



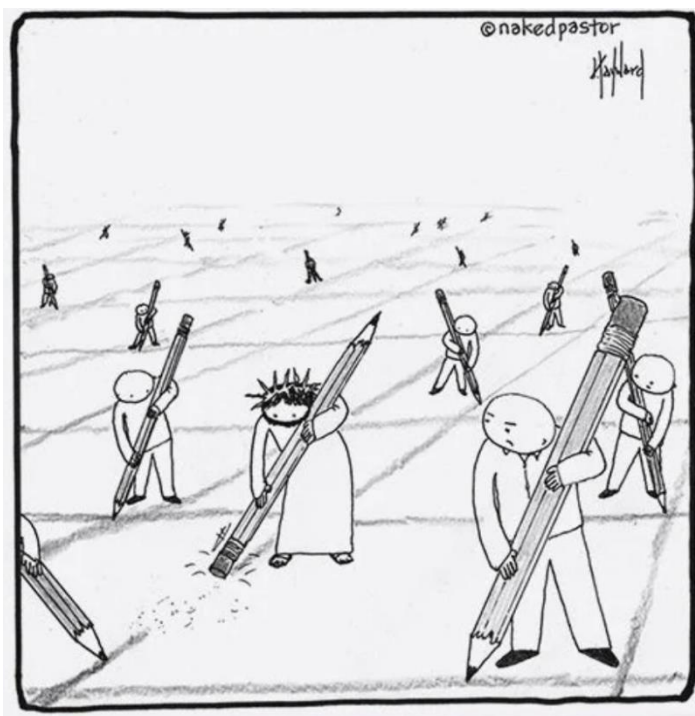
Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364
4th Sunday after Epiphany, February 2, 2025 • 10:00 AM

"I don't want to be
an anti, against
anybody. I simply
want to be the
builder of a great
affirmation: the
affirmation of God,
who loves us and
who wants to save
us.

- St. Oscar Romero,
Archbishop of San
Salvador,
assassinated 1980



Pastor
• John King

Director of Music
• David Debeck
Ministers – All of Our Members

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant
Miranda Lacefield

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 – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

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

4th Sunday after Epiphany Sunday February 2nd, 2025

Prelude Prelude **There Is Love All Around You** **White**

Assisted by Percussion Group

"There is love all around you, there is joy on the wind.
Stretch your hand to your brother, and new life will begin.
Stretch your hand to your sister, and new life will begin!"
(Words and Music: Betty White; Copyright © 1975 by The Brethren Press)

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



"It has been my experience that what makes us the saints of God is not our ability to be saintly but rather God's ability to work through sinners." — Nadia Bolz-Weber



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER:**

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and intolerance with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**All: Who chooses even you and me,
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.**

Hymn of Praise: **O for a World**

#575

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

God of the prophets, is it possible that you,
who spoke to Elijah and Jesus, will speak to us?

We may not be ready to believe it.

We may not be ready to receive you.

But we have gathered in your name, and we pray:

**Come, Holy One! Fill us with the story of your people;
fill us with your loving Word. Take us as we are and make us wholly yours.**

In Jesus' name: 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 13:1-8, 13 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading: - Luke 4:21-30 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament:

Nadia Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People

Youth Anthem L-O-V-E Lacroux/ Millard/ King

1. Find a way to lend some help,
Love your neighbor as yourself,
Spend some time on someone else. (twice)
Chorus: L-O-V-E God's love is like no other,
L-O-V-E Share it with one another.
Come on everyone, reach out and love someone.
L-O-V-E We're gonna love each other.
2. Find a way to show some grace,
Help your neighbor run the race,
Put yourself in second place. (twice, then Chorus)

(Words and Music: Corby Lacroux, Mark Millard and Steve King; courtesy of Compass Bible Church, Aliso Viejo, CA)

Time with
Young Worshipers



Anthem I Choose Love Miller

1. In the midst of pain, I choose love. (twice)

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

2. In the midst of war, I choose peace. (twice)

In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more,
I choose peace. I choose peace.

3. When my world falls down, I will rise. (twice)

When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise. I will rise.

(Repeat verse one)

(Music: Mark A. Miller; words: Lindy Thompson; Copyright © 2016 Choristers Guild)

Sermon: "The "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" Policy of the Reign of God"
by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection The Gift of Love Traditional English, see insert

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]**

**God of the prophets, we bless this offering
as people who have received your gifts of grace and hope.
We return to you a portion of the abundance you have given to us.
We dedicate all that we give, to your loving purposes:
bringing in those who have been cast out;
standing strong on behalf of those who are weak;
speaking out with your Word of joy and justice for all people.
May your loving realm increase!
In Jesus' name: Amen.**

Communion

**At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.
No exceptions. No Kidding.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north
and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's
presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.
Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and
leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant
church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

*** Hymn of Departure We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed #540
sung to the tune ST. ANNE**

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)

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The first staff has chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff has chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

*Benediction

Postlude

Toccata and Fugue in C Major

Walther



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

Readings

First Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13 (NRSV)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospel Reading Luke 4:21-30 (NRSV)

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.

