

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*

Still-Speaking Holy One, sometimes you come to us and we fail to recognize your Sacred Presence. As we struggle to find ordinary explanations for the marvelous ways in which you touch our lives, keep us from simply dismissing your call; and inspire us to listen with open minds and approachable hearts. Amen.



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Sunday, September 16, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Seventeenth 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, bisexual, or pangender
You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, 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!**



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

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 9, 2018 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we thank you that we are formed in your Divine Image and called to be your faithful children. Help us to hear and understand your calling and direction for our lives. And help us to trust that you are with us and supporting us, every step of the way. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

O Lord Jesus, Enfold Me in Your Arms

Traditional Pakistani melody

[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

"Come and turn all my footsteps to your way,
let me never be parted from your love."

Author unknown

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: A new day has dawned! The Divine gift of life is renewed in you and me!

People: Praise the Holy One! Praise the Creative Spirit in our midst!

L: Let us rejoice that the Holy One is here. Let us welcome-in the Spirit!

P: Let us gather in the awareness of Divine love!

L: Let us listen and respond to the Holy One, who meets us in new ways:

P: The Holy One who is with us today as we worship, and every day of our lives.

L: Inspire us, our Sacred Source, and guide us;

All: Empower us to be your faithful people!

***Hymn of Praise**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

#27

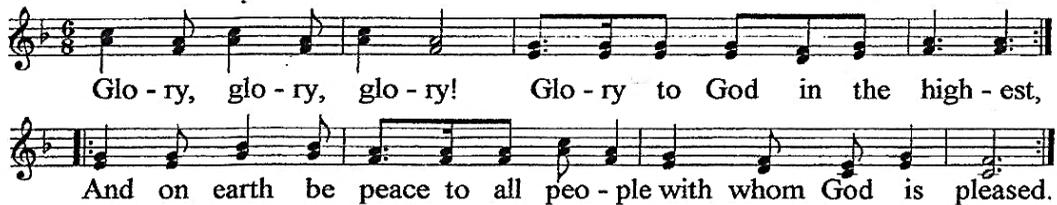
*** Prayer of Invocation [unison]**

Eternal Holy One, we seek your Presence here today. Fill us with a sense of your Being; move us with the power of your Spirit; touch us with faith, hope and love. Come to us and be with us, that we may worship you in this place, and then be prepared to serve you in this world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Example, and Friend. 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

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

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

People: Today we celebrate God's love for Carrie and Amy, and offer ourselves as instruments of that love in their lives.

L: Saint Paul writes, "All of us who have been baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into Christ's death.

P: We were buried therefore with Christ, by baptism, into death.

L: So that as Christ was raised from the dead to the glory of God,

All: We too might walk in newness of life!"

L: Holy Baptism is the Sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given a role in Christ's ministry of welcome and grace. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It represents the death of a self-serving life, and the rising to a life of self-giving devotion and praise. It also confirms the pouring-out of the Holy Spirit upon all God's people.

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 Baptized and their Family

Pastor: Carrie and Amy, do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so, answer "I do."

Pastor: Robin and Mike, do you support and affirm your daughters' decision? If so, answer "We do."

Pastor: As individuals and as a family, will you continue to strive to follow the compassionate way Jesus Christ? If so, answer "We will."

Pastor: Do you promise to grow together in the Christian Faith, to be responsible members of the Church - by celebrating Christ's presence here, and by furthering Christ's mission in the world? If so, answer "We Promise, with the help of God."

The Congregational Promise

Pastor: Members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ: will you continue to encourage, uplift and pray for Amy and Carrie as they grow in faith among us?

People: We promise them our love, our support and our care, as they live and grow among us as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Baptism and Welcoming

Leader: Family of Faith, let us now greet our newest baptized members - and one another - with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

The Old Testament	from Psalm 119	Pew Bible, page 566
The New Testament	Mark 10:13-16	Pew Bible, page 46
The Continuing Testament	<i>God is Still Speaking!</i>	by Candace Chellew-Hodge
Musical Offering	I Will Follow [Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]	Tomlin/Ingram/Morgan
Sermon	<i>A Flexible Faith that Fits</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
Hymn of Reflection	Spirit of the Living God	#283

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

[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

Petit Offertoire

Franck

*** 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]**

Gracious and loving Holy One, we are thankful that you form us all into your image and proclaim that each of us is precious in your sight. Grant that our connection with you and with one another may warm our hearts and radiate from us as deeds of love and service. Bless these gifts, that our giving may help your Church proclaim the Good News of justice and peace throughout the world. We ask this in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

The Blessing

Communion Music Medley: We Are People on a Journey/Truth Whom We Adore
20th century Nicaragüense/Plainsong melody

"This is bread that God provides us,
nourishing our unity.

