



BRECKSVILLE

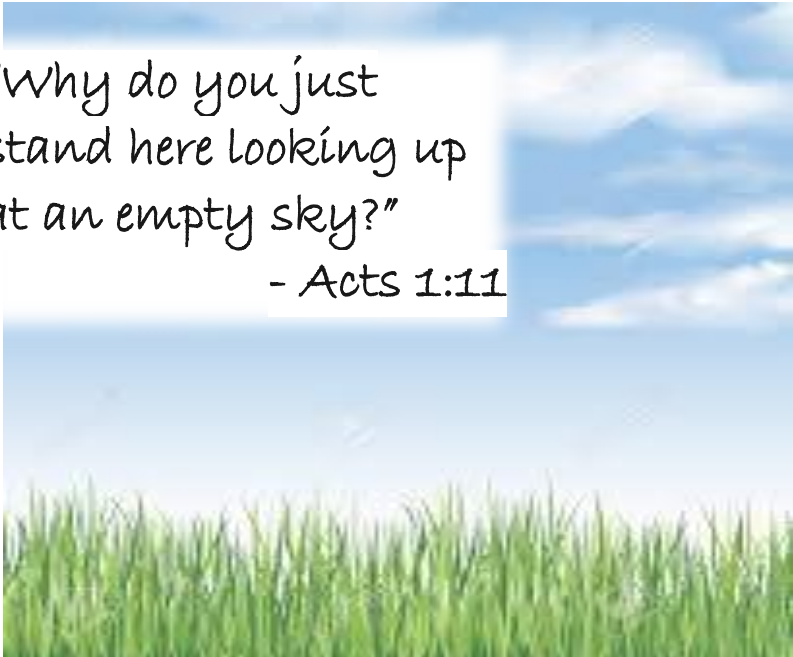
UNITED CHURCH
of CHRIST

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

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

*"Please don't
take a second
for granted.
Hug your family.
Tell them
you love them."*

*- Angel Garza,
posting on
Facebook, after
learning that his
ten-year-old
daughter,
Amerie Jo,
had been shot to
death at her school
in Uvalde, TX*



*"Why do you just
stand here looking up
at an empty sky?"
- Acts 1:11*

Ascension Sunday, May 29th, 2022 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• Rev. John King

**Director of
Music**

• David Debick

**Financial
Secretary**

• Joy Garapic

**Office
Manager**

• Anne Melfo

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.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

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!

Ascension Sunday – May 29th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music *Christ, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor* Owen

Welcome & Announcements



Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*** Call to Worship:** (based on **Psalm 47; Psalm 93**)

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

All: For the Most High God is awesome - a majestic monarch over all the earth.

One: Shout! Sing Praises! Sound the trumpets! Worship, now, the One who reigns.

All: The Sovereign God of all the nations welcomes us into God's grace.

One: The floods have lifted up their voice; the thunderous mighty waters roar.

All: We sing our praises to the One who's holy - our guide and leader, forevermore.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

#260

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise, to a throne in paradise;
Christ the Lamb for sinners given, enters now the highest heaven.

Christ, for you high triumph waits, lift your heads, eternal gates!

2. You have conquered death and sin; you, our Sovereign, enter in!
See! The nail-marked hands above; sing of God's redeeming love;
Hark! Christ's words our hearts assure: "I will send a Comforter!"

3. Now, though parted from our sight, in the depths of starry night,
May our souls with you arise, seeking wholeness at your side.

There we will with you remain, heirs in your eternal reign.

(Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774; words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.)

*** Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]**

O loving creator of life, prepare our hearts and minds to hear, to feel, and to know you more deeply in this hour. In this moment, we desire to connect with you, connect with ourselves, and connect with others more intimately so that we may muster up the courage to follow in your ways, in the path of Christ who is ascended. Let us walk more humbly with you as we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth. Arise in us, O God, so that when the world sees us, they really see you. Now, let us worship in spirit and truth, for the sake of justice and mercy. Amen.

