



Brecksville

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# United Church of Christ

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

*"To have faith  
is to trust yourself  
to the water. When  
you swim you don't  
grab hold  
of the water,  
because  
if you do  
you will sink  
and drown. Instead  
you relax,  
and float."*

*~ Alan Watts*



**World Communion Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 • 10:00 AM**

**Pastor**

• Jeff Jackson

**Financial Secretary**

• Joy Garapic

**Office Manager**

• Miranda Lacefield

**Music Director**

• Rob Keshock

Ministers – All of Our Members

## **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!**

**World Communion Sunday**  
**Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prelude**

**Prayer of St. Francis (Sebastian Temple)**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Meditation**

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."  
~ Martin Luther King Jr

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO PRAYER** (Inspired by Psalm 37)

One: Do not despair at the acts of the wicked-

**All: Trust in God. Scatter the seeds of justice in our world.**

One: Do not desire or trust in the power of worldly empires-

**All: Delight in the power of God whose light fills our souls.**

One: Do not embrace wrath or resentment; find patience in times of shadows-

**All: Commit to the ways of God. Trust in the Holy One as Divine Love fills our earth.**

**Hymn of Praise**

**Morning Has Broken**

**Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass,  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!**

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

*Holy Assurance,*

*The cobwebs of doubt spread as we notice divisions and injustices grow. We are uncertain of your presence and have great doubt of the ways you work through us. As we seek your presence among us, clear our minds of the distractions. As mercy blossoms, our doubts will transform to belief. Fill our souls with hope. May we know that your Realm abides around us. Amen.*

**\*Assurance of Grace**

**\*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)**

**Gospel Reading: - Luke 17:5-10**

**Continuing Testament- By Marcus Borg**

**Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15**



Time with  
Young Worshipers



**Sermon "Sacred Speculation" by Rev. Jeff Jackson**

**Anthem**

**Great Is Your Faithfulness**

## ***The Church at Prayer***

Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Jonathan Langham, Tony Cuninghame, Chad Sproul, Dot Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Joanne Cook, Kathy Ford, Midge Cassidy, Kate Benedict, Marge Culver, "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.**

### **Stewardship Moment- Sue Stenzel**

#### ***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]**

**Holy Vessel of Endurance,**

**When our spirits experience dehydration, you quench our souls. When doubt creeps into our minds, you fill our hearts with your hydrating presence. Encourage us to stretch ourselves in our giving. Help us to see that we have the faith to take movements forward into the future with courage and strength. Amen.**

## Communion

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

Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

### 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

We Praise You, O God

#420

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

\* 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 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

Lord, Make Me More Holy

## Readings

### Gospel Reading Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'?"

Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

### **Continuing Testament The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg**

On a recent plane trip, the woman sitting next to me said, "I'm much more interested in Buddhism and Sufism than I am in Christianity." When I asked why, she said, "Because they're about a way of life, and Christianity is all about believing." She continued, "I don't think beliefs matter nearly as much as having a spiritual path and following a way."

I understood her comment, even as I silently disagreed with part of it. To begin with the disagreement, Christianity is about a way of life, a path, and it has been from its very beginning. At the center of Jesus' own teaching is the notion of a "way" or a "path," and the first name of the early Christian movement was "the Way."

Yet her statement reflects the most common understanding of the word "faith" in modern Western Christianity: that faith means holding a certain set of "beliefs," "believing" a set of statements to be true, whether cast as biblical teachings or doctrines or dogma...

Prior to the modern period, the most common Christian meanings of the word "faith" were not matters of the head but matters of the heart. In the Bible and the Christian tradition, the "heart" is a metaphor for a deep level of the self, a level below our thinking, feeling, and willing, our intellect, emotions, and volition. The heart is thus deeper than our "head," deeper than our conscious self and the ideas we have in heads.

Faith concerns this deeper level of the self. Faith is the way of the heart, not the way of the head. The virtual identification of faith with believing a set of statements is thus a serious impoverishment of the word "faith." The word has several rich meanings that we will explore in this chapter. To see faith as "belief" not only obscures the other meanings, but also distorts the notion of faith itself. Seeing the heart of Christianity requires recovering the rich meanings of faith, a recovery that leads to a relational understanding

of faith and to an understanding of Christianity as a "way"- as the way of the heart.

### **Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah,

where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me:

Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.'"

Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver.

I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales.

Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy,

and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard.

In their presence I charged Baruch, saying,

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time.

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land."



## Announcements:



**Welcome Rev. Jeff Jackson,  
our new interim minister.**

**Neighbors in Need- Today**, we will collect a special offering: Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Thank you for your support and generosity!

🌸 **Nursery Attendant Needed** 🌸 The Nursery Attendant will provide safe, secure, and nurturing care for children ages 0 through 4 years old during church services and events. This individual may also assist Miss Mindy in the classroom as needed.

The position pays \$50/Sunday. The hours are 9:45 am until the children are secured by their parents after the service.

If you or someone you know is interested in this important ministry role, please contact the church office at [BUCCoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:BUCCoffice23@gmail.com) or 440-526-4364 or speak with a member of the Christian Education Committee.

Let's continue to provide a warm and welcoming space for our youngest members to grow in God's love!

**Colony Cupboard-** We are continuing to support the Colony Cupboard! This is a resource for students at Brecksville Broadview Hts High School who need essentials and school supplies. We donated a trunk full of supplies recently and they are grateful for our continued support. Based on student needs for the new school year, below is the updated list of supplies they are requesting:

Markers, highlighters, binders, graph paper, & headphones

Donations are collected in the back of the church.

**Advent Devotional** - 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, please sign up 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.

**The All Saints' Day service** is a loving and reverent remembrance of loved ones who have passed away this year (from November of 2024 to the present). Please submit the names of your departed loved ones and friends to the office email at buccoffice23@gmail.com, or by calling Miranda at (440) 526-4364 by October 29th. All submitted names will be recognized during a moment of silence during the service.

**"We Remember" Table** - Pictures are a loving way to remember family and friends who have passed into the next life, recently or long ago. A dedicated table space will be available in Pilgrim Hall after our All Saints' Day Sunday Service (11/2), for you to share a picture of someone who was dear to you, no matter when they passed away. Please bring your loved one's photo downstairs to the WE REMEMBER TABLE before church. You may write a short dedication at that time or bring one with the picture.



**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. 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 the office. ([buccoffice23@gmail.com](mailto:buccoffice23@gmail.com))

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following**

Today	After worship Junior Choir
Mon. Oct 6	5:00 pm – Fellowship Meeting 7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
Tue. Oct 7	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall) 7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
Wed. Oct 8	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation 7:00 pm – Council
Thu. Oct 9	10:30 am – Called to Care 7:00 pm – Choir Practice



## Volunteers:

### October 5th, 2025

Early Usher:	Annette Pedersen
Late Usher:	Bill Witt
Greeter:	Kathy Pastor Dave Bernard
Reader:	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel
Counters:	Sue Stenzel <b>Volunteers Needed</b>
A/V:	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Sherrill Witt Kathy Pastor
Set up:	Sherrill Witt Bill Witt
Clean Up:	Sherrill Witt Bill Witt

Communion  
Bread: Gayle Colbert

### October 12th, 2025

Early Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky
Reader:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Counters:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b> <b>Volunteers Needed</b>
A/V:	David Pastor
Snack:	Sue Stenzel
Set Up:	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

Attendance last Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 44; Kids: 0; Online: 7;  
Additional Views: 18; Total: 69

Liturgy from Worship Ways