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 22, 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!

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.

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 **Today**, 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.15th, 2026 – Adults:45; Kids: 5; Online: ; Total: 50
Additional Views: 20

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Nov 24	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Nov 25	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Thur. Nov 26	Happy Thanksgiving

Volunteers:	**November 22, 2026**	**November 29, 2026**
Early Usher:	Jim Duffy	***Volunteers Needed***
Late Usher:	Peg Duffy	***Volunteers Needed***
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	***Volunteers Needed***
Reader:	Jill Zedan	***Volunteers Needed***
Flowers:	Peg Duffy	***Volunteers Needed***
Counters:	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel	Jan Renovetz Sue Stenzel
A/V:	Fred Pedersen	***Volunteers Needed***
Snack:	Peg Duffy	***Volunteers Needed***
Set up:	Sherrill Witt	***Volunteers Needed***
Clean up:	Sherrill Witt	***Volunteers Needed***

Twenty-Sixth 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 (based on Psalm 100)
One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Many: Worship the Lord with gladness.
One: Come into God's presence with singing.
Many: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.
One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.
All: May our worship and our discipleship be filled with gratitude and joy!

Gathering Song *Come, O Thankful People, Come* ***#422***

Prayer of Openness** **[Unison]
Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, fill our hearts with gratitude as we approach Thanksgiving. When we are tempted to focus on scarcity, open our eyes to the abundance you have provided. When the worries of this world overwhelm us, remind us of your promise to remain always with us. Help us live each day mindful of your many blessings. 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

"When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem *Down to the River to Pray* *arr. Sheldon Curry*

Sermon *"Again I Say Rejoice!" By Rev. Shari Prestemon*

Hymn of Reflection *We Gather Together* ***#421***

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]

Bountiful God, we thank you for your many gifts. Receive these offerings as the first fruits of our labors. May our gifts be acceptable to you, signs of our joy and thankfulness. Multiply them, we pray, that your vision of justice and peace for all of Creation might be realized. 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.