



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*“Whoever
undertakes to set
themselves up as a
judge
of Truth
and Knowledge is
shipwrecked by
the laughter of the
gods.
– Albert Einstein*



TRINITY SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday, June 15th, 2025 • 10:00 AM

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant

• Miranda Lacefield

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!

Trinity Sunday
Sunday June 15th, 2025
Happy Father's Day

Prelude

Instrumental

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



“He said “Love …as I have loved you.” We cannot love too much.”

—Amy Carmichael



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER (Inspired by Proverbs 8 and Psalms 8)**

One: Holy, Embodied, and Present God, how majestic are your many names in all creation! In you we find direction, inspiration, and encouragement.

ALL: Does not wisdom call and understanding raise her voice?

One: Creator, Christ, and Compassion, we turn to you in praise, prayer, and penitence to be made new, set free, and empowered.

ALL: Does not love call and understanding raise her voice?

One: Source, Sustainer, and Spirit, your abiding presence gathers, connects, and strengthens us. You make us a community that participates in your kingdom.

ALL: Does not truth call and understanding raise her voice?

Hymn of Praise

Creator God, Creating Still

#278

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

Author, Word and Translator, we invite you to dwell with us, to form us, and to challenge us. Send a fresh wind to enliven our hearts, minds, and spirits to your word and your truth. Let our worship of you expand our hopes and our convictions and bring your glory. Make us instruments playing our part of the harmonious song of your love in the world. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

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, for God loves us all.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Romans 5:1-5

Gospel Reading: - John 16:12-15

Continuing Testament- The Shack, by William Paul Young

Time with
Young Worshipers

Sermon: By Rev. Monica Harmon

Musical Offering

Chris Hatala, solo

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, 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, Miriam Rosewicz, Midge Cassidy, Pat Rehm, Kate Benedict, the Renovetz family, "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]

Providing, Generous, and Faithful Love, we demonstrate your goodness by offering these gifts. Receive them for the kingdom and increase our impact in this community and the world in your name. Amen.

Communion

At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.
No exceptions. No Kidding.

Communion Music Let Us Break Bread Together #330

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure Holy, Holy, Holy #277

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 musical score consists of two staves of music in the key of D major (two sharps). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The second staff is a guitar accompaniment, also in treble clef, with a 4/4 time signature. The chords are indicated by letters above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

*Benediction

Postlude

Instrumental

Readings

First Reading Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Gospel Reading John 16:12-15

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Continuing Testament from The Shack, by William Paul Young

(Excerpts from p. 88,89, 93 & 95, edited for clarity and brevity.)

“Then…” Mack was suddenly staggered by his own realization. “Then, you are…?”

[The Middle Eastern looking man finished his question,] “Jesus? Yes. And you may call me that if you like. After all, it has become my common name. My mother called me Yeshua…”

Emotion swept over [Mack] as his mind attempted desperately to catch up with all the information. Just as he was about to crumple to his knees, the Asian woman stepped closer and deflected his attention. “And I am Sarayu,” she said as she tilted her head in a slight bow and smiled. “Keeper of the gardens, among other things.” Thoughts tumbled over themselves as Mack struggled to figure out what to do…

Since there were three of them, maybe this was a Trinity sort of thing. But two women and a man and none of them white? Then again, why had he naturally assumed that God would be white? He knew his mind was rambling, so he focused on the one question he most wanted answered. “Then,” Mack struggled to ask, “which one of you is God?”

“I am,” said all three in unison.

None of his old seminary training was helping in the least. He was at a sudden loss for words and his million questions had all seemed to abandon him… “You must know,” he said to the large black woman, “calling you ‘Papa’ is a bit of a stretch for me.”

“Oh, really?” She looked at him in mock surprise. … She chuckled. “But tell me, why do you think it’s hard for you? Is it because it’s too familiar for you, or maybe because I am showing myself as a woman, a mother, or—”

“No small issue there,” Mack interrupted with an awkward chuckle.

“Or maybe it’s because of the failures of your own papa?”

