



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"If my mind can
conceive it, if my
heart can believe it,
then I can achieve it."*

—Muhammad Ali



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 14th, 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!

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday September 14th, 2025**

Prelude

Shall We Gather at the River

#597

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

“ We can't take any credit for our talents. It's how we use them that counts.”
Madeleine l'Engle

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: We are a community of faith
that has been created by the love of God.

**All: We are the people who have been set free
by the world of forgiveness in Christ,**

One: We have come not to exalt our own goodness,
but to praise the holiness of God.

**All: We have come not to boast of what we have done,
but to proclaim that the world is redeemed by your grace.**

One: With all our being,
we will praise God and tell of God's goodness

**All: in our acts of kindness and love
toward the "least" among us in our times.**

Hymn of Praise

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459

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

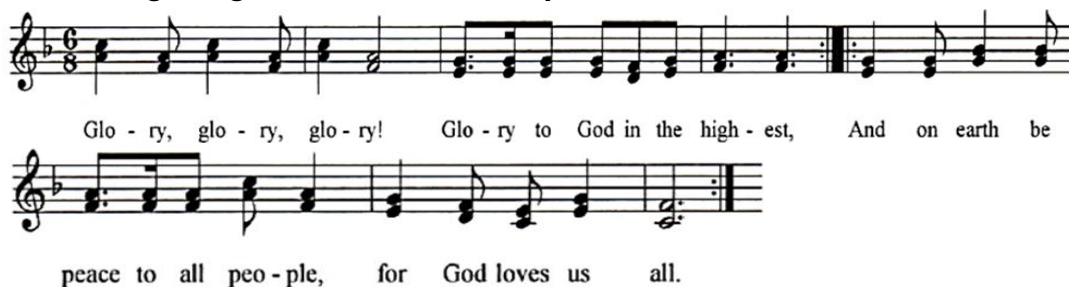
We bend, but you enable us not to break. We cry, but you enable us not to live a life of screaming. We sit, but you enable us to be motivated to keep getting up. We sing, and you turn our songs into worship. We give, and you turn our offerings into sustaining your creation. We now open ourselves to be totally overwhelmed by your power. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa 1988



Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Luke 1:46-55

Gospel Reading: - Luke 2:8-12 & Acts 1:15

**Continuing Testament- There are ones too gentle to live among wolves by
James Kavanaugh**

Time with Young Worshipers

Sermon: *by Rev. David Loar*

Anthem

Peace, I Leave with You, My Friends

#249

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]**

God of gratitude, accept what we offer today:
our checks and cash, our IOU's, our faltering steps,
our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, our risking, our lives.
Bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back,
that new life may be ours, to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen

*** Hymn of Departure** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise **#1**

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 image shows two staves of musical notation for a hymn. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written below the staff. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written below the staff. Chord symbols are written above and below the staves: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

***Benediction**

Postlude **Amazing Grace** **#547**

Readings

First Reading Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-12 & Acts 1:15

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons)

Continuing Testament There are ones too gentle to live among wolves

By James Kavanaugh



There are ones too gentle to live among wolves
Who prey upon them with techno eyes
And sell their hearts and guts for drinks at noon.
There are ones too gentle for a savage world
Who dream instead of snow and children and Halloween
And wonder if the leaves will change their color soon.
There are ones too gentle to live among wolves

Who anoint them for burial with greedy claws
And murder then for an economy of profit and gain.
There are ones too gentle for a corporate world
Who dream instead of candied apples and ferris wheels
And pause to hear the distant whistle of a train.

There are ones too gentle to live among wolves.
Who devour them with eager appetite and search
For other ones to prey upon and suck their childhood dry.
There are ones too gentle for a moneyed world
Who dream instead of Easter eggs and fragrant plants
And search for beauty in the mystery of the sky.

There are ones too gentle to live among wolves
Who toss them like a lost and wounded dove.
Such gentle ones are lonely in a transactional world.
Unless they have a gentle one to love.

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!

BBH pride is sponsoring a great education event at the Brecksville Community Center. Thursday, September 25 at 6pm

A Conversation on Transgender Truth: The Science and The Journey
Join us in a non-judgemental space to better understand the issues, challenges and successes along the transition journey. Our transgender friends have never needed understanding more than now, please attend with an open mind and heart.

Conversation led by:

- Local Psychologist specializing in gender non-conforming adults
- MetroHealth Physician practicing Family Medicine and Gender Care
- Akron Children's Hospital Adolescent Medicine Specialist
- Motivational Speaker and Entrepreneur discussing issues within the transgender community, from a lived experience

Register today! (Registration is mandatory for this event). Visit:

<https://bbhpride.org/pride-events/events/transgender-truth/>

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	11:15 am – Social Justice Meeting
Tue. Sep 16	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall) 7:30 pm – Communication & Outreach
Wed. Sep 17	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation 6:00 pm – Braver Angels
Thu. Sep 18	7:00 pm – Choir Practice
Fri. Sep 19	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

Volunteers:

<u>September 14th, 2025</u>		<u>September 21st, 2025</u>	
Early Usher:	Peg Duffy	Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Jan Renovetz	Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Kathy Pastor	Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Diane Gressley	Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Annette Pedersen	Flowers:	Jan Renovetz
Counters:	Kathy Pastor Jan Renovetz	Counters:	Jan Renovetz Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Volunteers Needed	A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Sue Stenzel	Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Sue Stenzel	Set Up:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel	Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

Attendance last Sunday, September 7th, 2025 – Adults: 50; Kids: 8; Online: 10;
Additional Views: 10; Total: 78