



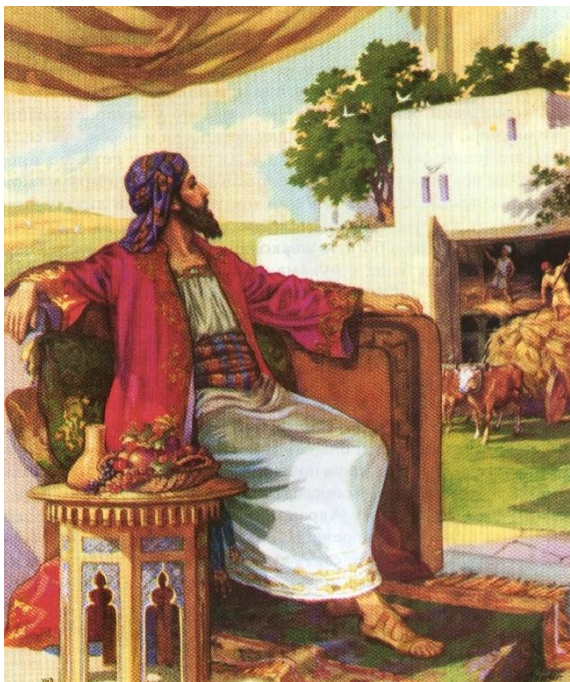
Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"The three hardest
tasks in the world are
neither physical feats
or intellectual
achievements,
but moral acts;
to return love
for hate,
to include
the excluded,
and to say,
'I was wrong'."*

*~ Sydney J. Harris,
Journalist*



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 7th, 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!

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday September 7th, 2025

Prelude **Come, Now is the Time To Worship (B. Doerksen)**

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

“Asking for help does not mean that we are weak or incompetent. It usually indicates an advanced level of honesty and intelligence.”

— Anne Wilson Schaef

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: Though we could be resentful,

All: we come to give thanks.

One: Though we could be complaining,

All: we come to offer appreciation.

One: Though we could be upset about what we lack,

All: we come in gratitude for what we have.

One: We enter now into this time of worship

All: carrying seed to sow, singing songs of joy, rejoicing together.

Hymn of Praise

Be Now My Vision

#451

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

We come convinced of many things but trusting very few. Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we cannot see that which we have not dared to hope.

***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: - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Gospel Reading: - Luke 14: 25-33

Continuing Testament- from Rev. Dr. Frederick Buechner

Time with Young Worshipers

Sermon: *by Rev. David Loar*

Anthem

Thank Our God for Sisters and Brothers

#397

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 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]**

We commit, we dedicate, we promise, we affirm our path in Your will. May we listen to the guidance of Your Spirit as we ponder and implement the use of these offerings and all our gifts. Amen.

Communion

At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.
No exceptions. No Kidding.

Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

Prayer of Thanksgiving after communion [UNISON]

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*** Hymn of Departure**

We Love Your Realm, O God V. 1-4

#312

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 first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The chords are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

Readings

First Reading Deuteronomy 30:15-20

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am

commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances,

then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,

"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Continuing Testament from Rev. Dr. Frederick Buechner

If the world is sane, then Jesus is mad as a hatter and the Last Supper is the Mad Tea Party. The world says, Mind your own business, and Jesus says, There is no such thing as your own business. The world says, Follow the wisest course and be a success, and Jesus says, Follow me and be crucified. The world says, Drive carefully - the life you save may be your own - and Jesus says, Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. The world says, Get and Jesus says, Give. In terms of the world's sanity, Jesus is crazy as a coot, and anybody who thinks he can follow him without being a little crazy too is laboring less under a cross than under a delusion.

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!

Rally Day- Be sure to join us as we celebrate our BUCC kids as they embark on their new school for a celebratory potluck today!

Share your Inspiration- As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. Keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to the office. (buccoffice23@gmail.com)



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!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	Rally Day Potluck
Tue. Sep 9	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Sep 10	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation 7:00 pm – Council
Thu. Sep 11	10:30 am – Called to Care 7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Volunteers:

<u>September 7th, 2025</u>		<u>September 14th, 2025</u>	
Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen	Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley	Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Carol Miller	Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Cliff Cribbs	Reader:	Diane Gressley
Flowers:	Dave Bernardl	Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel	Counters:	Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Fred Pedersen	A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed	Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Volunteers Needed	Set Up:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed	Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
Communion Bread:	Gayle Colbert		

Attendance last Sunday, August 31st, 2025 – Adults: 39; Kids: 2; Online: 12;
Additional Views: 8; Total: 61