



# Brecksville United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People  
with God's Life-Changing Power*

A FIRM FOUNDATION

*"Humility  
is the solid  
foundation  
of all virtues."*

– Confucius



**Second Sunday in Lent, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 • 10:00 AM**

***Pastor***

• John King

***Director of Music***

• David Debick

***Financial Secretary***

• Joy Garapic

***Office Manager***

• Anne Melfo

***Ministers – All of Our Members***

## **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,*

***You Are Welcome Here!***

*Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,*

***You Are Welcome Here!***

*Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,*

***You Are Welcome Here!***

*Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,*

***You Are Welcome Here!***

*Whatever your social or economic circumstances,*

***You Are Welcome Here!***

*Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,*

***You Are Welcome Here!***

***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!***



- *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.*

### **Office Hours:**

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 1:30pm**

**Church Phone: 440-526-4364**

**e-mail: [buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

**Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!**

# Second Sunday in Lent - February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Prelude**                      *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*      Traditional African  
American spiritual

*"My Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm."*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Quiet Meditation**

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*"Can you say, when your building is complete, that the landscape is  
more beautiful than it was before?" - Frank Lloyd Wright*

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## ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Do not be afraid to answer the call to discipleship.

**ALL: What does the call require?**

Leader: Letting go of our life as we know it. Following the way of the cross.  
Aligning our love with God's.

**ALL: We step out in the way of Jesus by losing our life to save it.**

Leader: Do not be afraid to walk in the way of Jesus.

**ALL: We answer the call, built on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus the  
Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**                      *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*                      #403

**\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

O God, we are offered every opportunity to embrace the path that helps us gain the world at the expense of our soul. Instead, you have called us to yourself and to follow in the way of love and compassion. Be our sure foundation. Teach us to stand on the solid rock of Jesus' way. May it be so. Amen.

**\* Pastor's Prayer**

**\*Song of Praise:**

***Glory to God***

Pablo Sosa 1988

Glory, glory, glory – glory to God in the highest! (twice)  
And on earth be peace to all people, for God loves us all. (twice)

### ***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading - 1 Corinthians 3:9–17 (The Message Translation)**

**Gospel Reading - Mt 7:24–29 (God's Word Translation)**

**Continuing Testament - by J.K. Rowling**

**Anthem**

***Take Up Your Cross***

Broughton

1. *"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciples be;  
Deny yourself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."*
  2. *Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.*
  3. *Take up your cross, nor heed the shame; nor let your foolish pride rebel;  
Your Lord for you the cross endured, to save your soul from death and hell.*
  4. *Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.*
- (Music: Edward Broughton; words: Charles W. Everest, alt.; © 1986 Lorenz Publishing Co.)*

**Sermon by Pastor John King**

**Hymn of Reflection**

***How Firm a Foundation***

#407

### ***The Church at Prayer***

The Snider Family, Phyllis Hassler, Ann Kelley, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Sister Francis Marie Seiler, Russ King, Jon Thompson, Gayle Colbert, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

***(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)***

**Silent Meditation**

## Prayers of the Church

### OUR LORD'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.

## *Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings*

### \* Invitation to the Offering

\* Offertory Hymn    We now are in the time of Lent,  
To learn again what Jesus meant.  
His life and message are so great,  
We send these gifts to celebrate! Amen.

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION: [UNISON]

God of abundant grace, we are grateful. We thank you for the many gifts that we have, and the resources that we share. Built on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus, we dedicate these contributions to your service. May they be used to shine the light of your love. May they be consecrated as a blessing to others in your name we pray. Amen.

## *Going with God's Love*

\* Hymn of Departure    *The Church's One Foundation*

#386



**Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte**

### \* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Hear Our Prayer, O God (below)**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.



### \* Benediction

Postlude

***O Praise the Gracious Power***

Doran

*"O praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,  
a living temple built on Christ, our rock and cornerstone."  
(Based on **Ephesians 2:11-22**)*



## Readings

### First Reading

#### **1 Corinthians 3:9–17 (The Message Translation)**

To put it another way, you are God's house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ.

Take particular care in picking out your building materials. Eventually there is going to be an inspection. If you use cheap or inferior materials, you'll be found out. The inspection will be thorough and rigorous. You won't get by with a thing... You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God is present in you? No one will get by with vandalizing God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred—and you, remember, are the temple.

