

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are male, female, or transgender,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,

Or a life-long member of the UCC,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities,

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!**

WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS

We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour:

- ✧ Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery.
- ✧ Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers.
- ✧ Crayons and paper for children are also available from ushers.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

The Holy One in whom we live and move and have our being is always close and caring. Whether we are struggling in a dry wilderness of doubt, or resting in a refreshing place of faith, God's love for us remains constant and sure. Thank God for that! Amen

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Lord, Show Us Your Mercy and Love
[With Percussion Group]

Whitaker

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: This is a day to celebrate new life!

People: To open our eyes to the beauty of creation,

L: To open our ears to the sounds of God's world,

P: To open our hearts to God's people all around us!

L: This is a day to give thanks for Life's many blessings!

P: This is a time to remember God's love for us all!

L: Today we give thanks for the Spirit, who brings us new life!

All: We give thanks to the Holy One, whose compassion is everlasting!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, it is not easy to find that quite place where we can get in touch with your Spirit. Many things distract us, yet as we gather this morning, we trust that the gentle strength of your Presence will renew our fragile souls.

Recharge our desire to live lives that are faithful and true. And though this time of worship, may we all come to appreciate more fully the marvelous beauty of your countless blessings. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

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 with whom God is pleased.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Old Testament

Psalm 111:1-8

Pew Bible, page 562

The New Testament

Matthew 20:1-16

Pew Bible, page 21

The Continuing Testament

from *Nothing to Earn*

by Alan Brehm

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Humble Yourself

Maranatha

Sermon

Not to Be-Labor the Point...

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer *[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to One's Theological understanding]*

...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.

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

We Lift Our Voices (We Are an Offering)

Liles

“We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.”
Dwight Liles, 1984

***The Doxology**

**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 thank you, Gracious Holy One, that we can sing your praises, hear your Good News, and celebrate your Presence in our lives and in our world. We now seek to express our faith through offering our gifts and ourselves to your mission. Bless all that we bring, that it may be used according to your will, so that through our giving others may also know of your grace and blessings. Amen.

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

The Blessing

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

O for a World

#575

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah". The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has the melody with lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." and chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E written above. The second staff has the same melody with lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." and chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A written below.

*Benediction

Postlude

Gavotte in G

Handel

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Vicki Szabo & Family, the Family of Jim Hamro, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Lee Sanderson, Ruth Thorpe, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)

Attendance Sunday, September 14, 2014 – Adults: 82 Kids: 10 Total: 92

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for Coffee Hour.

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY by the Hunt Family in Honor of our Family members who can't be with us today. May they rest in Peace and know they are Loved.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS tonight from 6 – 7 pm in the Parlor.

IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING EBOLA OUTBREAK, BUCC Church Council approved a special offering to be taken today. The money collected will be sent to the UCC's Disaster Ministries, to be added with other "One Great Hour of Sharing" funds, for direct assistance to regions where this epidemic is rapidly spreading. Sadly, for lack of something as simple as a pair of rubber gloves, individuals trying to assist patients or properly deal with the deceased, have themselves been infected. Fortunately, our modest efforts - and your generous giving - can literally save lives and help turn the tide. Checks can be made-out to BUCC, with "Ebola Relief" on the memo line. Thank you for your compassionate contributions! Pastor Dave

CROP WALK -- If you plan to walk in the CROP Walk, please see Susan Snyder to sign up. The Walk takes place on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 28, heading south from the Brecksville Train Station. It raises money to fight hunger locally and worldwide. Walkers may register between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m., and the Walk itself will begin at 1:30 p.m. Doug and Nancy Allenson, and Susan Snyder, have already signed up to walk. Thank you in advance.

FREE CONCERT On Sunday Oct. 19 at 4:00 pm, BUCC will host the **Case Concert Choir**, comprised of students from Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Under the direction of Dr. Matthew Garrett, the fifty-member ensemble will present a program titled "A Life in Music" which follows our journey through life from the celebration of birth, through the wonderment of childhood, into the ups and downs of adulthood, to an ultimate declaration of the will to live! The eclectic program includes works by several contemporary composers, as well as two traditional African songs. A free-will offering will be received, and a light meal will be served following the program. We hope you can join us for this unique choral presentation. Bring a friend!

OUR COMPLETE WORSHIP SERVICE, including anthems, hymns, etc., is fed by our sound system to our new audio-CD recorder (CDs are available in the church office for borrowing) and to the narthex speakers (for the benefit of anyone who must leave the sanctuary because of a restless child or for any other reason). If you should use one of the portable microphones during the service, please do not turn it off but return it to its location so that its continuing feed is not eliminated from the system.

