



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*I am the musk rose
opening
unattended, the fern
on the boggy summit....*

*I am the one whose
love
overcomes you,
already with you
when you think to call
my name....*

- Jane Kenyon



Easter Sunday, April 20th, 2025 • 10:00 AM

Pastor
• John King

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic
Ministers – All of Our Members

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.

****LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILIABLE UPON REQUEST****

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!

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 20th, 2025

Prelude

Shout to the Lord

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



*"The air is like a butterfly with frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the sky and sings."
"Easter" by Joyce Kilmer*



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER (Acts 10: 34-43):**

One: Jesus walked the earth with God's message of peace,
blessing all creation:

ALL: Abundant life for all!

One: Jesus preached God's love--
justice for the poor, full sharing of earth's bounty;
He rattled the authorities with

ALL: Hope and healing; forgiveness and welcome!

One: Worldly powers tried to stop him:
Flogged him, beat him and crucified him;
laid him in the earth: a garden tomb.
Three days in the earth, and then,

**ALL: Like the seed which dies to live,
so Jesus arose to new life!**

One: And so let us celebrate the risen Christ,
alive in our midst even today.

**ALL: May we be hands and feet,
hearts and minds of that risen Christ,
proclaiming the good news of abundant life for all.**

Hymn of Praise

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#233

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


This is the day you have made, O Holy One, and we rejoice! Come.
Let the world know you dwell with us.
Stir our souls with love and hope,
And let our feet dance for joy on your good earth.
Open our eyes to the hopes and needs of this planet,
and all who share its life.
Embolden our hearts to works of justice in your name.
Be present to us. Empower us with your resurrection life.

***Pastor's Prayer**

***Gathering Song:**

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 15:19-26, 54-57

Gospel Reading: - John 20:1-18

Continuing Testament: Naomi Shihab Nye

Time with Young Worshipers

Sermon: by Pastor John King

Anthem

Psalm 118 This is the Day

Soper

Refrain: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad;
for this is the day that the Lord has made; alleluia alleluia

1. Give thanks to God; the lord is good. God's Mercy endures for ever. Let
the house of Israel say: "God's mercy endures for ever"

2. The Lord's right hand is lifted up; the hand of the Lord is mighty. I shall not die, but live to tell the marvelous works of God.

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord; how wonderful, how wonderful in our eyes!

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, The family of Cliff Stenzel, Jonathan Langham, Tony Cuningham, "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

Hymn of Reflection

The Strife is O'er

#242

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]**

**Risen Christ, Bless these gifts, along with our very lives.
May gifts and givers alike be dedicated
to your work of love, hope, justice, and peace. Amen.**

Communion

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion:

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

#240

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World (Acolyte)

* Circle of Community

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 a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The second staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The second staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The second staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.'

*Benediction

Postlude

Hymn to Joy

L. Beethoven

Happy
Easter

Readings

First Reading 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, 54-57 (NRSV)

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in their own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Creator, after every ruler and every authority and power is overcome. The last enemy to be destroyed is death itself.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading John 20:1-18

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary from Magdala went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb's entrance. So she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved. She told them, "They have removed the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him."

So Peter and the other disciple headed for the tomb. The two were running side by side, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and came to the tomb first. He bent over and looked inside the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there but didn't go inside. Simon Peter arrived after him and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there. He also saw the cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't

lying with the strips of linen but was rolled up separately. Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, went inside. He saw and believed. They didn't know yet what Scripture meant when it said that Jesus would rise from the dead. So the disciples went back home.

Mary, however, stood there and cried as she looked at the tomb. As she cried, she bent over and looked inside. She saw two angels in white clothes. They were sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying. One angel was where Jesus' head had been, and the other was where his feet had been. The angels asked her why she was crying.

Mary told them, "They have removed my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him."

After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. However, she didn't know that it was Jesus. Jesus asked her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought it was the gardener speaking to her. So she said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I'll remove him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

Mary turned around and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This word means "teacher.")

Jesus told her, "Don't hold on to me. I have not yet gone to my Abba. But go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I am going to my Abba, your Creator, to my God and your God.' "

Mary from Magdala went to the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord." She also told them what he had said to her.

Continuing Testament From- Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know what kindness really is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand,
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

Announcements:

From the Social Justice Ministry: In celebration of both Earth Day and Arbor Day, on Sunday April 27, Renee Boronka from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, will give the continuing testament and then will give a talk after the service on Land Conservancy. She will also describe the spring cleanup of the Garden of Eleven Angels, as our church will be participating. (Please let us know if you are interested)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Apr 22 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)

Thur. Apr 24 7:00 pm - Choir Practice



TO DONATE ELECTRONICALLY – If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!

PRIVACY MATTERS

Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind:

Children who come up for the “Time with Young Worshippers” will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online.

We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But avoid disclosing personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either:

Ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers, OR Avoid details or keep anonymity by the way you phrase your prayer.

If you sit in the first few pews, you will be visible online. If you prefer to avoid being seen online, avoid those pews. But if you don't mind, please consider migrating to the front pews. When our videos show empty pews, the sanctuary looks vacant even when it is full. So, please populate those first pews to ensure that our online presence accurately depicts the vibrant and growing congregation that we truly are.





April 20th, 2025

Early Usher: Annette Pedersen
Late Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Reader: Jenn Elting
Flowers: EASTER FLOWERS
Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
Volunteers Needed
A/V: **Volunteers Needed**
Snacks: Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel

Communion: **Volunteers Needed**
Bread



April 27th, 2025

Early Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Late Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Greeter: **Volunteers Needed**
Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: Carole Snider
Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
Volunteers Needed
A/V: **Volunteers Needed**
Snack: Jenn Elting
Set Up/Serve: Jenn Elting
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**

The sanctuary art this week is “Stained Glass Window” Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas

Attendance last Sunday, April 13th, 2025 – Adults: 54; Kids: 9; Online: 114; Total: 177
Next week’s scripture readings will be, **Acts 5:27-32** and **John 20:19-31**



2025 Easter Flower Dedications

Dedicated by:

Carole Snider

In Memory of Carolyn Snider McGinty

Sue Stenzel

In Memory of George W Snider

To Celebrate who we were, who we are, and
who we will be

Janet Renovetz

In Memory of Bobby Edwards, who gave so
much of herself to this church

Sherrill and Bill Witt

In Memory of our family and friends who are
no longer with us

In Memory of The Duncan and Witt Families

In Honor of The members of BUCC

Please choose Love

Joy Garapic

In Memory of William Garapic

Peg and Jim Duffy

For hope and healing for our families, our
church, our nation, our world... Everyone

Annette and Fred
Pedersen

In Memory of our parents and Russ

Shelley Forbes

In Loving Memory of My Parents, Benjamin &
Lucille Forbes, and My Grandparents, Mildred
& Elmer Wright