*** Invitation to Confession:**

Leader: God, we come to acknowledge the ways we have distanced ourselves from your vision of a more just world. In the stillness and silence, we seek to make a commitment to transformation, not for our own personal gain but for the sake of communal wholeness and liberation.

---- (M O M E N T O F S I L E N C E) ----

All: God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in heavenly ponderings, instead of in the power of Christ that works in us. We have spent much of our journey looking above - looking for escape - instead of looking around us. We have searched for rescue instead of being the rescuer. We have focused so much on a future paradise, that we have forgotten to care for the soil beneath our feet.

Forgive us for the times we stood looking at heaven when there was work to be done right here on earth. Forgive for the times when have neglected to bring good news to the poor on behalf of Jesus. When we have lost our way, remind us of yours.

Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us again, so that we can bear witness to mighty works of God through Christ in the world.

*** Words of Assurance: (Pastor John)**

*** Song of Praise:**

Glory to God
Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)
And on earth be peace to all people,
For God loves us all! (2X's)

Pablo Sosa, 1988

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading Luke 24: 34-52 (The Message Translation)

Second Reading Acts 1:1–11 (The Message Translation)

Continuing Testament By the National Officers of the United Church of Christ



Time with Young Worshipers



Anthem

Here Am I

Damon

Here am I, where underneath the bridges of our winter cities homeless people sleep.

Here am I, where in decaying houses little children shiver, crying at the cold.

Where are you?

I am here. I hear your call to action. Suffering surrounds me. Where do I begin?

Start right there by welcoming the stranger, helping all who hunger.

Reach for those in pain. Reach for me.

Here am I, with people in the line-up, anxious for a handout, aching for a job.

Here am I, when pensioners and strikers sing and march together,

wanting something new. Where are you?

I am here. I see so much unfairness. Poverty is rampant. Avarice prevails.

Start right there. Shout out against injustice. Stand with those who protest.

Fight for what is right. Fight for me.

Here am I, where two or three are gathered, ready to be altered, sharing wine and bread.

Here am I, where those who hear the preaching change their way of living,

find the way to life. Where are you?

I am here. I've come to be transformed now, worshiping your goodness in community.

Start right there and listen to my Word, child, let me lead you forward.

Love will set you free, love will set me free, love will set us free.

Here am I. Reach for me. I am here. Fight for me. Love for me! I am here.

(Music: Dan Damon, 1993; words: Brian Wren, 1982, rev. 1995; words © 1983; music © 1995, Hope Publishing Co., additional music and words by D. Debick)

Sermon

You Can Do This

Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

#498

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

1. Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them.

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away.

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. **(Refrain)**

2. Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds,
serving the neighbors we have from you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. **(Refrain)**

(Music: Ghanaian folk song, adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969, arr. Jane Marshall, 1982; arr. © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co.; words: © 1969 Tom Colvin; rev. 1994)

The Church at Prayer

Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Allison Colbert, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, George Snider, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

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

* **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.

* **Call to Offering: (Pastor John)**

* **Prayer of Dedication: [UNISON]**

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community and the world, we dedicate these gifts.

For the ways it'll help us be witnesses to God's love and compassion, we dedicate these gifts.

Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, give power to all we stand for as a community of faith.

Going with God's Love

*Hymn of Departure *In the Midst of New Dimensions* #391, v. 1, 2 & 5

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

**Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.**

2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? **(Refrain)**

5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. **(Refrain)**

(Music: Julian Rush, 1985; words: Julian Rush, 1985; alt.)



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

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.

† **Benediction** (Pastor John)

Postlude

God of Light

H. E. Lewis, 1916

Announcements

FLOWERS – Today’s flowers are dedicated to Peg Duffy from Jim Duffy, “Happy Birthday Peg!”

