



# Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

*May God bless you with  
discomfort at easy  
answers,  
half-truths  
and superficial  
relationships,  
so that you may live  
deep within your heart.*

*- Sister Ruth Fox*



***Third Sunday of Easter, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

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

# Third Sunday of Easter Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



*May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make  
a difference in the world.*

*- Sister Ruth Fox*



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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

### **\*CALL TO PRAYER**

One: On the shores of Galilee, Peter pulled up empty nets and felt discouraged. Sister, brother, if you feel discouraged, disappointed, let's gather in prayer!

**ALL: We'll cast our nets again into Christ's abundance.**

One: Peter saw the risen Christ, but did not recognize Christ right away. If you lift your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, look again- and gather in prayer!

**ALL: We'll find the Risen Christ in all Creation.**

One: Peter left everything to follow Jesus, yet saw him betrayed and crucified. If your life is filled with mourning, Come - gather in prayer!

**ALL: Christ is leading a dance of joy.**

One: Come here, sisters and brothers!

**ALL: To give blessing and honor and glory to God!**

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

Generous God,  
Giver of all that is good,  
Creator of all that is beautiful,  
you have blessed us with abundance,  
more than enough for everyone to share.  
Out of this abundance you call us to care for each other.  
Awaken us to the beauty and bounty of your Creation.  
May we protect the beauty of all that is yours  
and nurture your bounty  
for our children and our children's children. Amen.

**\*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: - Acts 9:1-21**

**Gospel Reading: - John 21:1-19**

**Continuing Testament: from Jen Lasky**

Time with Young Worshipers

**Sermon:** By Pastor John King

**Anthem**

**Holy is the Name**

**Solo by Angie Lynard**

***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.

***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]**

Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people.  
Grant that this offering given in thanksgiving  
for all the blessings you have given us  
will fill empty hearts with love  
and will proclaim your honor and glory in the name of Christ Jesus to all  
people. Amen.

## Communion

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

Communion Hymn: Oh How I Love Jesus

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion [Unison]:

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. Amen.

\* Hymn of Departure

Amazing Grace

# 547

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 for 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.' repeated twice. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

\*Benediction

Postlude



## Readings

### **First Reading Acts 9:1-21 (NRSV)**

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples, went to the high priest

and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

He asked, "Who are you, Sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. God said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am." 11 The God said to him, "Get up and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "I have heard from many about this man, Saul, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But God said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and rulers and before the people of Israel;

I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way

here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Messiah of God."

All who heard Saul were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name?"

### **Gospel Reading John 21:1-19 (NRSV)**

After [the risen Christ appeared to the disciples] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.

Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No."

He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is Jesus!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Jesus, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.

But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."



So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

## **Continuing Testament from Jen Lasky**

## **Announcements:**

**Edna House Director Visit and Special Offering**-Today, please join us 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. If you would like to assist next week in the clean up of the garden of 11 angels, use the link below to sign up.

<https://wrlandconservancy.org/event/garden11angels-spruce-up-2025/>

If you have additional questions, or need assistance with the "link" -Renee did share her email and you can reach out to her

[rboronka@wrlandconservancy.org](mailto:rboronka@wrlandconservancy.org)

**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.

**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 – Edna House Presentation After worship -- Membership
Mon. May 5	7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
Tue. May 6	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
Wed. May 7	11:00 am—Mindfulness and Meditation 4:00 pm – Stewardship/Leadership meeting
Thu. May 8	10:30 am – Called to Care 7:00 pm -- Choir Practice
Sat. May 10	9:00 am – Spring Clean-up Project at Garden of 11 Angels

**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.

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KNOWING THAT HIS MESSAGE WAS ON THE WEAK SIDE, HE MAXIMIZED THE VISUALS FOR IMPACT



**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!



# THANK YOU

## Volunteers

### May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Reader:	Kate Matthews
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Counters:	Sue Stenzel Janet Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor
Snacks:	Carole Snider
Set Up/Serve:	Sherrill Witt
Clean Up:	Kathy Pastor Sherrill Witt
Communion Bread:	Sherrill Witt

### May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Sherrill Witt
Counters:	Kathy Pastor <b>Volunteers Needed</b>
A/V:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snack:	Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel



Special Thanks Today to our guest musicians  
Glenn Brackens and Angie Lynard

The sanctuary art this week is "Almond Blossom" 1890 by Vincent van Gogh

Attendance last Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 45; Kids: 10; Online: 29; Total: 84  
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Psalms 23** and **John 10:22-30**