



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2025



Photo By: Lori Molesky

LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER
AND GRACE

The Reception **Sherrill Witt – Moderator**

Last month I shared positive news and extended an **Invitation** for your return to Brecksville United Church of Christ. When we receive an invitation and choose to respond it might be an enthusiastic “Yes!”, a tentative “Yes” or just a “No”. Sometimes a positive response might be based on our desire for community and connection, while our hesitation might be based on the concept of an unsure Reception. Let’s look at “reception” more closely thanks to the Cambridge Dictionary:

(1) A formal social occasion to welcome someone

September 28th we will welcome Rev. Jeffery Jackson as our new Interim Minister. He comes to us having served most recently as the Interim Minister for First Congregational Church in Akron. His background is in both the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ churches. Jeff lives in Hiram, Ohio with his wife and is awaiting the birth of a grandchild on September 19th. We hope to have a **reception** to officially welcome Rev. Jackson to our church and to welcome back members for the coming fall season.

(2) The way in which people react to something or someone new

There is no denying it, things are different now. A new Music Minister may have fresh ideas about our music and its presentation, with which we are unfamiliar, but all music enhances our relationship with God and one another. An Interim Minister may reassure us that we are healthier than we thought and are on the right track, but they are also charged with helping us move forward in ways that might require introspection, communication, and change for the better. As we all begin the return to church let us dwell more on the future than on the past so that we receive each other with joy and hope. If someone has stayed away with intent, their **reception** should always be “Welcome back, we’ve missed you”. Some recent members who joined in the last 2 years are choosing to stay with us in the belief that the church community they first experienced is still present and robust. We also have new faces who have come to us based on our reputation for radical hospitality – let us not disappoint them.

(3) The degree to which signals (e.g., cellphone, radio, TV – or people!) are strong and clear

Let us make our signals to each other and to the larger community intentional ones filled with the belief in our chosen covenant to worship, work and serve together. Let us continue to be earnest in seeking God's will for us as we honor both our ministry and mission history and our future. Our signals as members in this community of Christ need to be strong, loving and uniform so that the **reception** is clear and well-received. Strong signals come from many actions: attendance on Sundays, participation in church events, signing up to usher, greet, bring bread for Communion, set up/clean up for Coffee Hour, pledging – all the little things that keep a church going. No action is too small, all action has meaning.

If your response to the Invitation is "No", that is fine. We will always be here to receive you when you need a place to welcome you, support you, protect you, laugh or cry with you, or just "be". That is what a church community is. The Invitation is always open and the Reception is always ready.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - Yes, you read that correctly! The Spiritual Life Ministry is looking ahead to one of our most beloved BUCC traditions, the annual congregation-written Advent Devotional. In order to compile the booklet, we will begin to offer scriptures for your selection on September 14 after worship.

Simply choose one of the pre-selected scriptures that speaks to you, and tell us why in a couple of paragraphs. Many people also choose to close with a one or two sentence prayer. We especially love to hear how it connects you and/or your family to a certain time or place. You'll be amazed by the stories your fellow members have to share! If you cannot attend worship in person, simply call Miranda in the office during the week and she can help you out. We are asking for your devotion to be submitted to the office at BUCCOffice23@gmail.com by OCTOBER 31.



Be sure to join us as we celebrate our BUCC kids as they embark on their new school year Sunday, September 7. Our amazing choir will return that day as well, so we have lots to be grateful for! We will (of course) start things off with a celebratory potluck with the theme of "Best Dish Ever." Bring your families' favorite! Mark your calendar today!

Are you aware there are worker bees among us? Sherrill Witt has been busy behind the scenes quietly keeping the church humming, along with Miranda Lacefield. These two ladies deserve a shout-out with our thanks!



***Happy, Happy SEPTEMBER Birthdays* to the following
BUCC Members! Please share in their joy and wish them a
Happy Birthday!***

Joanne	Cook	September 03
Lori	Molesky	September 03
Mark	Lehman	September 11
Kathleen	Smith	September 11
Jill	Zedan	September 12
Rebecca	Anderson	September 14
Jane	Cribbs	September 15
Natalie	Corrado	September 17
Holden	Esser	September 17

****If you have a SEPTEMBER birthday and are not included
above, please contact the church office so we can add you to
the BUCC Birthday List!***



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2024

Mon., SEPTEMBER 1
LABOR DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., SEPTEMBER 2
6 pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Spiritual Life

Wed., SEPTEMBER 3
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
4pm Stewardship/Leadership

Thu., SEPTEMBER 4
7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 5
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 6

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
RALLY DAY!
10am Worship Service
11:15 Potluck

Mon., SEPTEMBER 8

Tue., SEPTEMBER 9
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., SEPTEMBER 10
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., SEPTEMBER 11
10:30am Called to Care
7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 12
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 13

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
10am Worship Service
11:30am Social Justice

Mon., SEPTEMBER 15

Tue., SEPTEMBER 16
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7:30pm Communications & Outreach

Wed., SEPTEMBER 17
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
6pm Braver Angels

Thu., SEPTEMBER 18
7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 19
OFFICE CLOSED
6:30pm Brecksville Squares

Sat., SEPTEMBER 20

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 22

Tue., SEPTEMBER 23
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., SEPTEMBER 24
11am Mindfulness & Meditation

Thu., SEPTEMBER 25
7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 26
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 27

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 29

Tue., SEPTEMBER 30
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Early Usher: Annette Pedersen
Late Usher: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Carol Miller
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Flowers: TBD
Counters: Jan Renovetz
Sue Stenzel
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD
Communion
Bread: TBD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD
Communion
Bread: TBD

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: Sue Stenzel
TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Phone: 440-526-4364

E-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com

Web: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Moderator: Sherrill Witt
sherrillcity@gmail.com

Dir. of Music: Rob Keshock
buccmusic23@gmail.com

Financial Secy.: Joy Garapic
buccfinance23@gmail.com

Pillar Editor: Miranda Lacefield
buccoffice23@gmail.com

Deadline for copy: The fifteenth day of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

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FIRST CLASS

