



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 2025



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

A Season of Curiosity and Discovery

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a joy and a privilege to be joining you in this next season of ministry. Every beginning carries a holy mixture: gratitude for the paths that have carried us this far, hope for the future God is even now unfolding, and a fair measure of anxious anticipation about what lies just ahead. I certainly carry all of these with me as I step into life among you! Gratitude, because God has already been so faithful; hope, because God is never finished with us; and anticipation — tinged with a bit of nerves — because stepping into the unknown is both exciting and unsettling. Still, that is precisely where the Spirit seems to do some of God's best work. I come to you with a commitment to Christ's vision for the church and with a calling to walk alongside congregations in seasons of transition. Over the years, mentors and companions have taught me that ministry at its best is about perceiving the beauty of people and communities — even in moments of uncertainty — and discovering where God is already stirring, already breathing life, already inviting the church to blossom into its calling to reveal and to embody the kin-dom of God. So, I look forward to learning your stories, sharing in worship, and exploring with openness (and yes, sometimes a bit of anxious wonder!) the particular ways God's Spirit is alive in this congregation.

One truth I have come to know in ministry with congregations in transition is that there are no simple diagnoses of "what is wrong" or quick prescriptions for "what must be done." Congregations — like the people who make them up — are wonderfully complex. There are layers upon layers of history, memory, longing, and hope to be honored and sorted through with care. Too often, those on the outside try to tell simplistic stories about who we are — pointing to faults, offering easy judgments, or imagining quick fixes — without grasping the depth or breadth of the reality we live. Yet it is precisely within the fullness of our real story — with

its blessings and its burdens — that God's renewing work takes root and begins to bear fruit. Our task together is not to flatten this richness into tidy answers, but to approach it with attentiveness and holy wonder, listening for the Spirit's leading within it.

This interim time, then, is a gift. It invites us to pause, to take stock, and to practice a posture of openness about who we are and who we are becoming. Together, we will ask some of the most vital questions of faith and community:

- Who are we, at our heart and core?
- Who are our neighbors, the ones God has given us to love?
- Who is God calling us to become, as we prepare for the ministry yet to come?

The answers will not be found in data and statistics, but in the passions of our hearts, the wisdom of our memories, and the courage of our imagination. These conversations will sometimes come easily; at other times they will stretch us. We may encounter friction, for honesty about our past and boldness about our future can awaken differences of opinion. Yet disagreement is not defeat. It is not a battle to be won. It is the sacred work of discerning together — listening with care, learning with humility, and being shaped more fully into Christ's body through our diversity.

My prayer is that this season will be marked by openness, by kindness, and most of all by a spirit of faithful exploration — that it will be a time of discovery, a time of trust, and a time when we glimpse together what it means to be God's people in this place and in this moment. Thank you already for the warmth of your welcome. I am grateful beyond words for the privilege of walking this road with you.

Grace and peace,
Jeff



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

On Sunday October 5, 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!

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.

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.



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

Armand	Eusanio	October 06
Gayle	Colbert	October 14
Heather	Hunt	October 16
Joy	Garapic	October 21
Betsey	Wilson	October 24
Leroy	Ford	October 26
Jesse	Wade	October 30

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



CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

Wed., OCTOBER 1
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
4pm Stewardship Leadership
Thu., OCTOBER 2
7 pm Choir
Fri., OCTOBER 3 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Sat., OCTOBER 4
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
10am Worship Service
11am Junior Choir
Mon., OCTOBER 6
5pm Fellowship
7pm Facilities
Tue., OCTOBER 7
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Social Justice
Wed., OCTOBER 8
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Council
Thu., OCTOBER 9
10:30am Called to Care
7 pm Choir
Fri., OCTOBER 10 *OFFICE CLOSED*

Sat., OCTOBER 11
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
10am Worship Service
11am Junior Choir
Mon., OCTOBER 13
Tue., OCTOBER 14
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30pm Social Justice
Wed., OCTOBER 15
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
6 pm Braver Angels
Thu., OCTOBER 16
7 pm Choir
Fri., OCTOBER 17 *OFFICE CLOSED*
6:30pm Brecksville Squares
Sat., OCTOBER 18
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
10am Worship Service
11am Junior Choir
Mon., OCTOBER 20
Tue., OCTOBER 21
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30pm Communications & Outreach
Wed., OCTOBER 22
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
Thu., OCTOBER 23
7 pm Choir
Fri., OCTOBER 24 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Sat., OCTOBER 25
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
10am Worship Service
11am Junior Choir
Mon., OCTOBER 27
Tue., OCTOBER 28
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
Wed., OCTOBER 29
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
Thu., OCTOBER 30
7 pm Choir
Fri., OCTOBER 31 *OFFICE CLOSED*
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 5, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: Sue Stenzel
A/V: TBD
Snack: Fred Pedersen
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD
Communion: Gayle Colbert

OCTOBER 19, 2025

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

OCTOBER 26, 2025

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

Attendance this Month

	Adults	Kids	Online	Additional	Total
Sept 7	50	8	10	10	78
Sept 14	44	10	13	9	76
Sept 21	40	1	10	26	77
Sept 28	44	0	7	18	69
TOTAL	178	19	40	63	300

The Pillar

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23 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Pastor: Rev. Jeff Jackson
Buccoffice23@gmail.com

Phone: 440-526-4364
E-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com
Web: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Office Hours: (Mon. – Thu.)
9:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.

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

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Buccoffice23@gmail.com

FIRST CLASS

