



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*This is for the Mother
Breaking eons of
fettered chains
For the children she has
birthed
Through blood and
breaths of change
She calls them
Redemption
Regardless of their
names.*

—Mishi McCoy



Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 11th, 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!

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday May 11th, 2025
Happy Mothers Day**

Prelude

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

251

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



"She is so bright and glorious that you cannot look at her face or her garments for the splendor with which she shines. For she is terrible with the terror of the avenging lightning, and gentle with the goodness of the bright sun; and both her terror and her gentleness are incomprehensible to humans.... But she is with everyone and in everyone, and so beautiful is her secret that no person can know the sweetness with which she sustains people, and nurtures them in inscrutable mercy."

— Hildegard von Bingen



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER (Based on Revelation 7:9-16)**

One: We gather once more as a great multitude
From various peoples and places, we've come

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving
Honor and power be to our God**

One: We gather once more to shout "Alleluia!"
Salvation belongs to the Holy One.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving
Honor and power be to our God**

One: We gather to worship day and night
The one who guides us to the springs of life.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving
Honor and power be to our God**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON] (Based on Psalm 23)**

God, our shepherd—Restorer of our souls—

The one who calls us to nap in green pastures—

We enter into this moment of worshipful gathering

trusting that you will guide us along the paths of righteousness.

Wherever we may be in this world, let us know the comforting presence of your rod and staff. We are expectant, O God, that our fears will fade,

that our cups will overflow, and that your goodness and mercy will

accompany us in this hour and beyond. Now, let us worship you in spirit and in truth. 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: - Psalm 23

Gospel Reading: - John 10:22-30

Continuing Testament: Prayers of the Cosmos by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Time with
Young Worshipers

Sermon: By Pastor John King

Anthem

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

#467

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 Cuninghame, "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.**

**O God, take these gifts and multiply them
for the healing of your beloved world;
know that we offer them as praise to you:
Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!**

HAPPY
Mother's
& Day

23

*** Circle of Community**

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Instrumental

Readings

First Reading Psalm 23 (The Inclusive Bible)

YHWH, you are my shepherd—
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
you lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff—
they give me courage.
You spread a table for me
in the presence of my enemies,
and you anoint my head with oil—
my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in your house, YHWH,
for days without end.

Gospel Reading John 10:22-30 (The Inclusive Bible)

The time came for Hanukkah, the Feast of the Dedication, in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple area, in Solomon's Porch, when the Temple authorities surrounded him and said, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus replied, "I did tell you, but you don't believe. The work I do in my Abba's name gives witness in my favor, but you don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never be lost. No one will ever snatch them from my hand. Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal them from Abba God. For Abba and I are One."

Continuing Testament Prayers of the Cosmos by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Note: in this reading, the author is exploring the Aramaic origins of the Prayer of Jesus, also known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” Jesus grew up speaking Aramaic. While we are familiar with traditional English versions of this prayer, it is important to recall that we use an English translation of a Greek translation, of the Aramaic prayer spoken by Jesus. Each translation is accompanied by the cultural biases of each language and translator, including, sadly their biases of male dominance. The author studies how the concept of God as “Mother” as well as “Father” are included in the Aramaic word Jesus used: “Abba.”

The prayer begins with an expression of the divine creation and the blessing that emanates from all parenting. The ancient Middle Eastern root ab refers to all fruit, all germination proceeding from the source of Unity. This root came to be used in the Aramaic word for personal father—abba—but still echoes its original ungendered root in sound-meaning. While abwoon is a derivative of this word for personal father, its original roots do not specify a gender and could be translated “divine parent.” These roots reveal many levels of meaning. bwn shows the ray or emanation of that father/ motherhood proceeding from potential to actual, here and now. In Aramaic, the character for b may also be pronounced w or include shades of both. An Aramaic scholar, the Reverend Mar Aprem (1981), notes that the same root (ab) may stand for personal father or spiritual father, depending on whether the w (for personal) or the b (for spiritual) is emphasized. No doubt, Jesus meant there to be an echo of both, as Aramaic is rich in this sublime wordplay. Further, according to the mystical science of sounds and letters, common to both Aramaic and Hebrew, the word abwoon points beyond our changing concepts of “male” and “female” to a cosmic birthing process.

Announcements:

Edna House Special Offering-Today we will collect a special offering and donations for Edna House.

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.

Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church-

Sunday May 25 at 4 pm we will be downtown to host and serve the hunger meal. Please note this is Memorial Day weekend. Let Diane Gressley know if you plan to help or serve. We will have sign up information in the narthex in May.

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!

SHARING GOOD NEWS

At the beginning of the Sunday service you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these brief by avoiding details. Share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. May 13 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
6:30 pm – Social Justice

Wed. May 14 11:00 am -- Mindfulness and Meditation
7:00 pm – Council

Thu. May 15 7:00 pm -- Choir Practice

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.

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.



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.





May 11th, 2025

Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Sherrill Witt
Counters:	Kathy Pastor Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Bryan Chaikin
Snacks:	Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel

May 18th, 2025

Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Sue Stenzel Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
Communion Bread:	Volunteers Needed



Attendance last Sunday, May 4th, 2025 – Adults: 54; Kids: 5; Online: 29; Total: 88
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Acts 11:1-18** and **John 13:33-35**