

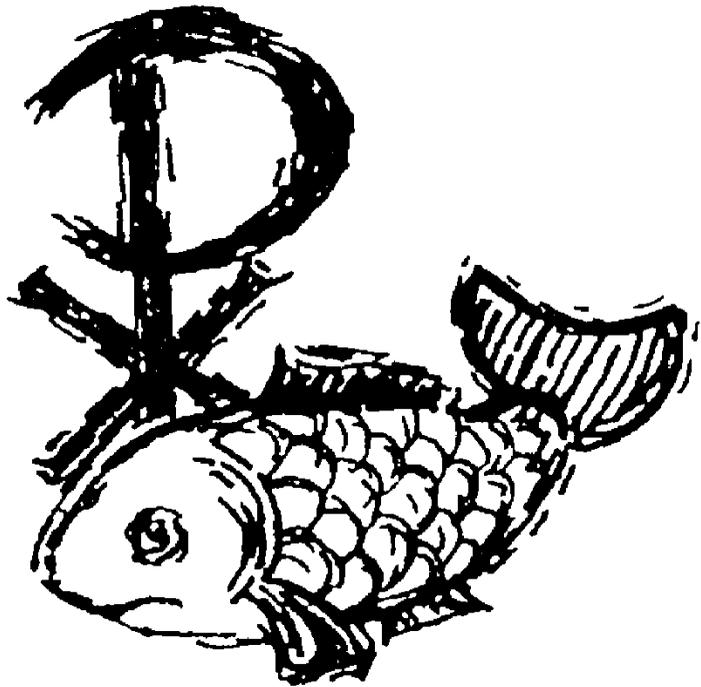
BRECKSVILLE

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Compassionate Holy One, you graciously welcome and love each of us exactly as we are; and in Jesus Christ you show us how we can become even better than we are. Be patient with us and help us, as we seek to understand what your genuine love and grace can fully mean in our lives, and in the lives of those we welcome in Christ's name. Amen.



Sunday September 18, 2016 • 10:00 AM
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

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.

Summer Office Hours:

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

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Gracious Source of us all, we know that Jesus welcomed all people with open arms and an open heart, inviting them to be part of a larger, compassionate community. Help us to do the same. Open our minds and our hearts to new ideas and renewed ways to show Christ's welcoming love to all people. Amen

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Let the Little Children Come
[Assisted by Youth Percussion]

Schmid

"Today we have come for the blessing of Your touch
By water and Spirit, You freely give so much
To this child that we bring You in answer to Your Call
For You love the children and You call to them all"
Michael A. Schmid, 2012

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Wherever we may be, the Divine Presence surrounds us. When we are alone or when we are together,

People: The Holy One is with us.

L: When we walk or when we fall,

P: The Holy One raises us up.

L: When we feel trapped or when we soar free,

P: Divine Love surrounds us.

L: When we are in shadow or in the light,

P: Divine Grace shines upon us.

L: In this time and place, and wherever we may go,

All: The Holy One is truly with us! Let us rejoice and give thanks!

***Hymn of Praise**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#25

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Loving and gracious Holy One, you offer wholeness and restoration to all your children. Help us, as your faithful people, to extend to others the same love, grace, and welcome that you extend to us. May we, like Jesus, learn to overcome the social stigmas and prejudices of our day. Let the power of your Holy Spirit work in us and through us, that we may praise you with joy and serve you with ever thankful hearts. 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.

Time with Young Worshipers

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism bears witness to the Divine Love and Grace that is extended to each of us at every stage of our lives.

P: Today we celebrate God's love for this child, and offer ourselves as instruments of that love in his life.

L: When parents brought their children to Jesus so that he might touch them, his disciples rebuked them; but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

P: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Realm of God.

L: Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Realm of God like a little child, shall not enter it."

P: Then Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

L: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is an outward and visible sign of Divine Grace.

Because the promise of the Gospel is not only to us, but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's Church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith.

P: Out of the Water of Holy Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiveness and grace as members of the One Body of Christ.

Promises of the parents and Godparents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage him to resist the power of evil, and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach and encourage him that he may be inspired to know and follow Jesus Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow with him in the Christian faith and to help him be a faithful member of the Church - by modeling Christ's Compassion in your lives, by furthering Christ's mission in the world, and by offering him the on-going nurture of the Church?

All: We do, with the help of God.

The Congregational Promise

Pastor: Members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ: As witnesses of this Baptism, will you pray for Jack and his family as they grow together in faith?

People: We promise them our prayerful support, as they carry Christ's love with them.

Baptismal Act and Presentation

The Old Testament

Isaiah 53:1-9

Pew Bible, page 683

The New Testament

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible, page 127

The Continuing Testament

from *No Longer at Ease*

by Sidney Hall

Musical Offering

Come Taste and See

deSilva

Sermon

In the Middle of Nowhere

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

You Are Called to Tell the Story
[Tune *Regent Square*]

#357

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 are Here to Please You

Kendrick

"We are here to praise you, lift our hearts and sing.
We are here to give you the best that we can bring"
Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

***Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Accept these offerings, Gracious Holy One, Giver of every good and perfect gift.
Grant that they may represent our love - and our lives - offered more fully to you.
Use all these gifts and each of us to help proclaim and advance your message of
forgiveness and love, welcome and peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,
who brings new life to us all. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

The Blessing

Communion Music

Élévation

Guilmant

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82

*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*

Musical notation for the hymn "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah". The score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on the top staff, and the bass line is on the bottom staff. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

*Benediction

Postlude

Toccata Giocosa

Martin

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Betty Gifford, Bill Simpson, Jim Pay, Dorie Gabor, William Zmich, Lenore & Bill Harris, Ann Toneff, Jill Black, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, 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 11, 2016 – Adult: 75 Kids: 12 Total: 87

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

WE WELCOME 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 are also available from ushers for children.