### Gospel Reading

#### **Mt 7:24–29 (God's Word Translation)**

“Therefore, everyone who hears what I say and obeys it will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not collapse, because its foundation was on rock. “Everyone who hears what I say but doesn't obey it will be like a foolish person who built a house on sand. Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and struck that house. It collapsed, and the result was a total disaster.”

When Jesus finished this speech, the crowds were amazed at his teachings. Unlike their experts in Moses' Teachings, he taught them with authority.

## Readings

### **Continuing Testament** – by J.K. Rowling

Ultimately we all have to decide for ourselves what constitutes failure, but the world is quite eager to give you a set of criteria, if you let it. So I think it fair to say that by any conventional measure, a mere seven years after my graduation day, I had failed on an epic scale. An exceptionally short-lived marriage had imploded, and I was jobless, a lone parent, and as poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain without being homeless. The fears that my parents had had for me, and all that I had had for myself, had both come to pass, and by every usual standard, I was the biggest failure I knew.

Now, I am not going to stand here and tell you that failure is fun. That period of my life was a dark one, and I had no idea that there was going to be what the press has since represented as a kind of fairy-tale resolution. I had no idea then how far the tunnel extended, and for a long time any light at the end of it was a hope rather than a reality.

So why do I talk about the benefits of failure? Simply because failure meant stripping away of the inessential. I stopped pretending to myself that I was anything other than I was and began to direct my energy into finishing the only work that mattered to me. Had I really succeeded in anything else I might never have found the determination to succeed in the one area where I believed I truly belonged. I was set free, because my greatest fear had been realized, and I was still alive, and I still had a daughter whom I adored, and I had an old typewriter and a big idea.

And so rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life.



# Announcements:

**ANNUAL REPORT** – The 2023 Annual Report was emailed on Weds., 2/14. If you would like a paper copy, please contact Anne in the office – 440-526-4364.



## **SAVE THE DATE - SPRING RETREAT!**

When: Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am – 4 pm

Where: Greenwood Village Garden Room in Sagamore Hills

Cost: \$20 freewill offering

Join us for a time of renewal and fellowship! This retreat is designed to provide a sacred space for “THE FIVE R’s” - Rest, Reflection, Relaxation, Refreshment and Renewal.

Don’t worry, it won’t be all seriousness and navel-gazing! There will be time for community and fun, and yes, lunch will be provided (though you can certainly bring your own if you have special dietary needs.) If you’d like to bring a side dish to share you are more than welcome, but it’s not a necessity.

Pastor John will lead us, focusing on the practice of meditation, starting with the basics. We’ll try out some different meditation techniques and look at some of the ancient sources of meditation in the Eastern and Western traditions.

Please call the office to register, or sign-up after worship on Sundays. We look forward to seeing you there!

**IT IS TIME FOR GAME NIGHT!** Join us on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for our next game night. We will provide drinks and would love it if you’d bring a snack to share. Join us for a fun evening of games - dominoes, euchre, and/or whatever games you like! Invite a friend or come alone, and call Kathy Smith if you have any questions.

Attendance on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Adults: 66; Kids: 4; Live Stream: 17; Total: 87

# Special Thanks

## FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Head Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader:	Rose Kaval
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Flowers:	LENT
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V Team:	David Pastor
Snack:	Jenn Elting <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	Jenn Elting <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Snow Herder:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>

Thank  
You



## MARCH 3, 2024

Head Usher:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Ushers:	Evelyn Seager <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Lay Reader:	Kate Matthews
Greeter:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
Flowers:	LENT
Counters:	Marjorie Culver <b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>
A/V Team:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Set Up/Serve:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Snow Herder:	<b><i>Volunteer Needed</i></b>

NOTES:



## **CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY**

This year we will be using azaleas as our dedication flowers. You may take your flower home after the Easter service, otherwise your plant will be shared with someone who is ill or shut-in, or has recently lost a loved one. Please fill out this form and turn it in to the Church Office or the collection basket. Thank you!

**DEADLINE – March 10**

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**I Enclose \$13.00 for an Easter Plant - cash:** \_\_\_\_\_ **check #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Your Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**

**I will take the flower** \_\_\_\_\_ **I will leave the flower for church use** \_\_\_\_\_