



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NOVEMBER 2025



"Clouds and red leaves talking to each other amidst the green eavesdroppers."

Photo by: Carol Miller

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Starting Where We Really Are

November gives us a peculiar gift. The world outside starts telling the truth about change. Leaves drop. Fields rest. Even the sunlight steps back a little earlier each day. Nothing is pretending that everything is fine. Yet nothing is giving up either.

Right now, we are exploring—learning how we fit together, where trust already runs deep, and where we can strengthen relationships. These early months are shaping the kind of community we want to be as we move into more focused discernment. Curiosity, honesty, and grace set the tone. That is promising ground.

Soon enough, we will engage those larger transition questions that ask us to look closely at what are and what have been our most treasured values. We will look around and notice who are our neighbors and what are they up to? And then we will be able to imagine boldly toward our future. For now, we are laying a healthy foundation with every conversation, every shared laugh, every Sunday we gather and notice God among us.

What I see is a resilient congregation turning toward healing and fresh possibilities. You are daring to believe that God has more life in store here, and that willingness is already building momentum.

As Thanksgiving approaches, my gratitude deepens for each of you. Thank you for the openness, the warmth, the eagerness to participate in what comes next. We don't have everything figured out, yet hope keeps leading us.

One relationship at a time. One shared step forward. That is a very good beginning!

With appreciation,

Jeff
Interim Pastor



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ALL SAINTS SERVICE – The All Saints service is a loving and reverent remembrance of loved ones who passed away this year (between last November and today). This year's service will take place on Sunday, November 2nd.

We Remember Table - Pictures are a lovely 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 the All Saints service, for you to share a picture of someone who was dear to you. Please bring your picture(s) downstairs to the We Remember Table before church. You may write a short dedication at that time or bring one with the picture.



ADVENT BOOK – Many thanks to all those who contributed to this year's Advent book! Keep an eye out for your copy to come with an email at the end of the month. Hard copies will also be available at the church.



ADVENT IS UPON US! - "Hanging of the Greens" refers to the practice of adding evergreen plants (live or artificial) to a congregation's worship space. The tradition had its origin in pagan pre-Christian culture, but like many other traditions, Christians adopted this practice and understand it to be a symbol of the Eternal, coming to dwell among us as Word made flesh. The Greens can also be seen as a sign of life and growth, overcoming and flourishing in the dead of winter.

Please join us following worship on Sunday, November 23rd, when BUCC will ring in the holiday season with our own "Hanging of the Greens" celebration/pizza party.

STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK! It is fall and that means it's Stewardship season! Sunday, November 16th is the day we bring in our pledge cards and celebrate by feasting at our Thanksgiving meal. We invite everyone to join in the fellowship! Please sign up at church or call in to let us know how many will be coming and what side dish or dessert you will bring to share. This is one of our most favorite Sundays of the year! Please come and bring your family or friends!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Community/Hunger Meal will be served by our members (all are welcome to join us) at the (former) Blessed Sacrament Parish - now known as The Wholeness Project - address is 3389 Fulton Road, Cleveland on Sunday November 30 from approximately 3 pm to 6pm. Please look for further information in the narthex (to sign up to attend) as well as items needed. As well as details. If you would like to attend but do not want to drive, we are planning car pools as well. This is a great event sponsored by the Brookside Community that we have been supporting each year. For further information or questions please reach out to Diane Gressley - digressley@gmail.com

Third Annual Pilgrimage to the U.S. Southern Border:

Common Ground at the Border will be held on January 15 - 17, 2026 at Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ. The Heartland Conference is organizing a trip to the event that will include several more days prior to the event of visiting historical and relevant communities at the border. This event will allow us to actively engage with the various communities and migrants seeking to enter the U.S. Currently, final details are being organized. There will be additional information in the following weeks, but if you are interested please reach out to Diane Gressley - digressley@gmail.com. The trip will be Monday January 12 - Sunday January 18 and will cost approximately \$1600 with all expenses/food/airfare/hotel and conference fees included.

BBH PRIDE- Mark your calendars for next year's (4th annual) BBH Pride event. The event will be on Saturday June 27 2026. More details will be forthcoming.



Christian Education

Confirmation classes- Christian education is coordinating confirmation classes with Reverend Jackson. Classes would be one time a month and would include approximately eight classes total. Classes will most likely start in January. Please contact Danyel Esser (330-221-1599) if you are interested in having your child participate in Confirmation classes. Once we know who is interested we will reach out to schedule a time and day for classes.

The Children's Christmas Play- Save the date, this year's Christmas Play "The Good News Flash" will be on Sunday, December 7th. See Miss Mindy For details.

Music

🎄 Calling All Kids! Be Part of Our Christmas Story! 🎄 - We're looking for children in grades K through high school to silently act out the "Story of Christmas" during our Christmas Cantata Service on Sunday, December 14th—the third Sunday of Advent! Roles include Mary, Joseph, three Wise Men, three Angels, and three Shepherds. Extra kids will join as angels or shepherds. Costumes are already made—no sewing needed! We'll review simple blocking and character roles after each Sunday service during Advent. Commitment: attend three 25-minute rehearsals and the performance. To join, please sign up each weekend with Rob after service or email BuccMusic23@gmail.com. Parents, don't miss this special chance for your child to bring the Christmas story to life!

