



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2026



HELLO
September

LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER
AND GRACE

Looking Ahead: A Personal Note from Pastor Jeff

Dear Members and Friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ, I want to share with you a decision that I first shared with our Church Council this week. After much prayer and reflection, I have concluded that I will not be seeking to renew our Covenant Agreement when it concludes at the end of September.

This has not been an easy decision. I have come to care deeply about this congregation and the people who make it what it is. At the same time, after seven years of transitional ministry, including three full-time interim pastorates, I have recognized that I need a season to attend more intentionally to my own life and well-being. When my ministry at Brecksville UCC concludes, I will begin a period of sabbatical — time for rest, renewal, and discernment.

I am grateful that the right time for me comes at an appropriate moment in the life of the congregation. When I arrived at Brecksville UCC, much of our work necessarily began by looking back and looking around. We listened to the congregation's stories, sought to understand its experiences, asked difficult questions, and paid attention to the community beyond our walls. Over time, those conversations began to turn toward the future: Who are we now? What matters most to us? What kind of congregation do we believe God is calling us to become? I have watched you begin to answer those questions.

The congregational profile has been completed and the search for your next settled pastor is underway. But something larger has been happening. There is greater clarity about the congregation's identity and new energy around ministry. People are imagining possibilities, offering ideas, taking responsibility, and thinking less about preserving what has been and more about building what might be.

The transition is not complete. It continues as a congregation learns to trust what it has discovered about itself and begins to act upon it. But Brecksville UCC is no longer standing still waiting for its future to arrive. You are already moving toward it.

There is still important work for us to do together between now and the end of September, and I remain fully committed to that ministry. I enter these remaining weeks grateful for what we have shared and increasingly confident about what lies ahead for this congregation.

The next chapter will bring new leadership, new possibilities, and questions that cannot yet be answered. But I believe Brecksville UCC is approaching that future with greater clarity, confidence, and hope. And I believe there is good and faithful ministry ahead.

Grace and peace, Rev. Jeff Jackson

Musical Musings- Since joining BUCC in January, my focus has been on broadening our congregation's musical repertoire. I've achieved this by tracking the dates hymns are sung, ensuring that music isn't repeated within a two-month span. Additionally, I've introduced contemporary pieces and hymns not included in The New Century Hymnal. From my experience, worship becomes more meaningful when the lyrics of the music align with the day's message. Therefore, I strive to select hymns based on their text rather than their familiarity, allowing everyone involved in worship to discover moments of connection and inspiration to carry with them into their daily lives. Given our rich diversity of thought and opinion, I believe it is essential to provide various avenues for this type of spiritual connection.

Having been raised in the Lutheran tradition, I appreciate the deep connection and significance many, including myself, find in repetition. Repeated melodies and texts enable individuals to feel more profoundly connected to the message while offering comfort through familiarity. This is why I choose 2-3 short pieces of music to repeat weekly on a rotating monthly basis. This rotation allows those who thrive on repetition to become familiar with the pieces while ensuring that those who do not find the same comfort do not become bored or disconnected from the meaning.

Looking ahead, I have several exciting projects in store. These include engaging repertoire for the choir aimed at enhancing their musicality, involving as many instrumentalists from the congregation as possible, a Christmas Cantata, and 6-8 concerts featuring both instrumental and vocal ensembles, along with solo recitals.

Music and arts ministry is a collaborative endeavor, and I am eager to find ways to include anyone who wishes to share their time and talents in worship. This could involve singing with the choir or as a soloist, playing an instrument, sharing poetry or other creative writings, dancing, painting, drawing, sculpting, or any other visual art that brings you joy. There is a place for all forms of creative expression in worship, and I aim to include as many of them as possible moving forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about my ministry or to learn more about how to get involved and share your creative talents.

With much love and gratitude,

Olivia



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

A New Look for The Pillar — What's Changing and Why

Dear BUCC Family,

As many of you have noticed, our weekly email has become the go-to spot for what's happening around the church — upcoming events, volunteer needs, and week-to-week updates. It's been a great addition, and it's meant The Pillar has had less new ground to cover each month.

So we're making a change: starting in November, The Pillar will move to a quarterly publication.

This isn't a step back — it's a chance for The Pillar to become something different and, we think, even more meaningful. Instead of trying to keep up with weekly news, each quarterly issue will look back and go deeper:

Reflections on what's happened — stories and takeaways from events, seasons, and milestones over the past few months

Recaps with photos — a visual look back at the life of our church community

Ministry updates and member-written pieces — space for ministries and members to share what God has been doing in their corner of church life

A look ahead — key upcoming events and news on the horizon

The weekly email isn't going anywhere — that stays your source for real-time updates, volunteer opportunities, and what's coming up week to week. We are going to call it The Weekly BUCC Post.

We're excited about this shift. It gives The Pillar room to be something you can actually sit down with and enjoy — rather than a race to stay current. Look for the first quarterly issue in November.

If you're part of a ministry team and want to contribute a story, update, or photos for an upcoming issue, reach out to Miranda.

