



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 September 20, 2026
Just Peace Sunday

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!

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!

For those 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! 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

Community Meal- Today September 20 at 4 pm, we will hold a community meal at The Wholeness Project 3389 Fulton Rd, Cleveland. We will serve Bar-B-Que and potato salad, chips and fruit and cookies. .

Banner Making Gathering- Come join us for our first Banner Making Gathering on Wednesday September 23rd at 6:00pm, as we work together to create beautiful banners for our sanctuary! No experience is necessary—everyone is welcome! Bring your creative ideas and a willingness to help. Our main focus will be creating holiday-themed banners, but we'd love to hear any other ideas you may have. All supplies will be provided! Come create, connect, and help add a special touch to our worship space. We hope to see you there!

A BUCC Advent Tradition Is Growing- For years, BUCC's Advent devotional has brought together the faith and stories of our community. Rooted in that beloved tradition, this year's devotional grows into a journey through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, with each devotion shaped within one of our seven Future Focus word categories. Writers will receive a Scripture reading, Reflection Question, and Continuing Testament prompt, offering several ways to bring their own faith and story to the journey. Sign-ups are coming soon, and all submissions are due October 31. Watch for your opportunity to add your voice as a treasured BUCC practice continues to grow.

Neighbors in Need- On Sunday October 4, we will collect a special offering: Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. Thank you for your support and generosity!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	4:00 pm – Community Meal
Tue. Sep 22	5:30 pm – Search Committee
	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Sep 23	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
	6:00 pm –Banner Making Gathering
Thur. Sep 24	7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Volunteers:	<u>September 20, 2026</u>	<u>September 27, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Joe Wilson	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Volunteers Needed	Diane Gressley
Flowers:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Jan Renovetz	Jan Renovetz
	Sue Stenzel	Sue Stenzel
A/V:	Fred Pedersen	Aidan Cunningham
Snack:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Clean up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

God of truth, teach me to measure my life not by what I possess but by what I make possible for others.

Prelude

Breathe with Breathe on Me Breath of God

arr. Alex-Zsolt

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

*Call to Prayer (inspired by Psalm 105)

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Tell of God's wonderful works.

Many: Declare God's marvelous deeds among the peoples.

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

Many: Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

One: O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgments.

Many: The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

*Gathering Song

1,000 Tongues

Verse 1 We are a sea of voices, We are an ocean of your praise

Gathered under one name, We are a tide that's rising,

And we cannot be contained, Gathered under one name

Chorus O for a thousand tongues to sing The glories of our Lord God, Almighty

O to sing the Savior's praise, The triumph of His grace,

You are worthy. You are worthy God.

Verse 2 We have found our anthem, At the cross where sin was slain

Gathered under one name, Where every chain is broken,

Every sorrow swept away

Gathered under one name **(Chorus, Bridge)**

Bridge With ALL heaven sing, and ALL earth below

One holy King, One highest throne **(Chorus x2)**

***Prayer of Openness [Unison]**

Sovereign and Awesome God, we come to worship you, to know you and to be known by you. Expand our hearts to love fully. Build our courage to receive the truth. Nurture our spirits to be gracious, merciful, and kind. Transform us in your image and for your glory as we dwell in your presence. 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**

Glory to the Creator

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

Continuing Testament: Rooted

From Identity to an Embodied Future

Roots hold a living thing in place, but they do not keep it from growing. They draw nourishment from what has come before and make new branches, leaves, and fruit possible. A congregation is rooted in more than history. Roots include the values, convictions, practices, stories, and relationships that have given life across generations. They help a community know what must be carried forward even when forms and circumstances change. Rooted names the hope that identity will become an embodied future. It asks how welcome, justice, care, faith, courage, and shared life will be visible not only in what the congregation says about itself, but in what it chooses, practices, and becomes. The purpose of roots is not to hold the past unchanged. Their purpose is to feed new life.

Continuing Testament: Howard Thurman The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with
their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring
peace among others, To make music in the heart.

Third Reading: Luke 16:1–13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

We Are Called

arr. Mark Hayes

Sermon

By Rev. Jeff Jackson

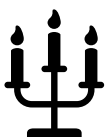
Hymn of Reflection

Just As I Am

#207

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

When Peace, Like a River vs. 1, 2, 4

#438

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

*Offering Response

Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God. (3X)



*Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today. Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory. Amen.

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

Musical notation for a song in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "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." Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Postlude

Come Thou Fount

arr. Cindy Berry

Go as trustworthy stewards of hope, justice, and compassion, investing your lives where love bears lasting fruit.

Peace Covenant

We, Members of Brecksville United Church of Christ Realize

- that insecurities within us and others create hostility between and among people, families, communities, nations and the world
- that differences of languages, religion, race, and economic status causes misunderstanding, fear and anger, which lead to discrimination and violence.
- that injustices wound and fester and result in violence or in defeat of the helpless.
- that wars and conflicts, large and small, erupt continually from the other side of the world to our own backyards.
- that wars have not been effective means of achieving peace and justice, and have become so destructive that they threaten life on the planet Earth.

We Confess

- that our personal lifestyles and decisions affect others, the environment, the economy, and the world emotional climate.
- that we need God to save us from our sinful, power-seeking ways.

We Affirm

- that each person everywhere is a child of God.
- that peacemaking is central to our Christian faith.
- that peacemaking begins with us as individuals.
- that hostility can be reduced within us to forgive others.
- that peace can be promoted by working toward political, economic and social justice.
- that we are called to preserve the environment so all people may have clean air, clean water, and decent space.
- that non-violent conflict is inevitable and can be valuable- a statement of diversity that is essential to healthy relationships among people and nations.

We Commit Ourselves

- to value all persons as children of God.
- to re-examine our lifestyle, to ponder its effect on others, and to be willing to change.
- to consider peace and justice implications in all our church's programs.
- to promote and support offerings, funding justice and peace ministries.
- to be an inclusive church, building bridges to and among people.

With God As Our Helper, We Seek To Be Instruments Of Peace And Justice

Therefore, having prayerfully considered our biblical and theological heritage, we, the members of Brecksville United Church of Christ, do solemnly covenant with God and one another to be, and to act as, a just peace church.