



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*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!*



Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: 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.

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.

The Christmas Fund – The Christmas Fund is one of the UCC’s special mission offerings The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. We will hold this special offering on Sunday December 21.

Special Thank You to this week’s guest musician!

Attendance last Sunday, November 30th, 2025 – Adults: ; Kids: ; Online: ;
Additional Views: ; Total:



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

- Tue. Dec 9

6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
- Wed. Dec 10

11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
- 7:00 pm -- Council
- Thu. Dec 11

10:30 pm – Called to Care
- 7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Volunteers:

	<u>December 7th, 2025</u>	<u>December 14th, 2025</u>
Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed	Peg Duffy
Reader:	Diane Gressley	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Jan Renovetz	Christmas Poinsettias
	Sue Stenzel	Kathy Pastor
Counters:	Kathy Pastor	Volunteers Needed
A/V:	David Pastor	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed	Sue Stenzel
Set up:	Volunteers Needed	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed	Sue Stenzel
Communion Bread:	Gayle Colbert	Gayle Colbert
Snow Herder:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 7th, 2025

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

Awaken me to the growth of peace from fragile beginnings.

*Call to Prayer

Leader: A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.

People: Life will rise again where all seemed lost.

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon us—

People: The Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and peace.

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and all creation shall be reconciled.

People: We gather to await that peace and to live its promise now.

*Hymn of Praise

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#43

*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

God of steadfast peace,

you breathe harmony into the chaos of our world.

Root us in your Spirit that we may grow branches of compassion,

bear fruit of justice, and shelter those who seek rest.

Teach us to prepare for your reign with hearts of gentleness and courage.

Through Christ, our peace. Amen.

*Assurance of Grace


Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles


Reader 1: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Reader 2: Peace not yet perfect, but peace already possible.

Reader 3: For the branch of new life is growing, and God's reign of justice draws near.

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.*

*Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with
justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for
the reign of God's peace.* 

***Assurance of Grace**

First Reading: Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*

“I find it understandable that people who have been destroying themselves in a drastic way might turn to a drastic cure, and adopt a harsh version of Christianity, every bit as rigid as the physical addiction that formerly held them in thrall. But they also reveal a basic and valuable truth about conversion - that we do not suddenly change in essence, magically become new people, with all our old faults left behind. What happens is more subtle, and to my mind, more revealing of God's great mercy. In the process of conversion, the detestable parts of our selves do not vanish so much as become transformed. We can't run from who we are, with our short tempers, our vanity, our sharp tongues, our talents for self-aggrandizement, self-delusion, or despair. But we can convert, in its root meaning of turn around, so that we are forced to face ourselves as we really are. We can pray that God will take our faults and use them for the good.”

Second Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Children's Christmas Pageant:

The Good News Flash

(See Insert)

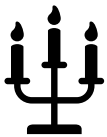
Prayers of the Church

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 Peace,
from these simple gifts, bring forth your healing and justice.
Let our offering join the work of your peaceable kingdom,
until all creation rests in your harmony.
Amen.

Communion Invitation

ALL are welcome to receive communion. No exceptions.

Communion Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#345

During the hymn, please come forward up the center aisle to gather a piece of bread and a cup and return to your seats via the outer aisles.

We will partake each together as directed. A gluten-free loaf is being used for communion today.

Invitation to Share the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion [Unison]

God of Peace,
we give you thanks for this holy meal—
for the quiet strength it offers,
for the calm it restores within us,
and for the promise of your peace made near.
Amen.

***Hymn of Departure**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#131

***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.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Go, and let the light of peace take root around you.