POSTCARDS IN PILGRIM HALL - On Wednesday, June 1st, we’ll be gathering in Pilgrim Hall from 6:30 – 8:30 pm to write postcards to Ohio legislators, urging them to vote “no” on House Bill 616. If you are not familiar with this bill, you can review the content and summary here: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/134/hb616>

We will be providing the postcards, postage, and some pizza for dinner, along with sample copy that you can use to write your message. Our friends from Brecksville UMC will be joining us for this event, as well as other members of the community who are also opposed to the bill.

If you’d like to attend the event, please fill out the registration form so we can have an estimated count of who will be there. Please feel free to invite friends in the community who would like to join us in our efforts. All are welcome! Here’s a link to the registration form. <https://buccoh.breezechms.com/form/pph0601>

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Heidi Spangler or call the church office at 440-526-4364.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL - On June 12th, we’ll be celebrating summer in Pilgrim Hall with our annual Strawberry Social. We’ll have Strawberry snacks and a “jam session” where you can learn to make your own strawberry jam. The event will take place during Fellowship Hour, right after the service. Come hungry!

Readings

First Reading

Luke 24: 34-52 (The Message Translation)

They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up - Simon saw him!" Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true. He asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled." He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read the Scriptures this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem!

You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses.

What comes next is very important: I am sending what God promised to you, so stay here in the city until you're equipped with power from on high." He then led them out of the city over to Bethany. Raising his hands he blessed them, and while blessing them, took his leave, being carried up to heaven.

Readings

Second Reading

Acts 1:1–11 (The Message Translation)

Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles, the ones he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven.

After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the reign of God. As they met and ate meals

together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but “must wait for what God promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon.”

When they were together for the last time they asked, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”

He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

Readings

Continuing Testament - From The National Officers of the United Church of Christ:
The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, The Rev. Traci Blackmon & The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

A Prayer in Response to the Mass Shooting at Uvalde, Texas

In utter and irrepressible grief, we offer these words, giving collective voice to the anguish we all feel. God, hear our prayer:

For the nineteen children now dead; For the teachers now dead; For the parents, family, and friends who will spend the rest of their lives aching every night from the weight of this; For a schoolhouse rendered trauma-laden and grief-stricken in a matter of minutes, whose students will suffer PTSD in the wake of this tragedy; For the caregivers in Uvalde now burdened with the task of managing the shared and collective grief of a traumatized community who love their children; For those who feel the new burden of useless guilt in the aftermath of this, wondering what else they could have done to prevent this;

For the nation, so in love with our weapons that we continue to tolerate these mass shootings and the grief they inflict without ever building the collective will needed to address it fully; For the world, suffering a massive and collective grief of its own and witnessing acts of cruelty daily too numerous to fully process.

Heal our gaping wounds.

Restore our sense of compassion. Quiet the restlessness within us. Settle the building righteous anger. Quicken the desire for peace.

Remove the chasm that sees race and religion and political persuasion as the marks of a person's worth and value. End the cycle of violence that begets more violence. Silence the voices that broker in fear and division and create the hatred we see mounting everywhere between us. Quiet the troubled soul thinking of grabbing the next gun and ending innocent lives.

Empower us all to act now, refusing to wait for the next horror show before we change the laws that make guns and their discharge so accessible. Turn anguish to action; our rage to restoration; our hatred to love; our grief to hope.

Let it never happen again. Ever. How much more can we bear, O Lord? How much more can we endure.

Be our rock of refuge. Be our light of inspiration. Be our beacon of hope.
Be the arms of love that hold us until the pain recedes.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Special Thanks:

May 29, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Sue Stenzel
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Nursery: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Carole Snider
Snack: Diane Gressley
Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Sherrill Witt
Clean Up: Dave Bernard
Sherrill Witt

June 5, 2022

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Volunteer Needed
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Nursery: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: Arthur Cook
Peace Candle: Dorothy Cook
A/V Team: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Gina Cook
Jon Thompson
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteer Needed***
Volunteer Needed