



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

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,
Whatever your race, ethnicity, or
age,

Whatever your gender identity or
sexual orientation,

Whatever your religious
background, creed, or spirituality,
Whatever your social or economic
circumstances,

Whatever your health conditions,
impairments, or mobility needs,
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!



Sunday August 23, 2026

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: office@brecksvilleucc.org – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Pastor

• Jeff Jackson

Financial Secretary

• Wes Novak

Office Manager

• Miranda Lacefield

Music Director

• Olivia Tassone

****LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST****

- 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.

Announcements:

Please submit the announcements you would like to have printed in the bulletin by noon on Tuesday – Thank You!

Worship in the Park- On August 30, our worship in the park will include a Blessing of Friendships. We invite you to begin thinking about the friendships that have carried you, surprised you, steadied you, or helped you become more fully yourself. Some of those friends may be present with us. Some may be far away. Some may be remembered with gratitude. Together, we will give thanks for the holy gift of companionship. Join us at 10am at the Sagamore Hills park Rose Mary Snell Pavilion (11551 Valley View Rd. Sagamore Hills), bring a friend, a dish to share (with copies of the recipe and why this one is meaningful to you) and remember don't go to church! There's a playground for little worshippers, we hope to see you at this beloved and annual BUCC tradition!

Attention BUCC "Artists!" - Our spring Paint & Sip art event was such a hit that we're bringing it back this fall... with a spooky twist!
Save the Date- October 2nd 6PM! There's one thing you'll need to do now: start looking for a landscape or painting of a house (thrift stores and attics are a great place to look!) At the event, you'll transform your picture by adding a spooky guest and festive fall décor, creating a one-of-a-kind Halloween masterpiece you'll be proud to hang in your home! Truly, no two will be alike!

Rally Day- Rally Day is Sunday, September 13—and this year, we're building a museum! Our BUCC Summer of 2026 Mini-History Museum will be a one-day collection of the things we did, made, learned, grew, visited, discovered, and enjoyed this summer. Maybe you went to camp, played a sport, took a trip, made something, grew an impressive tomato, played a lot of Minecraft, read a great book, went to a concert, learned something new, or had an adventure worth remembering. And this isn't just for the kids. Children, youth, and adults are all invited to add something to the museum. Your exhibit can be an object, photo, project, souvenir, ticket, creation, or something completely ordinary that helps tell the story of what you did this summer. So start looking around. What would you choose?

 For those ladies who do Sunday Flowers here at BUCC- Kennicott

Wholesalers is planning a special fall   event / talk/ demonstration in October. Just follow them on Facebook & Instagram to be alerted to details when its announced. Or, email Tia Began saying that you'd like to be contacted. Our church has a non-tax# on file with them. Their programs are inspiring. Located near Granger Rd. and Transportation Blvd.
brecksvillet@aol.com.

The Colony Cupboard is back for fall 2026! This resource provides essentials for students in the BBHS school districts. We will coordinate our next donation in early September. Items in need for back to school include:

Notecards

Laundry Soap

Lotion

Chapstick

Athletic Socks (boys and girls)

Undershirts (boys and girls)

Tissues

Attendance last Sunday, August 16, 2026 – Adults: 30; Kids: 1; Online: 4; Total:35
Additional Views: 6

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Aug 25 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

Thur. Aug 27 7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Volunteers:

Early Usher:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Late Usher:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Greeter:	Jeff Thompson
Reader:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Counters:	Janet Renovetz
	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
A/V:	Aidan Cunningham
Snack:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>

August 23, 2026

August 30, 2026

Worship In the Park

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God of spacious love, make my friendships places of freedom, honesty, and care.

Prelude

Our Great Savior

arr. Melody Bober

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light *I know that God loves me*

I know that God loves me. I know that God loves me.

**Proudly placed on this earth so that others might see
just how much my God loves me. (3x)**

**Proudly placed on this earth so that others might
see just how much my God loves me.**

*Call to Prayer

One: God's love does not crowd us into sameness.

