** V. 1-3 **#407**

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 consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. Above the staff are the chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff also has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the second line of the hymn. Above the staff are the chords: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A. The lyrics are written below the staves.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Instrumental

Readings

First Reading Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual affection continue.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel Reading Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Continuing Testament from Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

Open unto me, light for my darkness, Open unto me, courage for my fear

Open unto me, hope for my despair, Open unto me, peace for my turmoil

Open unto me, joy for my sorrow, Open unto me, strength for my weakness

Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion, Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins

Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness, Open unto me, love for my hates

Open unto me, Thy Self for myself,

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

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 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!

Calling all train enthusiasts! Fellowship is planning a two-hour Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad trip for BUCC members and friends on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 at 9:30 am. We have arranged for a sizeable group discount if we have more than 20 attendees, ie. \$21 rather than \$30ish. The group rate also ensures that we will be seated together. We will be riding either way, but we need to know if there is enough interest to put a deposit on the trip by THIS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. If you and your family are interested, PLEASE LET MARY (Kiddfam@cox.net) KNOW as soon as possible, by Monday at the latest. See Mary and Betsey after church today if you have any questions. A firm commitment is required for this exciting outing. The date is prime for PEAK FALL FOLIAGE – be sure to join us!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

Mon. Sep 1	*Office Closed* Labor Day
Tue. Sep 2	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
Wed. Sep 3	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation 4:00 pm – Stewardship/Leadership
Thu. Sep 4	7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Volunteers:

<u>August 31st, 2025</u>		<u>September 7th, 2025</u>	
Early Usher:	Diane Gressley	Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen	Late Usher:	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Carole Snider	Greeter:	Carol Miller
Reader:	Sherrill Witt	Reader:	Cliff Cribbs
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel	Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Carole Snider Sue Stenzel	Counters:	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel
A/V:	Fred Pedersen	A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Volunteers Needed	Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Sherrill Witt	Set Up:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Sherrill Witt	Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
		Communion Bread:	Volunteers Needed

Attendance last Sunday, August 24th, 2025 – Adults: 39; Kids: 5; Online: 7;
Additional Views: 13 Total: 64