Joyfully we come together
at the holy feast of God."

From *Misa Popular Nicaragüense*, 20th century

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'S FLOWERS are given by Bob & Caroline Chandler in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

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.

BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY - It's not too late to join or check out one of our music ensembles at the church. Here is a list of days and times for each group:

***Joyful Noise Choir** (K-5th grade): Thursdays from 5:30-6:15.

***Adult Choir** (high school students welcome): Thursdays from **7:00-8:30**.

***Recorder/dulcimer/guitar ensemble: Thursdays** from 4:30-5:00.

***Youth Percussion Group** (6th grade up): ~ Every other Sunday from 5:30-6:00 before youth ministry at 6. Check bulletin/monthly calendar.

More detailed descriptions of each group can be found in September's Pillar. All are welcome!

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

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.

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.

MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: www.brecksvilleucc.org. It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

HAVING TROUBLE HEARING PARTS OF THE SERVICE? Please talk to any usher about the Williams Sound - Personal PA Receiver, available for your use. These simple-to-use units can help improve your worship experience, by amplify those parts of the Service that may be more difficult to hear.

DID YOU MISS last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.

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 Marge Culver are regulars. Ask any of us how much fun we have!

Readings

The Old Testament - from Psalm 119

Happy are those whose way is pure, who follow the path of the Holy One. Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek the Holy One with their whole heart. You have commanded your ordinances to be kept diligently - O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping them! Then I shall not be put to shame, keeping my eyes set on all your commandments.

I will praise you with an upright heart; when I learn your righteous decrees, I will observe your statutes. With my whole heart I will seek you; I will treasure your word in my heart. With my lips I will declare all the ordinances of your mouth. I will delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

The New Testament - Mark 10.13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus so that he might touch them; and the disciples sternly rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Realm of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Realm of God as a little child will never enter it." Then Jesus took the children up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Continuing Testament - *God is Still Speaking!* - by Candace Chellew-Hodge [edited]

Those who think the Bible is the be all and end all of what God has taught us, worship not a living God, but a dead, leather-bound one. The Bible didn't swallow God whole and spit God back at us in the form of rules and regulations. We must remember that God spoke before the Bible was written, and God continues to speak even though the canonization of the Bible is completed. Those who worship the Bible instead of the living, still-speaking God say that God would never do anything to contradict the scripture: but wasn't that the purpose of Jesus' entire ministry? The scriptures said you shall not kill, but Jesus said anyone who is angry with, or even insults, a brother or sister is guilty. The scripture said love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

These were all brand new things that Jesus taught, and they all contradicted the scripture and the practices of the day. God certainly has a great track record of doing new things that directly contradict biblical traditions. God has liberated the slaves, women and racial minorities; and reformed the idea of marriage to include racial and gender diversity. All these things directly contradict scripture - but they demonstrate, just as effectively as Jesus demonstrated, that God is still speaking, erasing periods, inserting commas, and doing brand new things.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 16	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	Spiritual Life
Wed., Sept. 19	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar
	7:00 pm	Council
Thurs., Sept. 20	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Choir
Friday, Sept. 21		*Office Closed*
Sunday, Sept. 23	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Ministry
	6:00 pm	Youth Percussion

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Joe & Betsey Wilson
Kathy Smith, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle:
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Jonathan Cook
C.E Teacher: Tia Began
Counters: Marge Culver, Dave Bernard
Servers: Joanne Cook, Julie Bernard
Clean-Up: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Pat Rehm, Gina Cook

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Cliff Cribbs, Diane Gressley,
Dot & Stu Bailey
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E. Teacher: Anne Melfo
Counters: Stu Bailey, Kate
Klonowski
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Sue Stenzel