



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

*"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me.*

- C.S. Lewis



**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 • 10:00 AM**

**Financial Secretary**

• Joy Garapic

**Office Manager**

• Miranda Lacefield

**Music Director**

• Rob Keshock

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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prelude**

**Instrumental**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

*“Without justice and love, peace will always be a great illusion.”*

*- Dom Helder Camara*

***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO PRAYER (Inspired by Psalm 85)**

One: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

**All: Restore us, O God, and stir anger within for the pain and injustices of the world.**

One: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

**All: Revive us, O God, and bring joy to our hearts and a song of praise on our lips.**

One: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

**All: Redeem us, O God, and call your people back to you in spirit and in truth.**

**Hymn of Praise**

**Sweet Hour of Prayer**

**#505**

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

*One Who Is Holy, make us like new, show us your way, teach us to pray with our hearts and our hands. Give us the word today that we need to know you. Give us hope today to be a beacon in a world full of lost and confused. Give us joy today to make your name known. Give us peace today to respond with courage, fortitude, and conviction. Give us love today to love as you have loved us. 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: - Psalm 138 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C Merrill**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 11:1-13**

**Continuing Testament- From Thomas Keating on Centering Prayer**

Time with  
Young Worshipers

**Sermon:** by Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer

**Musical Offering Soloist David Pastor – “Summer” by Kniss, Denver and Taylor**

### **The Church at Prayer**

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Jonathan Langham, Tony Cuningham, Chad Sproul, Dot Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Joanne Cook, Kathy Ford, Midge Cassidy, Pat Rehm, Kate Benedict, Marge Culver, “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]

Our God in Glory, may the good gifts we bring of time, talent, and treasure be used and magnified for the benefit of your beloved. Thank you, Holy One, for enabling us to join in your kindom come on earth. Amen.

### \* Hymn of Departure

Renew Your Church

#311

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the vocal line, and the second is for the piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above and below the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

### \*Benediction

### Postlude

### Instrumental

## Readings

### First Reading Psalm 138 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C Merrill

I give You thanks, O Blessed One, with my whole heart;  
before all the people I sing your praise;  
I was humbled when I came to see that You dwell in me, in the Holy  
Temple of all souls; my gratitude knows no bounds!  
For You are the Holy one, Breath of our breath.  
One the day that I called, You answered me; the strength of my soul You

increased.

All the leaders of the earth shall one day praise You,  
when your Word awakens in every heart;  
And they shall proclaim the new dawn of Light and Love.  
Great will be the radiation of your Glory!  
For even as You are the Most High, You are friend to the lowly;  
the arrogant close their hearts to your love and guidance.  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life;  
You are a very Presence as I face my fears and doubts;  
Your strength upholds me.  
You guide me as I pray to fulfill my purpose on earth;  
You do not forsake those who call upon you.  
Your steadfast love and truth endures forever.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 11:1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

so he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'

And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?

Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?

If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

### **Continuing Testament From Thomas Keating on Centering Prayer**

Where does this prayer come from? Where is it rooted in scripture? And there is a wonderful text that Jesus offers us as a recommendation of how to pray in Matthew 6:6, in the context of the Sermon on the Mount; and there we see the following suggestion:

"When you pray," says Jesus, "enter your private room, close the door and there pray to your Father in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Now this prayer is obviously designed to introduce to a new relationship with God. In Jesus' time the word "God" was never said, out of respect for Yahweh, as He was known in the Hebrew religion; and so, if you said this word vein by accident, you were in trouble. There is even a text in the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls where one of the members of the community said the name of God, Yahweh, by accident and he was excommunicated, thrown out of the community.

So there was this deep sense of reverence for the very name of Yahweh that prevented anyone from saying it or writing it. And so now Jesus comes along and says the word, only he not only says a word for God, "Abba", but he says a word that is intensely intimate, personal, loving – parental – I suppose you would say. It really means something equivalent in our language to Daddy or Papa, or The Old Man or whatever is the popular name for Father in your particular culture.

### **Announcements:**

**Colony Cupboard-** We have a new collection box for the Colony Cupboard! This program helps support students from BBH high school and middle school by providing essentials for those who need them. We will collect over the next month and donate supplies in the middle of August in time for the next school year. Items they need at this time include: Individually packaged snacks, highlighters, tissues, headphones, spiral bound notebooks.

🌸 **Nursery Attendant Needed** 🌸 As Amelia Elting prepares to leave for college in mid-August, we are seeking a caring and dependable individual to serve as our Nursery Attendant.

*Position Overview:*

The Nursery Attendant will provide safe, secure, and nurturing care for children ages 0 through 4 years old during church services and events. This individual may also assist Miss Mindy in the classroom as needed.

The position pays \$50/Sunday. The hours are 9:45 am until the children are secured by their parents after the service.

*Qualifications:*

Experience caring for children ages 0–4

At least 18 years of age (we will consider current church members 16 and older)

CPR certification for infants and children is preferred

A heart for ministry and a love for children

If you or someone you know is interested in this important ministry role, please contact the church office at BUCCoffice23@gmail.com or 440-526-4364 or speak with a member of the Christian Education Committee.

Let's continue to provide a warm and welcoming space for our youngest members to grow in God's love!

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following**

Tue. Jul 29                      6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)

Wed. Jul 30                      11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation

**Volunteers:**

**July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Early Usher:        Joe Wilson  
Late Usher:        Sue Stenzel  
Greeter:            Lori Molesky  
Reader:             Diane Gressley  
Flowers:            Dave Bernard  
Counters:          Jan Renovetz  
                          Sue Stenzel  
A/V:                  Jim Duffy

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

Early Usher:        Peg Duffy  
Late Usher:        **Volunteers Needed**  
Greeter:             Sue Stenzel  
Reader:              Jim Duffy  
Flowers:             Peg Duffy  
Counters:           **Volunteers Needed**  
                          Sue Stenzel  
A/V:                  David Pastor  
Communion         David Pastor  
Bread:

Attendance last Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 46; Kids: 7; Online: 26;

Additional Views: 12; Total: 91

Liturgy from Worship Ways