TODAY WE WELCOME *Jack Allen Fisher*, son of Jenny and Dave Fisher, into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A special welcome also to his family and friends visiting with us on this special day!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by the Hunt Family in Honor of Family & Friends near, far, and looking over us from above.

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.

BICENTENNIAL RSVP'S We hope you received your invitation in the mail. Please don't forget to mail, or drop it off at the Church by **MONDAY, SEPT. 19** please! Thank You.

WOMEN UNITED This should be a really fun meeting. In honor of our Bicentennial Celebration we will be bringing our fondest memories, thoughts and recollections and sharing them with each other. Some of us have been members for a long time, others for just a few years but still have memories to add. It will be a happy, perhaps a tender and touching time for all. Meeting on Wednesday, September 21, at 11:30 AM. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages supplied.

THE NEXT HUNGER meal will be on Sunday, October 2nd at Bethany UCC. The menu is posted on the sign – up board in the narthex, as well as the shift times (1st shift – 2:30 – 4 PM, 2nd shift – 4 – 6 PM). About 50 or 60 meals are anticipated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS Have a Need for Beads...If anyone has beads that they would like to donate, we could use them in our classroom. The type most wanted are colorful, clear or wooden. If you'd like to donate money towards the project or get a gift card for Catan's Craft center please see Tia Began. We will be making sun catcher 'streamers' for the classroom window!

SEASONAL CHOIR Rehearsals will begin on Thurs., Oct. 6 from 7-8:00 PM for our annual Christmas Cantata, which is scheduled for Dec. 11. (*Continued*)

If you enjoy singing music in a group setting but don't have time to commit to regular Choir, seasonal choir provides a great opportunity for music, fellowship, and spiritual preparation for the Christmas Season. High School students are welcome to participate.

PARTICIPANTS SCHEDULE 9/18 & 9/25 – Caroline Chandler will not be available to help you with schedule switches on these dates – please plan accordingly. Thank you.

JANE & CLIFF CRIBBS recently viewed a soon-to-be-released Ken Burns film entitled "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War," and highly recommend it to all of you. It airs Tuesday, September 20 at 9pm on WVIZ/PBS. If you have any questions to ask them, feel free to contact them at 440-526-4728.

The Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 53:1-8

Who has believed our message, and to whom has the way of the Holy One been revealed? For God's servant grew up like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no stately form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should be attracted to him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was scorned, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was placed the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, yet the Holy One has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

The New Testament - Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of God said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this Scripture, he proclaimed to him the Good News about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the Good News to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Continuing Testament - from *No Longer at Ease* - by Sidney Hall [edited]

Every time we look into the face of a fellow human being, regardless of who that person is - regardless of how different that person is from us - we dare to see the face of Christ. And at the core of our spiritual journey we know that such an affirmation goes far beyond inclusiveness or even diversity. Simply stated, we are called to see Christ, *everywhere*. We are called to experience the joy of looking across God's welcoming table and seeing the diversity of God's family; but this vision comes with a cost.

There is so much pain to be shared. There are people who sit in silent anguish in church pews Sunday after Sunday, who have not yet experienced the welcoming Church. There are people who wonder if they are absolutely alone in this world, and have not found a way to see themselves as God's included ones. They have not been fortunate enough to encounter others who see the face of Christ in their face.

It's not always easy to see the face of Christ in others. And sometimes the prejudice and fear of others even prevents us from seeing God's face in our own. Yet we continue to hope and rejoice and recommit ourselves to be those people who dare to see Christ wherever we look - especially when looking at those who differ from us.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 18

10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:00 am Ministries Fair PH
11:00 am Open House – Arlington St.

Wed., Sept. 21

6:00 am Early Birds
1:00 pm Women United
4:30 pm Recorder Dulcimer
7:00 pm Bicentennial Ministry

Thurs., Sept. 22

1:00 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Sunday, Sept. 25

10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:00 am Ministries Fair PH
11:00 am Open House – Arlington St.
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6:00 pm Youth Ministries

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPT. 18, 2016

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: David Pastor, Darlene Kelly,
Fred Pesek, Jill Zedan

Acolyte: Carli Began
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey
Narthex Grtr: Joanne Cook
Flowers: Tina Ortiz
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Marge Culver, Vicki Szabo
Clean-Up: Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks: Kate Klonowski, Marla Corrado

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

SEPT. 25, 2016

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Joe & Betsey Wilson
Vicki Szabo, Diane Gressley

Acolyte: Drew Demko
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek
Narthex Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Valerie Tyler
Counters: Donn Whyte, Marge Culver
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Dot Bailey, Kathleen Stewart