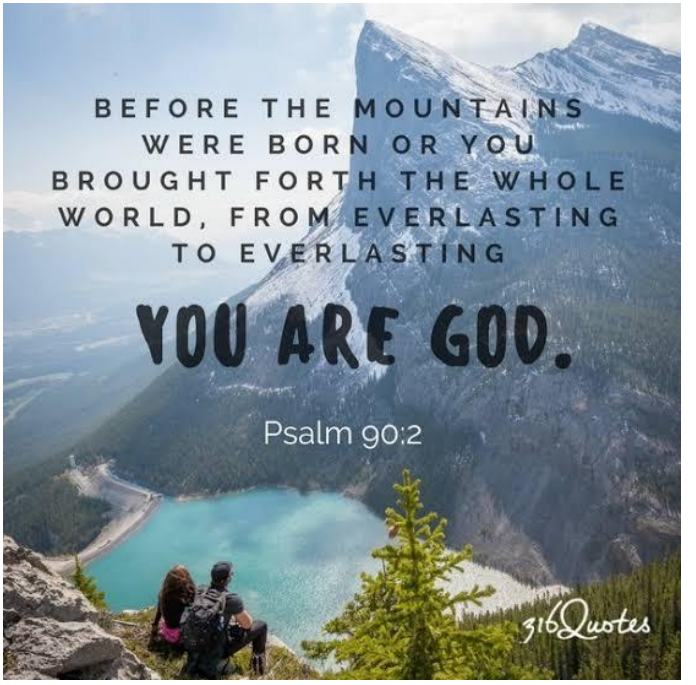
Brecksville
United Church of Christ

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 15, 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 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. 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, from 7-8pm. 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! Today 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 downstairs after worship today!

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.

Cookies, Crafts & Carols: A New Holiday Tradition at Brecksville UCC- This holiday season, Brecksville UCC is excited to welcome the community to our first Cookies, Crafts & Carols Holiday Market, taking place Saturday, December 19, in Pilgrim Hall from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The market will by offering handmade gifts and holiday treasures, live music on the stage, our signature Cookie-Rama, and a Trinket Table with proceeds benefiting our general fund. There's still plenty of room to get involved: As a Baker, Vendor, Donor, or simply by joining us for the fun!

Attendance last Sunday, Nov. 8th, 2026 – Adults: 32; Kids: 4; Online: 10; Total: 46
Additional Views: 27

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	Thanksgiving Potluck
Tue. Nov 17	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
	7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
Wed. Nov 18	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
	6:00 pm – Braver Angels
Thur. Nov 19	10:30 am – Called to Care
	7:00 pm – Choir Practice
Fri. Nov 20	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

Volunteers:	**November 15, 2026**	**November 22, 2026**
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	Jim Duffy
Late Usher:	Bill Witt	Peg Duffy
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Jim Duffy	Jill Zedan
Flowers:	Peg Duffy	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel
A/V:	***Volunteers Needed***	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Thanksgiving Meal	Peg Duffy
Set up:	Thanksgiving Meal	***Volunteers Needed***
Clean up:	Thanksgiving Meal	***Volunteers Needed***

Twenty-Fifth 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 Psalms 123 and 90)

One: Lift up our spirits to the God enthroned in the heavens!
Many: The Holy One is our dwelling place from generation to generation.
One: Lift up our hearts to the God who shapes us and guides us.
Many: The Holy One is God, forming the earth, the world, and the universe.
One: Lift up our worship before the Holy One who is God.
Many: The Holy One teaches us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.
Praise God!

Gathering Song *God, Who's Giving Knows No Ending vs.1, 2, 4* ***#565***

Prayer of Openness** **[Unison]

Present God, we worship you and honor your name. Open our hearts with thanksgiving, awe, and possibility. Make your word be written on our hearts and your purpose ignite a fire within our souls. As we gather as a community, may our faith be renewed, our trust strengthened, and our courage increased. Be glorified in our midst, O God. 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: Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Continuing Testament: Love is the Law by Rachel Held Evans

Jesus made it clear that he did not come to abolish the laws of the Torah, "but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17). The life and teachings of Jesus, then, embody all that these laws were intended to be. Jesus is what the living, breathing will of God looks like. This includes compassion for the poor, esteem for women, healing for the sick, and solidarity with the suffering. It means breaking bread with outcasts and embracing little children. It means choosing forgiveness over retribution, the cross over revenge, and cooking breakfast for the friend who betrayed you. As Elton Trueblood put it, "The historic Christian doctrine of the divinity of Christ does not simply mean that Jesus is like God. It is far more radical than that. It means that God is like Jesus." When Jesus was challenged by the experts on the Law to give an answer for what Scripture is all about, he offered a very straightforward, very Jewish response. Quoting Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19, he replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"

(Matthew 22:37–40). This is the point of every liberation, every wandering through the desert, every law about oxen and yeast and blood. To love is to honor God and keep God's commandments. Love is the law that liberates slave and slaveholder alike. Love is the ultimate deliverance story, for only love can sustain the sojourner out of Egypt, through the desert, up the mountain, and into the promised land. The truth is, you can bend Scripture to say just about anything you want it to say…. We all go to the text looking for something, and we all have a tendency to find it. So the question we have to ask ourselves is this: are we reading with the prejudice of love, with Christ as our model, or are we reading with the prejudices of judgment and power, self- interest and greed? Are we seeking to enslave or liberate, burden or set free?... This is why there are times when the most instructive question to bring to the text is not, What does this say? but, What am I looking for? I suspect Jesus knew this when he said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).
If you want to do violence in this world, you will always find the weapons. If you want to heal, you will always find the balm. With Scripture, we've been entrusted with some of the most powerful stories ever told. How we harness that power, whether for good or evil, oppression or liberation, changes everything.

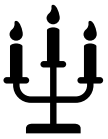
Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem *Hold Fast to What Is Good* *John Purifoy*

Sermon *"Who's your Tour Guide?" By Sherrill Witt*

Hymn of Reflection *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love vs. 2-4* ***#498***

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
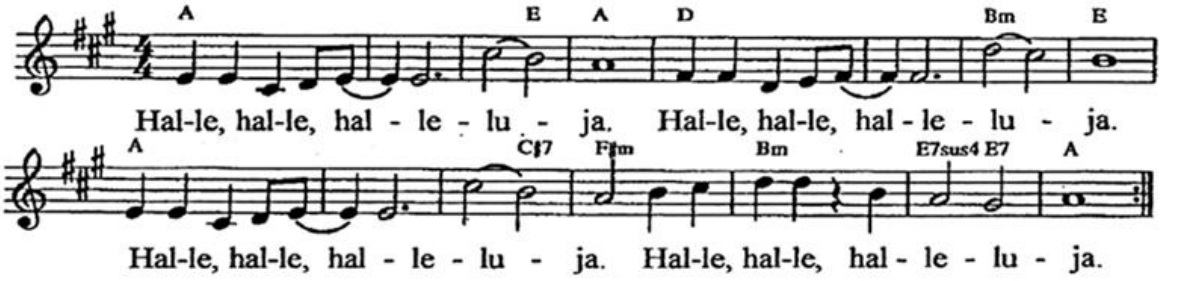
Offering Music

****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]***
Generous God, please receive these gifts from the position of love to elevate the position of our neighbor, our witness, and our faith community. Magnify them and bless us as we give. 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

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 a s 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.