



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"If anyone or
anything tries to
curse or kill the
Goodness at the
Center of all things,
it will just keep
coming back to
life. Forever Easter."*

- David Housholder



Second Sunday of Easter, April 27th, 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!

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday April 27th, 2025
Guest Preacher Rev. Charlene J. Smith

Prelude

The Jesus Song, by Tom Booth

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



"Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother."
- Khalil Gibran



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER):**

One: God's strong and loving hands are outstretched to all
Creation.

ALL: **Let the world stretch forth and grasp God's hands with joy.**

One: God's open hands are as the gate of righteousness.

ALL: **Let us enter in to God's abundant life and give thanks.**

One: In God's hands are new life, strength, and salvation.

ALL: **Let us be thankful and sing unto our God with gladness.**

Hymn of Praise

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus

257

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

O Risen Christ, be with us this day.

We recognize your wounded hands;

they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer,
and to prevail in the power of love.

We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together
into a deeper place of peace.

Our week has left worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices,
and unexpected disappointments.

We are weary.

Come, O Risen Christ and receive our burdens
as we empty our cares into your loving hands.

Extend to us your joy.

Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life!

Pour into us the freshness of your new life;

for you are our strength and our might.

How wonderful you are for your loving-kindness toward us.

Amen! Alleluia!

***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: - Hebrews 11: 1-6

Gospel Reading: - John 20:19-31

Continuing Testament: From Renee Boronka

Time with Young Worshipers

Sermon: "The Truth About Thomas" by Rev. Charlene J. Smith

Anthem

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

#256

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

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.

Hymn of Reflection

Listen to Your Savior Call

#250

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]**

From our hearts and from our hands,
we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you,
O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen! Alleluia!

*** Hymn of Departure**

The Strife Is O' er

#242

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 musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' 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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise - instrumental



Readings

First Reading Hebrews 11: 1-6 Good News Translation

"Faith"

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval.

It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.

It was faith that made Abel offer to God a better sacrifice than Cain's. Through his faith he won God's approval as a righteous man, because God himself approved of his gifts. By means of his faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

It was faith that kept Enoch from dying. Instead, he was taken up to God, and nobody could find him, because God had taken him up. The scripture says that before Enoch was taken up, he had pleased God. No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him.

Gospel Reading John 20:19-31 Good News Translation

"Jesus Appears to His Disciples"

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe[a] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

Continuing Testament From Renee Boronka



Announcements:

From the Social Justice Ministry: In celebration of both Earth Day and Arbor Day, TODAY after worship, 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)



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!

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.

HOLY GROUNDS- Join Pastor John for an informal conversation and a cup of coffee at Panera (Brecksville). On most Tuesdays, at 8:15-9:15 you can stop by anytime, to talk about whatever is on your mind. You never know who might stop by! Of course, if you are looking for a more private conversation, you can always set up an appointment with Rev. John anytime you like.

Rubber Ducks Game- Join us in Akron on June 8th at 1:10PM at Canal Park for a rubber ducks game. Please let Betsey or Mary know if you are able to join by May 24th.

Edna House Director Visit and Special Offering- On Sunday May 4, please join us in Church for a continuing testament and in fellowship hall for a visit with Jen Lasky, the director of the Edna House. Edna House serves women who are recovering and provides a safe sanctuary to support women during the recovery process. Also note that on Sunday May 11 - which is Mother's Day - we will collect a special offering and donations for them.

MAY 10 – Spring Clean-up Project at Garden of Eleven Angels- The Social Justice Ministry invites you to join with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) for their Spring “Spruce up” of the Garden of Eleven Angels, located at 12205 Imperial Ave in Cleveland on Saturday, May 10 from 9-noon. The Garden of Eleven Angels is a memorial established by WRLC to commemorate the women who were murdered in the Buckeye-Shaker/Mount Pleasant area in Cleveland.

We are looking for 10 adult volunteers. Clean up materials will be provided, but you might want to bring your own gloves. Closed-toed shoes and clothes that you do not mind getting dirty are recommended. Dress for the weather! Light refreshment will also be provided. The community very much appreciates this work and will be there to help. Please let us know if you are coming so we can give WRLC the names. You can email Kathy Fagan at occmeddoc@sbcglobal.net or Melanie Falls at mlnfalls@gmail.com.

Rainbow Rock Painting: On Sunday May 18, please join us in Fellowship Hall after the church service to paint Rainbow Rocks. We are doing this with the children and all are welcome. You do NOT need any painting skills, just a willingness to have fun. Carol Miller will lead the rock painting, and we will distribute these beautiful works of art at the BBH Pride event in June.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	After Worship – Land Conservancy Presentation 4:00 pm – Windsong Concert
Tue. Apr 29	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Apr 30	11:00 am—Mindfulness and Meditation 7:00 pm – Finance Ministry Meeting (Parlor)
Thu. May 1	6:30 pm – Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm - Choir Practice

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 Worshipers” 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.



“Have you tried letting his people go?”



April 27th, 2025

Early Usher: Bill Witt
Late Usher: Sue Stenzel
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: Carole Snider
Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
Volunteers Needed
A/V: **Volunteers Needed**
Snacks: Jenn Elting
Set Up/Serve: Jenn Elting
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel
Sherrill Witt

May 4th, 2025

Early Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Late Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
Greeter: **Volunteers Needed**
Reader: Kate Matthews
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
Volunteers Needed
A/V: **Volunteers Needed**
Snack: Carole Snider
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteers Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteers Needed**
Communion **Volunteers Needed**
Bread:



The sanctuary art this week is "Spring Dance" by Mandy Leonard

Attendance last Sunday, April 20th, 2025 – Adults: 98; Kids: 29; Online: 51; Total: 178
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Acts 9:1-21** and **John 21:1-19**