



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364  
*3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 26, 2025 • 10:00 AM*

*"We must talk about  
poverty, because  
people insulated by  
their own comfort  
lose sight of it."*

*— Dorothy Day*



**Pastor**  
• John King

**Director of Music**  
• David Debick

**Financial Secretary**  
• Joy Garapic

**Administrative Assistant**  
Miranda Lacefield

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:**

**Monday – Thursday 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)**

<b>Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!</b>
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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

## Sunday January 26th, 2025

Prelude

Song of Gathering

Wise

Assisted by Percussion Group

"Neither Greek, nor Jew...neither woman, nor man, but children are we,  
of the same God, the one Lord, Creator of all, let it be."

(Text and Tune: Joe Wise, b. 1939; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



*"You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage." - Maya Angelou*



**Gathering in God's Presence**

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO PRAYER:** (Based on Psalm 19)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

All: **We gather to listen for God's Word,  
to discern God's will, to worship with God's people.**

One: This day is holy to our compassionate God!

All: **We are members of Christ's body,  
Christ's family, Christ's church.**

One: This day is holy to our God who hears the cry of the poor

All: **The Spirit of God is upon us,  
because we have been anointed to bring good news to the poor.**

One: This day is holy to our God of grace!

All: **May the thoughts in our hearts and the actions of our lives reflect  
your love, O God.**

One: Come, let us worship our God!

Hymn of Praise:

The Church's One Foundation

#386

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

You gather us from our separate lives, God of Love,  
to hear your Word and respond to your presence.  
You have appointed us for the service of your people.  
We seek your guidance, your wisdom, your way.  
Help us to perceive and understand your law,  
and then to follow you faithfully, as your people.  
Bind us together with you in worship,  
and transform us from distinct persons  
into the living Body of Christ. Amen

**\*Pastor's Prayer**

**\*Song of Praise:**

*Glory to God*

*Pablo Sosa 1988*



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be



peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

## ***Readings***

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

**First Reading: - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NRSV)**

**Gospel Reading: - John 4:14-21 (The Voice Translation)**

**Continuing Testament: Excerpts from God's Politics by Jim Wallis**

## **Time with Young Worshipers**



## **Anthem            The Spirit of the Lord    Talbot**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
Because the Lord has anointed me.  
God has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor  
And to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captive,  
And to set the prisoner free,  
To announce a year of favor from the Lord  
And a day of vindication  
To comfort all who mourn.  
Refrain: The Spirit of God is upon me,  
The Spirit of God has anointed me,  
The Spirit of God now does send me to the poor,  
To heal the brokenhearted. (twice)  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

(Music: John Michael Talbot, b. 1954; words based on Isaiah 61:1-2; © 1985 Birdwing Music)

**Sermon:** “Jesus' Mission Statement” by Pastor John King

**Hymn of Reflection            God Our Author and Creator            #530**

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

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, Kathy Repko, “Edna House”, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

### **Prayers of the Church**

#### **Silent Meditation**

#### **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**

**\* Doxology: [UNISON]**      Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

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

Bless, O Lord, these gifts and offerings,  
that they may be a sign of our intent to serve you.  
Use them and us to bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim release to the captives,  
and bring wholeness and healing to all who are hurting and oppressed.  
If one of your people suffers, we all suffer;  
but if one of your people is honored, we all rejoice together,  
in your name. Amen.

**\* Hymn of Departure**      **Called as Partners in Christ's Service**      **#495**

### **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 **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah.** 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.*

#### **\* Circle of Community (continued)**

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 musical notation is for a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The chords are: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

#### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

**We Sing to You, O God**

**Proulx**

## Readings

### **First Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NRSV)**

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them.

If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

Let there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

But strive for the greater gifts.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 4:14-21 (The Voice Translation)**

Jesus came to his hometown, Nazareth, and did there what he had done elsewhere in Galilee—entered the synagogue and stood up to read from the Hebrew Scriptures.

The synagogue attendant gave him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and Jesus unrolled it to the place where Isaiah had written these words:  
The Spirit of the Eternal One is on me.

Why? Because the Eternal designated me to be God's representative to the poor, to preach good news to them, to tell those who are held captive that they can now be set free, and to tell the blind that they can now see, to liberate those held down by oppression.

In short, the Spirit is upon me to proclaim that now is the time; this is the jubilee season of the Eternal One's grace.

Jesus rolled up the scroll and returned it to the synagogue attendant. Then he sat down, as a teacher would do, and all in the synagogue focused their attention on Jesus, waiting for him to speak. He told them that these words from the Hebrew Scriptures were being fulfilled then and there, in their hearing.

### **Continuing Testament – Excerpts from God's Politics by Jim Wallis**

Our band of eager young first-year seminary students did a thorough study to find every verse in the Bible that dealt with the poor. We scoured the Old and New Testaments for every single reference to poor people, to wealth and poverty, to injustice and oppression, and to what the response to all those subjects was to be for the people of God.