But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;

yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Continuing Testament – Nadia Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People

“Church is messed up. I know that. People, including me, have been hurt by it. But as my United Church of Christ pastor friend Heather says, “Church isn’t perfect. It’s practice.” Among God’s people, those who have been knocked on their asses by the grace of God, we practice giving and receiving the undeserved. And receiving grace is basically the best terrible feeling in the world. I don’t want to need it.

Preferably I could just do it all and be it all and never mess up. That may be what I would prefer, but it is never what I need. I need to be broken apart and put back into a different shape by that merging of things human and divine, which is really screwing up and receiving grace and love and forgiveness rather than receiving what I really deserve. I need the very thing that I will do everything I can to avoid needing. The sting of grace is not unlike the sting of being loved well, because when we are loved well, it is inextricably linked to all the times we have not been loved well, all the time we ourselves have not loved others well, and all the things we’ve done or not done that feel like evidence against our worthiness.”



Announcements:

We share the sad news that on January 8th, 2025 Ellen A. Sarandou passed away. Ellen attended church in the late 90's and early 2000's.

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 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.

BUCC Pasta Fundraising Dinner- Sunday Feb 16, 2025, 4:00pm-6:00pm in Pilgrim Hall. Advanced Ticket sales can be purchased for \$10/pp (children under 6 free) from Armand Eusanio (apeusanio@gmail.com, 216-469-11359), or Diane Gressley (digressley@gmail.com, 440-417-2675) Sign-up sheet will be posted in Narthex, rear lobby, and Pilgrim Hall. Friends and family welcome. Volunteers would be gratefully appreciated for set-up, serving, clean-up, and to provide Desserts.

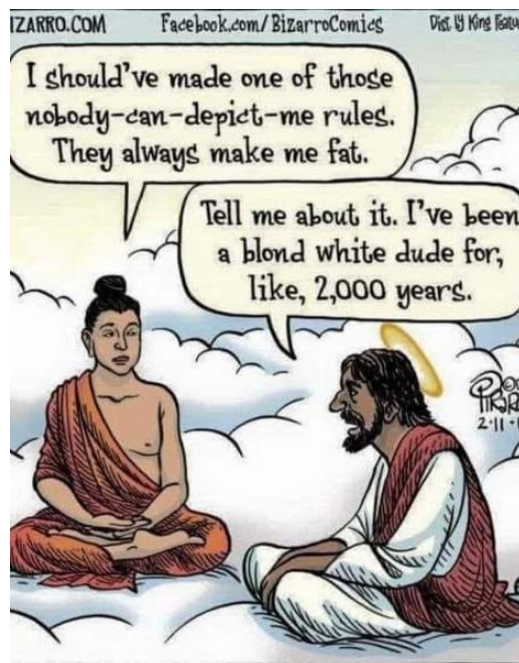
MARDI GRAS- Plan on joining us for incredible New Orleans-style music and a festive potluck on Sunday, March 2. Sign up to bring your best potluck dishes, Creole or otherwise, with Kathy Smith or Mary Kidd following worship. Fellowship will provide the King Cake dessert: as you know, whoever finds the baby hidden in the cake is believed to have increased luck and prosperity in the new year. Best of luck to all!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

TODAY	Membership Meeting Following Worship
Mon. Feb 3	7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
Tue. Feb 4	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
Wed. Feb 5	11:00 am - Mindfulness & Meditation 6:30 pm – Called to Care Meeting
Thur. Feb 6	5:30 pm – Youth Choir-Per Distributed Schedule 6:30 pm – Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm - Choir Practice
Sat. Feb 8	6:00 pm – Fellowship Ministry Family Game Night

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)

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.





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
Snacks: Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Communion: Lois Lorenzo
Bread:
Snow Herder: Nate Elting

February 9th, 2025

Early Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Late Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Greeter: Carol Miller
Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marjorie Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: **Volunteers Needed**
Snack: Carole Snider
Set Up/Serve: Carole Snider
Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Carole Snider
Snow Herder: Wes Novak



This week's sanctuary art is Winter Sunrise on the Cuyahoga River, taken by Rob Blair.

Attendance last Sunday, January 26th, 2024 – Adults: 54 ; Kids: 7; Online: 56; Total: 117
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)** and **Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV)**