



# Brecksville

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## United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*"The longest journey  
you will ever take is the  
18 inches from your  
head to your heart."*

*~ Thich Nhat Hanh*



*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)*

**Pastor**

• Jeff Jackson

**Financial Secretary**

• Joy Garapic

**Office Manager**

• Miranda Lacefield

**\*\*LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST\*\***

- 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.

## **Announcements:**

***Please submit the announcements you would like to have printed in the bulletin by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!***

**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.

**Our Community Meal** will be Today at The Wholeness Project which is located at 3389 Fulton Road, Cleveland. We are planning to serve approximately 60 people and will need some help serving and making/providing deserts. We can carpool from BUCC if that would help. We will meet in the BUCC parking lot around 2:30 pm and then head to Cleveland. Right now, we need cookies and brownies, so if you would like to make or bring them to the church to take to the meal, that is also an option. If you would like to help, please let anyone on Social Justice Ministry know. Reach out to Diane Gressley for any questions. For more details on The Wholeness Project please check their website at [www.bridgecle.org](http://www.bridgecle.org)

**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 this summer and plan to make another donation over the holidays. 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.

**Mitten Tree-** The annual mitten tree is in the narthex. Last year we filled the tree over 4 times and the items were delivered to the shelters. Note that scarfs, mittens, gloves and even unopened packages of socks are always needed this time of year.

**Pilgrimage: Common Grounds at the Border at Good Shepherd UCC in Arizona** – will be January 12-18 2026. Diane has been helping planning with Plymouth UCC in Shaker Heights and the Heartland Conference and will attend. Check the bulletin board in the narthex for the official flyer. Deadline for registration is December 10. Please reach out to Diane Gressley for further details --- digressley@gmail.com.

**Special Thank You** to this week’s guest musician Eric Brubaker!

Attendance last Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 48; Kids: 5; Online: 11; Additional Views: 13; Total: 77



**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!

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following**

- Mon. Dec 1                    7:00 pm -- Facilities Meeting
- Tue. Dec 2                    6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
- 7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
- Wed. Dec 3                    11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
- 4:00 pm – Stewardship/Leadership
- Thu. Dec 4                    7:00 pm – Choir Practice

**Volunteers:**

	<u><b>November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b></u>	<u><b>December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b></u>
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	Sue Stenzel	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Reader:	Armand Eusanio	Diane Gressley
Flowers:	Mary Kidd	Jan Renovetz
Counters:	Jan Renovetz	Sue Stenzel
	Sue Stenzel	Kathy Pastor
A/V:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	David Pastor
Snack:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Communion Bread:	N/A	Gayle Colbert
Snow Herder:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

# First Sunday of Advent

## Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Prelude

Leonard Cohen-Hallelujah

### Welcome & Announcements

### Silent Meditation

*Awaken me to God's dawn breaking through the night.*

### \*Call to Prayer

Leader: Come, people of God—let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People: **We gather with longing hearts, seeking God's promised dawn.**

Leader: Out of the shadows of fear and despair,

People: **We step toward the hope that will not be extinguished.**

Leader: The mountain of the Lord rises before us, calling us home.

People: **Let us go up and learn God's ways, that we may walk in God's paths.**

### \*Hymn of Praise

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" V. 1,2,3

#116

### \*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

God of holy horizons, you summon us from darkness into the radiance of your promise. Shine upon our path, that we may see your way clearly and trust your coming even when the world feels dim. Awaken hope within us, that we might become bearers of light to all who wait. In the name of the Coming One we pray. Amen.



### Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

Reader 1: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Hope.

Reader 2: Hope that rises like dawn, steady and sure.

Reader 3: For even now, God's promise is kindling among us.

Congregational Song: "One Candle Is Lit" – sing verse 1 while the candle is lit.

 Come Surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you,  
as roses, the light. Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage. One candle is lit for  
the hope of the age. 

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

### **First Reading: Romans 13: 11-14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Second Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

### **Time with young worshipers**

#### **Sermon**

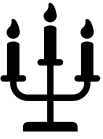
*"Before the Sky has Caught Up"- Rev. Jeff Jackson*

#### **Anthem**

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Norm*

**#107**

### **Prayers of the Church**



### ***In our Prayers***

Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Mac Hoppel, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Tony Cuninghame, Chad Sproul, Dot and Stu Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, Midge Cassidy,

"Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

***(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)***

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **The Savior'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.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Offering Music**



### **\*Doxology**

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]**

God of Hope,  
receive these gifts as signs of our longing for your light.  
Guide our feet in your ways,  
and use this offering to kindle hope in the world.  
Amen.

### **\*Hymn of Departure**

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates v. 1,2,3*

**#117**

**\*Circle of Community** Please join us in a circle around the sanctuary and lift your voices together and again after the benediction.

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). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (half). The second staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (half). Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Go, and carry a new dawn of hope into the world.*



BUCC Mission Loving Serving and Accepting All People with God's Life Changing Power

**BUCC Core Values**

Inclusiveness in all things

Community of acceptance love and forgiveness

Unleashing people's gift of ministry to grow through serving others

Environment of learning and spiritual growth

Creative and dynamic worship

Reaching out and welcoming the community

**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,

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

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!