Brecksville
United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141

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 November 8, 2026

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm
Church Phone: 440-526-4364
e-mail: office@brecksvilleucc.org – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

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!

Help us clear out the education wing- We're looking for volunteers to help clean out the two westernmost classrooms on the second floor of the Education Wing on November 7, 14, and 21 from 9-noon. Everyone is welcome to lend a hand! As we sort through the rooms, there may be items available for members to take home. Please check with the Facilities Team before taking any items to ensure they have been cleared for removal. Whether you can help for one day or all three, we appreciate your time and assistance as we make room for what's next!

Cantata Choir-If you are interested in joining the choir for the cantata, please join us in rehearsal on Thursday, November 5th from 7-8pm. More information, including a full schedule, will be provided at the first meeting. Please contact Olivia if you have any questions at music@brecksvilleucc.org

The Children's Christmas Play- Save the date, this year's Christmas Play will be on Sunday, December 13th. See Miss Mindy For details.

The Christmas Cantata- Join us as the sounds of the season fill our sanctuary! Our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 20th, will feature our choir teaming with the Sorella Quartet to bring the Christmas story to life through music.. Mark your calendar and enjoy this meaningful time of music, reflection, and Christmas joy.

Thanksgiving Potluck! It is fall and that means it's Stewardship season! Sunday, November 15th is the day we bring in our pledge cards and celebrate by feasting at our Thanksgiving meal. We invite everyone to join in the fellowship! Please sign up at church or call in to let us know how many will be coming and what side dish or dessert you will bring to share. This is one of our most favorite Sundays of the year! Please come and bring your family or friends!

Nativity Scenes Wanted- Help us decorate the church in December. We want to borrow your Nativity Scene to create a village behind the Alter. Label it with your name and hand it to Mary or Betsey ASAP.

Hanging of the Greens- Please join us following worship on Sunday, November 22nd, when BUCC will ring in the holiday season with our own "Hanging of the Greens" celebration/pizza party.

Attendance last Sunday, Nov. 1st, 2026 – Adults: 31; Kids: 4; Online: 7; Total: 42
Additional Views: 14

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Nov 10	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Nov 11	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
	7:00 pm -- Council
Thur. Nov 12	7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Volunteers:	**November 8, 2026**	**November 15, 2026**
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	***Volunteers Needed***
Late Usher:	Bill Witt	***Volunteers Needed***
Greeter:	Jeff Thompson	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Kathy Smith	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel
A/V:	***Volunteers Needed***	***Volunteers Needed***
Snack:	***Volunteers Needed***	***Volunteers Needed***
Set up:	***Volunteers Needed***	***Volunteers Needed***
Clean up:	***Volunteers Needed***	***Volunteers Needed***

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Call to Prayer (inspired by Psalm 78)

One: Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust.
Many: We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.
One: Set your hope in God, who orders our days and redeems our lives.
Many: We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.
One: Set your hope in God, who leads us.
Many: We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!

Gathering Song *Here I Am to Worship*

Verse 1

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God and You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days oh so highly exalted; glorious in heaven above. Humbly You came to the earth You created; all for love's sake became poor. ***(chorus, bridge)***

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. ***(chorus)***

***Prayer of Openness** [Unison]*

Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving. We invite you to inhabit our praise as we honor your precious name. Bind us together and refresh us as a community with justice and righteousness overflowing like a stream. Open our minds and hearts to be receptive to your still speaking voice. Make yourself known among us. You are our God, and we are your people. 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 God the Creator

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

New Testament Reading: Matthew 25: 1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Continuing Testament – From "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr

Across the thirty thousand or so varieties of Christianity, believers love Jesus and (at least in theory) seem to have no trouble accepting his full humanity and his full divinity. Many express a personal relationship with Jesus – perhaps a flash of inspiration of his intimate presence in their lives, perhaps a fear of his judgement or wrath. Others trust in his compassion, and often see him as justification for their worldviews and politics. But how might the notation of Christ change the whole equation? Is Christ simply Jesus's last name? Or is it a revealing title that deserves our full attention? How is Christ's function different from Jesus's? What does scripture mean when Peter says in his very first address to the crowds after Pentecost that "God made this Jesus… both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Weren't they always one and the same, starting at Jesus's birth?

Everything visible, without exception, is the outpouring of God. What else could it really be? Christ is a word for the Primordial Template ("Logos" [or the Word] through whom "all things came into being, an not one thing had its being except through him" (John 1:3)

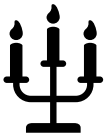
Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem *May I Be a Hero* *Ruth Elaine Schram*

Sermon *By Jim Duffy*

Hymn of Reflection *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning vs. 1-2* **#369**

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, Leroy Ford, "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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

****Offering Response*** *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, the Son
And now let the weak say I am strong; Let the poor say I am rich;
Because of what the Lord has done for us; Give thanks

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

Loving God, accept our offerings as a testament to our love, faith, and hope. Magnify them for your glory and to meet the needs of the community. Expand our reach and glorify your name through our giving, O God. Amen.

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



***Benediction**

Postlude