🎵 Join Our Choir and Music Team! 🎵 -Are you a singer or musician in high school or older? We'd love to have you join us for choir rehearsals every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM right here at the church!

We're preparing beautiful music for Advent and Christmas, and we could really use more voices and instruments to make this season extra special. Whether you love to sing or play, this is a fun, welcoming group where you can grow your skills, connect with others, and share the joy of the season through music.

Come be part of something uplifting and joyful! Everyone is welcome—no experience needed, just a love for making music together. See Rob after the Service for more information!

Octobers Church Attendance

	Adults	Kids	Online	Total
October 5	49	4	25	78
October 12	46	4	14	64
October 26	51	2	31	84
Total	146	10	70	226

** No count was recorded October 19**

**Learning Opportunity from
United Church Homes****An Act of Love**

*Preparing Today for Peace
of Mind Tomorrow*

Give your loved ones the ultimate gift of love and peace of mind by ensuring all the critical details of your life--big and small--are easily accessible when they're needed most.



From financial and legal essentials to passwords and personal wishes, this workshop guides you through the handout document to organize everything your family needs to know to eliminate uncertainty and anxiety.

Make life easier for those you care about by providing clarity, reducing stress, and ensuring your wishes are honored exactly as you intend. Take the first step today toward a well-prepared future for your loved ones.

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (EST) via Zoom

Facilitator: Rev. Darla Metz, Chaplain for Community Engagement

Register at: <https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/blog/act-of-love>

No prior reading required; however, class material may be emailed in advance. You will need something to access the Internet (computer/tablet/smartphone) so you can watch via Zoom and to work on the Act of Love document.



Rev. Darla Metz is from Tiffin, Ohio and works as the Chaplain for Community Engagement for United Church Homes' Center for Abundant Aging. In that role, she regularly teaches classes on-line and in-person, she facilitates the Care Giver Support Group and supports spiritual well-being throughout the organization. For more than 14 years, Darla has served as pastor at Republic UCC and St. Jacob's UCC in Republic, Ohio. She is dedicated to supporting clergy and lay ministers in their ministry particularly with older adults. She has been married to her husband Tim for 29 years and together they have raised four children and are Nana and Papa to 11 grandchildren.



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

Miriam	Rosewicz	November 02
Robert	Petrus	November 05
Sue	Stenzel	November 09
Dan	Maier	November 13
Caroline	Chandler	November 17
Andrew	Wilson	November 17
Tim	Wallis	November 22
Wes	Novak	November 23
Melanie	Kuzmins	November 26

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



CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2025

Sat., NOVEMBER 1

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2
10am All Saints Service

Mon., NOVEMBER 3
5pm Fellowship
7pm Facilities

Tue., NOVEMBER 4
*******VOTE!*******
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Spiritual Life

Wed., NOVEMBER 5
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
4pm Stewardship Leadership

Thu., NOVEMBER 6
7 pm Choir

Fri., NOVEMBER 7
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOVEMBER 8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
10am Worship Service

Mon., NOVEMBER 10

Tue., NOVEMBER 11
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30pm Social Justice

Wed., NOVEMBER 12
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., NOVEMBER 13
10:30am Called to care
7 pm Choir

Fri., NOVEMBER 14
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOVEMBER 15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
10am Worship Service
Thanksgiving Potluck

Mon., NOVEMBER 17

Tue., NOVEMBER 18
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7:30pm Communications & Outreach

Wed., NOVEMBER 19
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
6 pm Braver Angels

Thu., NOVEMBER 20
7 pm Choir

Fri., NOVEMBER 21
6:30pm Brecksville Squares

Sat., NOVEMBER 22

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
10am Worship Service
HANGING OF THE GREENS

Mon., NOVEMBER 24

Tue., NOVEMBER 25
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., NOVEMBER 26
11am Mindfulness & Meditation

Thu., NOVEMBER 27
THANKSGIVING DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

Fri., NOVEMBER 28
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOVEMBER 29

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30
First Sunday of Advent
10am Worship Service

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Early Usher: Diane Gressley
Late Usher: Evie Novak
Greeter: Annette Pedersen
Fred Pedersen
Lay Reader: Bee Ortiz
Flowers: Annette Pedersen
Counters: Kathy Pastor
TBD
A/V: Tim Wallis
Snack: Annette Pedersen
Peg Duffy
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: Peg Duffy
Communion
Bread: Gayle Colbert

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Early Usher: Peg Duffy
Late Usher: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Flowers: Carole Snider
Counters: Kathy Pastor
Jan Renovetz
A/V: David Pastor
Fred Pedersen
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Flowers: Dave Bernard
Counters: Kathy Pastor
Jan Renovetz
A/V: TBD
Snack: Sue Stenzel
Set up/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Clean up: Sue Stenzel
Communion
Bread: Gayle Colbert

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

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

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Mary Kidd
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Set up/Serve: TBD
Clean up: TBD

The Pillar

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Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

