



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 August 2, 2026

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – 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!

Strawberry Shortcake Social- Sunday August 16th following worship! Bring your appetite.

Worship in the Park- On August 30, our worship in the park will include a Blessing of Friendships. We invite you to begin thinking about the friendships that have carried you, surprised you, steadied you, or helped you become more fully yourself. Some of those friends may be present with us. Some may be far away. Some may be remembered with gratitude. Together, we will give thanks for the holy gift of companionship. Join us at 10am at the Sagamore Hills park Rose Mary Snell Pavilion (11551 Valley View Rd. Sagamore Hills), bring a friend, a dish to share (with copies of the recipe and why this one is meaningful to you) and remember don't go to church! There's a playground for little worshippers, we hope to see you at this beloved and annual BUCC tradition!

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! Details and the event date are coming soon, but 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! Stay tuned for more details... if you dare!

Called to Care Volunteers Needed-Called to Care helps make sure people in the congregation are remembered and supported through cards, phone calls, visits, and prayer. Volunteers are needed to help extend this care. Whether you can send an occasional card, make a friendly call, offer a visit, or hold someone in prayer, there is a place for you. Please contact the church office or Evie Novak to become part of the Called to Care team.

Missions Launch Survey- TODAY is the deadline to complete the Missions Launch Survey.

B.U.C.C Super Team Planning Party- A reminder to Council members, department chairs, ministry and committee members, and others involved in the congregation's shared leadership, our planning party is this Saturday August 8th, from 9-11AM.

Attendance last Sunday, July 26, 2026 – Adults: 32; Kids: 3; Online: 8; Total: 43
Additional Views: 8

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

- Tue. Aug 4 10:00 am – Pastoral Relations
 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
 6:30 pm – Social Justice
- Wed. Aug 5 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
- Sat. Aug 8 9:00 am – B.U.C.C Super Team Planning Party

Volunteers:	<u>August 2, 2026</u>	<u>August 9, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Late Usher:	Evie Novak	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Greeter:	Jeff Thompson	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Diane Gressley	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Flowers:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Counters:	Janet Renovetz	Janet Renovetz
	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Sue Stenzel
A/V:	David Pastor	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Jenn Elting	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Set up:	Jenn Elting	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Clean Up:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Communion:	Gayle Cobert	N/A

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Abundant God, bless what I bring and free me from the fear of not enough.

Prelude

Holy Spirit

arr. Bernadine Johnson

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light *I know that God loves me*

I know that God loves me. I know that God loves me.

**Proudly placed on this earth so that others might see
just how much my God loves me. (3x)**

**Proudly placed on this earth so that others might
see just how much my God loves me.**

***Call to Prayer** (inspired by Psalm 17)

One: The Holy One wondrously demonstrates steadfast love. Seek refuge at
God's right hand.

Many: Let God's love meet us and flow through us.

One: The Holy One attentively hears the just cause. Seek justice and
righteousness for God's name sake.

Many: Let us be steady and vigilant for the kingdom of God.

One: The Holy One faithfully vindicates our lives. Seek the path God paves for
us.

**Many: Let us worship, honor and praise the God who delivers, redeems, and
restores. Praise the Holy One!**

***Gathering Song**

Come, We Who Love God's Name vs. 1, 2, 5

#382

***Prayer of Openness [Unison]**

**Faithful and persistent God, we turn to you with who we are, with what we
have, and with all we hope. We call upon you because you care and are
attentive to our cries of concern and shouts of joy. We come to pray, sing, and
wrestle with you, O God. We also come to receive clarity and discernment, to
receive and give testimony of your persistent love, and to receive and affirm
the beauty of your path. Hold us securely by your Spirit and never let us go.
Amen.**

***Assurance of Grace**

***Centering Song** O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
 when I call, answer me.
 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
 Come and listen to me. (3x)

Continuing Testament: Hearth: From Welcome to Belonging

There is a difference between being welcomed and belonging. Welcome is the smile at the door. It is the greeting, the handshake, the invitation to come in.

Belonging grows more slowly. It happens when names are remembered, stories are shared, gifts are recognized, and people discover they have something to offer as well as something to receive. It is the quiet realization that this community would notice if they were missing.

One of the seven focus areas that emerged from the Mission Café and survey process is Hearth. It is an image for the movement from welcome toward belonging. A hearth is where people gather, where life is shared, and where strangers gradually become companions. As we look toward the future, may we continue becoming a congregation where every person finds not only an open door, but a place within the circle.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:22–31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Music offering

Sermon

By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

I Come to the Garden Alone

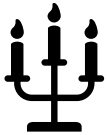
#237

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, "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

We Shall Not Give Up the Fight

#437

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

*Offering Response

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



*Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]

Creator, thank you for the opportunity to share in your abundant and renewing work. Use these gifts for the kingdom. Sow wisdom and discernment as we support the ministry of this church in your name. Amen.

Communion Invitation

ALL are welcome to receive communion. No exceptions.

Communion Hymn

Let us Break Bread Together

#330

Let us break bread together on our knees. (2x)

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (2x) **(Refrain)**

Let us praise God together on our knees. (2x) **(Refrain)**

During the hymn, please come forward up the center aisle to gather a piece of bread and a cup and return to your seats via the outer aisles. We will partake each together as directed. A gluten-free loaf is being used for communion today.

Invitation to Share the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion [Unison]

Generous God, thank you for meeting us at this table with grace, mercy, and abundant love. Nourished by Christ, send us into the world with open hands and open hearts, that we may help others find not only welcome, but belonging. In the spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

*Benediction

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Let me live with open hands in a hungry and unequal world.

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.