AFTER WORSHIP LUNCH BUNCH - All are welcome to join this spirited group of BUCC worshipers after coffee hour for brunch and some great conversation. We meet at a restaurant most Sundays around Noon. If you are single, widowed, a couple, or a family – anyone that just doesn't want to cook or dine alone, please join us. You'll be glad you did! We usually call in reservations around 11:30, to give the restaurant fair warning. Jon Thompson, Susan Snyder, Dave Debick, Bridget & Chad Sproul, Kathy Smith, Pastor Dave, and I are regulars. Ask any of us how much fun we have! - Marge Culver

THE PEACE CANDLE is placed up front every Sunday to remind us of Jesus' teachings on peace and peacemakers. We pray that peace between nations, within our country, community, families, and ourselves will become a priority for all.

THE BLESSINGS JAR is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your Blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY Cereal

NAME TAGS are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and members alike, to help us to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Psalm 111:1-5; 7-8

Praise the Holy One! I will give thanks to the Righteous One with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the great congregation. Great are the works of our Divine Creator, studied by all who delight in them. The Holy One's works are full of honor and majesty, and the Holy One's righteousness endures forever. The Holy One has gained renown by doing wonderful deeds; the Compassionate One is gracious and merciful, providing food for those who show reverence and respect. The Holy One is ever mindful of the covenant made with

God's people.... The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are truly trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

The New Testament - Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus says, "For the Realm of God is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Continuing Testament - from *Nothing to Earn* - by Alan Brehm [edited]

The "Kingdom of Heaven" that Jesus talks about is a strange kingdom indeed! It operates completely differently from the way things work in our everyday lives. In the strange kingdom Jesus envisions, "the last will be first and the first will be last." In this strange kingdom, those who are deemed godless gain entry ahead of those who are supposedly godly and super-righteous. In this strange kingdom, little children are the example by which we all must measure ourselves. In this strange kingdom, those who serve are the ones who are viewed as great. It is a strange kingdom indeed!

I think the point of it all is that Divine Grace - God's unconditional love, and God's unfailing mercy - is a gift that we can never earn. It is given to us all freely, generously, with no strings

attached. That means we don't have to do more or be better in order to ensure that God loves us, because God already loves us completely. As Bishop Desmond Tutu puts it, "There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less." This is a strange kingdom indeed. Thanks be to God!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 9/21/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	6 pm	Confirmation Class
Wed 9/24/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thurs 9/25/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Crafters for Christ
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday 9/28/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	1:30 pm	Crop Walk
	2 pm	Gone with the Wind

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Ian Stewart
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Candl: Evan Merritt
Sound: Val Duffy
Comns Grtr: Wes Novak
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Tina Ortiz
Nursery: Peg Duffy
Counters: Jim Kaul & Anna Mary Fisher
Servers: Sue Stenzel & Joanne Cook
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Marge Culver & Diane Gressley

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Kathy Smith, David Ritchey
Beth Rehling, Wes Novak
Acolyte: Ben Rehling
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Lenore Harris
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Bruce McCain, Mac Hoppel
Servers: Dottei & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Marianne Hoppel

Did Jesus Ignore Her?

Lillian Daniel

A Canaanite woman came down from the hills and pleaded, "Mercy, Master...My daughter is cruelly afflicted by an evil spirit." Jesus ignored her. The disciples came and complained, "Now she's bothering us. Would you please take care of her? She's driving us crazy." - Matthew 15:21-23

Jesus ignored her? This is a story in which nobody wants to pay attention to a suffering woman, even Jesus.

Spoiler alert: The next few sentences of the story reveal that Jesus ends up helping her, but that's because she just won't shut up. There's no question that Jesus starts out ignoring her. Why?

This could be a story about Jesus' divinity. Somehow, with the eyes of God, he had a purpose in ignoring her. Perhaps he knew that next, she would pester the disciples, and that then they would complain about her. Then Jesus would be able to point out the disciples' lack of compassion, he'd heal the woman himself, and they would all go on to learn some important lesson.

Or maybe the answer is simpler. This could be a story about Jesus' humanity. He ignored the woman because he was tired, fed up, annoyed, hungry or simply in a bad mood. The disciples complained about her because they were just as human. The woman stuck to it and demanded help because she was human too.

The healing that took place was divine. But Jesus' initial lack of attention to someone in pain seems pretty human. Even Jesus got cranky.

Here's the miracle. Healing triumphed. God paid attention. And in that moment, the God part of Jesus did too. He stopped ignoring her and paid attention. Even Jesus gets to grow and change.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to pay divine attention to people as you pay divine attention to me. Amen.