Grace and peace,
BUCC Communications Ministry

We've Launched a New Website!

You may have noticed something different at brecksvilleucc.org — we've just switched over to a brand-new design! The site has a fresh, modern look and is much easier to navigate, so whatever you're looking for, it's just a click or two away.

It's also easier for our church staff to keep updated, which means the information you find will be current and accurate. And for anyone searching for a church home, the new site is designed to help them quickly find what they need: Service times, our beliefs, ministries, and how to get involved are all easy to find on the website.

Everything you relied on before is still there; it just has a new modern look. Take a look around, and here's what you'll find:

Worship & Livestream — Can't make it in person? Watch our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service live (or catch up later) through our YouTube link on the site.

Ministries & Events — Browse our ministries and see what's coming up, from choir practice to coffee hour to community outreach.

Announcements & News — Stay in the loop on upcoming services, meetings, and timely happenings around the church.

The Pillar — Find our newsletter and past issues, so you never miss an update.

Breeze Member Login — Members can log in to our Breeze system to manage giving, directories, and more.

Document Repository — Look up bulletins, forms, and other church documents in one convenient place.

Give Online — Support the ministry of Brecksville UCC with a secure online donation, right from the site.

Whether you're checking the worship schedule, catching a service you missed, or looking for a way to get involved, brecksvilleucc.org is your go-to hub for all things Brecksville UCC. And if you know someone searching for a church home, feel free to send them our way — the new site makes a great first impression. Take a look and bookmark it today!

New Email Addresses for Our Staff

Along with the new website, we're moving to official @brecksvilleucc.org email addresses for our staff — a more professional way to stay in touch. Please update your contacts:

Pastor: Pastor@brecksvilleucc.org — Jeff Jackson

Office: Office@brecksvilleucc.org — Miranda Lacefield

Music: Music@brecksvilleucc.org — Olivia Tossone

Finance: Finance@brecksvilleucc.org — Finance Ministry

A special thank you to Tim Wallis for taking the lead on both the new website and our Google Workspace setup. His expertise is giving us a fresh new look that will actually cost less than our current setup. We couldn't be more grateful to Tim for sharing his talent and expertise with us.

We'd love to hear what you think of the new look — stop by the church office or reach out anytime with your feedback.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - Yes, you read that correctly! The Spiritual Life Ministry is looking ahead to one of our most beloved BUCC traditions, the annual congregation-written Advent Devotional. In order to compile the booklet, we will begin to offer scriptures for your selection on September 13 after worship.

Simply choose one of the pre-selected scriptures that speaks to you, and tell us why in a couple of paragraphs. Many people also choose to close with a one or two sentence prayer. We especially love to hear how it connects you and/or your family to a certain time or place. You'll be amazed by the stories your fellow members have to share! If you cannot attend worship in person, simply call Miranda in the office during the week and she can help you out. We are asking for your devotion to be submitted to the office at BUCCOffice23@gmail.com by OCTOBER 31.

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!

What Did You Do This Summer?

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.

We already know that some of our children have been busy with 4-H projects, and we want to see them! But 4-H is only the beginning. 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?

Bring it to Rally Day on September 13, and we'll build our Summer of 2026 Mini-History Museum together!





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



***Happy, Happy SEPTEMBER Birthdays* to the following
BUCC Members! Please share in their joy and wish them a
Happy Birthday!***

Joanne	Cook	September 03
Lori	Molesky	September 03
Kathleen	Smith	September 11
Jill	Zedan	September 12
Rebecca	Anderson	September 14
Jane	Cribbs	September 15
Natalie	Corrado	September 17
Holden	Esser	September 17

****If you have a SEPTEMBER birthday and are not included
above, please contact the church office so we can add you to
the BUCC Birthday List!***



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2026

Tue., SEPTEMBER 1

2pm Spiritual Life
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30pm Social Justice

Wed., SEPTEMBER 2

11am Mindfulness & Meditation

Thu., SEPTEMBER 3

7pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 4

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 5

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 7

LABOR DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., SEPTEMBER 8

6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., SEPTEMBER 9

11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., SEPTEMBER 10

10am PRC
7pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 11

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 12

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

RALLY DAY!

10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 14

Tue., SEPTEMBER 15

6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7:30pm Communications & Outreach

Wed., SEPTEMBER 16

11am Mindfulness & Meditation
6pm Braver Angels

Thu., SEPTEMBER 17

10:30 am Called to Care
7pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 18

OFFICE CLOSED

6:30pm Brecksville Squares

Sat., SEPTEMBER 19

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10am Worship Service
3:00pm Community Meal

Mon., SEPTEMBER 21

Tue., SEPTEMBER 22

6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., SEPTEMBER 23

11am Mindfulness & Meditation

Thu., SEPTEMBER 24

7pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 26

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 28

Tue., SEPTEMBER 29

6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., SEPTEMBER 30

11am Mindfulness & Meditation



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Jeff Thompson
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD
Communion
Bread: Gayle Colbert

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Early Usher: Jill Zedan
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: Jenn Elting
Set up/Serve: Jenn Elting
Clean up: David Pastor

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