We found several thousand verses in the Bible on the poor and God's response to injustice. We found it to be the second most prominent theme in the Hebrew Scriptures the first was idolatry, and the two often were related. One of every sixteen verses in the New Testament is about the poor or the subject of money... in the book of Luke, it is one in seven!

...Then we decided to try what became a famous experiment. One member of our group took an old Bible and a new pair of scissors and began the long process of literally cutting out every single biblical text about the poor.

The prophets were simply decimated. When he got to the resounding command of Amos to "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream," he just cut it out. When he found God speaking through Isaiah to say, "Is not this the fast that I



choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, and let the oppressed go free?" he just cut it out..

He cut out almost everything that the Hebrew prophets had to say about how nations, rulers, and all of us are instructed to treat the poor. Much of the Psalms also disappeared, where God is seen as the defender and deliverer of the oppressed...

When he got to the New Testament, the seminarian with the scissors had a lot of work to do. Mary's Magnificat prophesied the meaning of the coming of Jesus: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich empty away." ... Mary's prayer had to be cut.

Then there was Jesus's first sermon at Nazareth, his "Nazareth manifesto," where he announced his messianic vocation. Harkening back to Isaiah, Jesus proclaimed his own mission statement by saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." This was a mission statement that had to be cut.

... Paul was encouraging economic redistribution as a sign of fellowship wherever he went. Snip, snip, snip.... And the idea from James that "faith without works is dead" was dangerously close to the "social gospel." So some more cuts were in order.

When the zealous seminarian was done with all his editorial cuts, that old Bible would hardly hold together, it was so sliced up. It was literally falling apart in our hands. What we had done was to create a Bible full of holes.

I began taking that damaged and fragile Bible out with me when I preached. I'd hold it up high above American congregations and say, "Brothers and sisters, this is our American Bible; it is full of holes." Each one of us might as well take our Bibles, a pair of scissors, and begin cutting out all the Scriptures we pay no attention to, all the biblical texts that we just ignore.

## **Announcements:**

**Congregational Meeting Today:** The BUCC Congregational Meeting will be directly after our worship service. We hope that all members can stay for this important meeting where we approve and vote on our Officers for the year 2025 as well as approve our Operating Budget.

**Installation of Rob Grow-** This afternoon at 3pm join Rob Grow at Grace UCC of Loyal Oak 3285 S Cleveland Massillon Rd Norton, OH 44203 for his installation.

**Called to Care-** Do you know of a church member that could use a little extra TLC? Maybe they are ill, injured, have lost a loved one, have lost a job, or are homebound. If so, please notify Pastor John or send a message to Miranda in the church office. We have a group of volunteer members who would love to reach out to those in need with prayer, phone calls, cards, or a visit. If you would like to join our team, we would love to have you. Just contact Evie Novak at 440-479-9743 or [evienovak1@gmail.com](mailto:evienovak1@gmail.com) or show up at our next meeting on February 5 at 6:30 in the Parlor or on Zoom

**Fellowship Ministry Family Game Night-** Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 8th from 6:00-8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall! Bring a snack and a game. Teach us your favorite games or come to learn a new one! Last year we had people playing and/or learning Dominoes, Yahtzee, Cribbage, Racko, Monopoly and many more. It's a fun night for everyone with a little competition thrown in. We will supply the beverages if you bring a simple snack. Contact Betsey Wilson if you have any questions.

**Living Water Association-** See the bulletin Board in the lobby for information and events from the Living Water Association.

**Church Office-** In accordance with the Living Water Association policy, the church office will be closed on days when the Brecksville-Broadview Heights school district closes.

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following**

TODAY	Congregational Meeting Following Worship 3:00 pm - Installation of Rob Grow Grace UCC of Loyal Oak
Tue. Jan 28	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Jan 29	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)
Thur. Jan 30	5:30 pm – Youth Choir-Per Distributed Schedule 7:00 pm - Choir Practice

**SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION** – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to Pastor John [buccpastor23@gmail.com](mailto:buccpastor23@gmail.com))

You'll notice scriptures for upcoming weeks listed in the Sunday bulletin – ideas that connect to those particular scriptures are especially welcome. In October, our Music Director started a once-monthly brainstorming session scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! At BUCC, WE ARE ONE, and we look forward to your unique input into our shared journey.





# THANK YOU

## Volunteers

### January 26th, 2025

Early Usher:	Evie Novak
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Jill Zedan
Flowers:	Carole Snider
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snacks:	Jenn Elting Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve:	Jenn Elting
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snow Herder:	Nate Elting

### February 2nd, 2025

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Kathy Pastor
Reader:	Jenn Elting
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor
Snack:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set Up/Serve:	Carole Snider
Clean Up:	Carole Snider
Snow Herder:	Nate Elting
Communion Bread:	Lois Lorenzo



The sanctuary artwork this week is Fritz Eichenberg's wood-cutting from 1951 called "The Christ of the Breadlines"

Attendance last Sunday, January 19th, 2024 – Adults: 46 ; Kids: 15; Online: 45; Total: 106  
Next week's scripture readings will be, **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSV)** and **Luke 4:21-30 (NRSV)**