Many: God makes room for the fullness of who we are.

One: Christ meets us with a grace spacious enough for truth, difference, and change.

Many: In that grace, we learn to make room for one another.

One: Here there is room for questions and conviction, laughter and struggle, speaking and listening.

Many: Here there is room to be known and still be becoming.

One: Come, let us worship the God whose love makes room.

Many: And let us become people who make room for one another.

*Gathering Song

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

#448

*Prayer of Openness [Unison]

God of spacious love,

you make room for us without making us smaller.

Gather us now into the freedom of your presence,

where truth can be spoken, difference can be welcomed,

and love does not require sameness.

In this hour, widen our hearts and teach us the holy generosity of making room. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Passing of the Peace**

One: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you!

Many : And also with you!

***Centering Song** O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
 when I call, answer me.

 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
 Come and listen to me. (3x)

Continuing Testament: CANDOR

From Communication to Trust

Candor is truthfulness without cruelty and honesty without disguise. It is the courage to speak clearly while remembering that the person listening is worthy of dignity and care.

Trust does not grow because a community avoids every difficult word. It grows when people can rely on what is said, ask honest questions, receive information openly, and address concerns without secrecy or humiliation. Candor names the hope that communication will become more trustworthy. It calls for words spoken directly, listened to generously, and offered with enough humility to leave room for learning and change.

Truth can be uncomfortable, but it can also be beautiful. When truth is welcomed with grace, relationships no longer depend on guessing, and shared life gains the strength to become more honest and whole.

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Second Reading: Romans 12:1–8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Music offering

Where Can I Turn For Peace

Erin Tomlinson

Sermon

By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found; was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieve.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Chorus

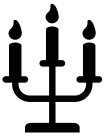
My chains are gone I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy rains - unending love, amazing grace.

Verse 3

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. **(chorus 2x)**

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
But God who called me here below will be forever mine. Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine



Prayers of the Church In our Prayers

Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Chad Sproul, Dot Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, Gabe Tassone, Carolyn Chandler, Allison Colbert, Gayle Colbert, Tony Cunningham, Pat Rehm, David Pastor, "Edna House", Search Committee
(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Pastoral Prayer

The Savior'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.

Hymn of Intention

Standing at the Future's Threshold vs. 1, 3, 4

#538

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

***Offering Response**

Alleluia

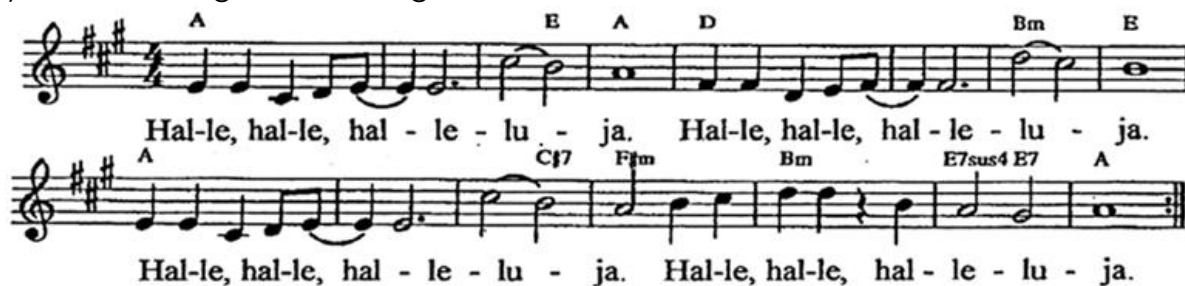
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



***Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]**

Generous God,
receive these gifts and the lives from which they come.
Use them to make room:
for welcome and belonging,
for truth spoken with care,
for neighbors not yet known,
and for possibilities we have not yet imagined.
May what we give help widen the life we share.
Amen.

***Circle of Community** Please join us in a circle around the sanctuary and lift your voices together and again after the benediction.



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 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are written below the staves. The chords are written above the staves.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Blessed Assurance

arr. Melody Bober

Let me be a friend who makes room for truth, difference, repair, and becoming.