Mack gasped involuntarily. He wasn’t used to having deep secrets surface so quickly and openly…

She again picked up the wooden spoon, which was dripping with some sort of batter. “Mackenzie, I am neither male nor female, even though both genders are derived from my nature. If I choose to appear to you as a man or a woman, it’s because I love you. For me to appear to you as a woman and suggest that you call me ‘Papa’ is simply to mix metaphors, to

help you keep from falling so easily back into your religious conditioning.” She leaned forward as if to share a secret. “To reveal myself to you as a very large, white grandfather figure with flowing beard, like Gandalf, would simply reinforce your religious stereotypes, and this weekend is not about reinforcing your religious stereotypes.”

Mack almost laughed out loud and wanted to say, “You think? I’m over here barely believing that I’m not stark-raving mad!” Instead, he focused on what she had just said and regained his composure. He believed, in his head at least, that God was Spirit, neither male nor female, but in spite of that, he was embarrassed to admit to himself that all his visuals for God were very white and very male.



Announcements:

To Donate Electronically– If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!



Little Annie's Hope Train - We will continue to collect items for the homeless in Northeast Ohio and chemotherapy care packets through the end of August. Members of Little Annie's Hope Train go into homeless camps and pass out food, toiletries and other items. The founder of the organization is battling cancer herself, so she's started a side project of providing Chemotherapy Care Packets to various chemotherapy centers. If you stay in any hotels this summer, please save the mini soaps, shampoos, etc. If you get take-out, please save the pre-wrapped silverware. If you are doing spring/summer cleaning, you can donate journals or pens you don't need. Below is a more extensive list of items being distributed.

Place any donations in the bin on the pew bench at the parking lot entrance door. Claudia Griesmer will collect them (regularly) and deliver them to the organization. There is also a copy of this list on the pew bench

Items Distributed in Homeless Camps

- Personal sized toiletries (what you get from hotel rooms)
- Travel size dental floss and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Mini hand sanitizers
- Small combs
- Chapstick
- Kleenex packets
- Individually wrapped toilet paper
- Wrapped plastic silverware (what you get with carry-out food)
- NEW adult heavy socks
- Inexpensive manual can openers
- Canned items with pull tabs (but no cream soups)

Items Included in Chemotherapy Care Packets

- Puzzle books
- Journals
- Pens
- Saltine crackers
- Ginger tea
- Spearmints
- Kleenex packets

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Jun 16	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
Wed. Jun 17	11:00 am -- Mindfulness and Meditation 6:00 pm – Braver Angels
Thu. Jun 19	*Office Closed* Juneteenth
Fri. Jun 20	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

PRIVACY MATTERS- Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind: Children who come up for the “Time with Young Worshipers” will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online. We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But avoid disclosing personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either:

Ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers,
OR

Avoid details or keep anonymity by the way you phrase your prayer.

If you sit in the first few pews, you will be visible online. If you prefer to avoid being seen online, avoid those pews. But if you don't mind, please consider migrating to the front pews. When our videos show empty pews, the sanctuary looks vacant even when it is full. So, please populate those first pews to ensure that our online presence accurately depicts the vibrant and growing congregation that we truly are.



COME ON DOWN!

If you have always dreamed of being in a studio audience, this could be your moment! Our services are broadcast live every week. But our camera placement usually only shows the first three pews. If those pews are empty, it appears that the whole church is empty – not a good look. So, consider sitting in those first few pews toward the center aisle. “Let your light shine!” Matthew 5:16

SHARING GOOD NEWS

At the beginning of the Sunday service you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these brief by avoiding details. Share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week **for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns.** When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to buccoffice23@gmail.com





THANK YOU

Volunteers

June 15th, 2025

Early Usher: Joe Wilson
Late Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Greeter: **Volunteers Needed**
Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: **Volunteers Needed**
Counters: Kathy Pastor
Joe Wilson
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Snacks: Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
Communion
Bread: **Volunteers Needed**

June 22nd, 2025

Early Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Late Usher: Diane Gressley
Greeter: **Volunteers Needed**
Reader: Kate Matthews
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Janet Renovetz
Sue Stenzel
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Snack: **Volunteers Needed**
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**



Attendance last Sunday, June 8th, 2025 – Adults: 38; Kids: 1; Online: 14;
Additional Views: 20 Total: 73