



# 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](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!***

### **Christmas Eve 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**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.

Attendance last Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Adults: 28; Kids: 3; Online: 20;  
Additional Views: 8; Total: 59

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



**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 23	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Dec 24	4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
	*Office Closed*
Thu. Dec 25	Christmas Day

**Volunteers:**

	<u><b>December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b></u>	<u><b>December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b></u>
Early Usher:	Diane Gressley	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt	Sue Stenzel
Reader:	Jill Zedan	Sherrill Witt
Flowers:	Christmas Poinsettias	Christmas Poinsettias
Counters:	Kathy Pastor	Sue Stenzel
	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Jan Renovetz
A/V:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snack:	Carole Snider	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set up:	Carole Snider	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	Sherrill Witt	Sherrill Witt
Communion Bread:	Gayle Colbert	
Snow Herder:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

**BUCC Statement of Financial Assets Available  
November 30, 2025**

<b>Cash Balance</b>	182,570
Equity Value	<u>155,118</u>
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>337,688</b>
<b>Less:</b>	
Restricted Endowments	(69,234)
Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses	<u>(11,442)</u>
	<b><u>(80,676)</u></b>
<b>Net Financial Assets Available (our reserves)</b>	<b>257,011</b>

Above is a snapshot of our current church assets. The administrative and maintenance costs to run the church are approximately \$250,000 per year. After pledges, gifts, and rental income we still anticipate an annual deficit of \$50,000 this year. If this trend continues, it is estimated that BUCC could go through its remaining reserves in 5 years or less.

We are a church family. When you come to church, serve on a ministry, attend an event, and support the church financially within your capability, you contribute to our health and well-being. Rev. Jeff Jackson is taking our church in the right direction with the programs and workshops he has planned for next year to give everyone a voice. We need your help now so that we can work confidently towards our future in 2026.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

### Prelude

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

### Welcome & Announcements

### Silent Meditation

*Awaken me to love made flesh.*

### Procession of Light

#### \*Call to Prayer

Leader: Emmanuel—God is with us!

**People: Love takes flesh and dwells among us.**

Leader: In dreams and whispers, God speaks our names.

**People: In courage and trust, we respond, “Let it be.”**

Leader: Come, all who wait for the promise.

**People: Love is being born again in us this day.**

#### \*Hymn of Praise

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

**#126**

#### \*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

God of mystery and miracle,  
you choose the ordinary to bear your extraordinary love.  
As we wait for the Christ-child,  
make room in us for your renewing presence.  
Fill our hearts with tenderness, our minds with wonder,  
and our lives with the courage to embody your love.  
Through the One who is Emmanuel. Amen.

#### \*Assurance of Grace

#### Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles


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

Reader 2: Love not yet fulfilled, but love already made flesh among us.

Reader 3: For Emmanuel is coming—God's heart beating in human life.


## **Congregational Song: "One Candle Is Lit"**

Start singing when the first 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.***

***Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven  
to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for  
the joy of these days***

***Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and fiath  
takes the day, a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes. One candle is lit for  
God's loving surprise.*** 

## **First Reading: Julian of Norwich (All Shall Be Well: A Modern-Language Version of the Revelation of Julian of Norwich)**

"Jesus wants us to understand four things: First, that He Himself is our ground, the soil from which we grow, the foundation on which we are built. Second, that He guards us and keeps us safe when we are in the midst of sin, when our own choices allow our enemies to surround us, when we do not even realize our own need. Third, that He guards us with care and kindness, showing us where we have gone astray. And fourth, that His presence is always with us, and His loving gaze never wavers, for He wants us to turn back to Him and become united with Him in love, as He is with us."

## **Second Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **Time with young worshipers**

#### **Sermon**

"A Quiet Kind of Bravery"- Rev. Jeff Jackson

#### **Anthem**

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

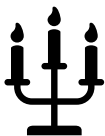
### **Prayers of the Church**

#### **In our Prayers**

Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, 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 Love,  
as you draw near to us, we offer these gifts with gratitude.  
Use them to shelter, to comfort, and to bless,  
that your love may be born anew in our hurting world.  
Amen.

### **Communion Invitation**

*ALL are welcome to receive communion. No exceptions.*

### **Communion Hymn**

○ Little Town of Bethlehem

**#133**

*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 Love,  
we thank you for this table  
where Christ meets us with grace upon grace.  
Let the fullness of this love settle in our hearts  
as we wait for your coming.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn of Departure**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#144

**\*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 on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is a simple, joyful tune. The lyrics are 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The first staff has a final whole note on 'ja.' and the second staff has a final whole note on 'ja.'.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Now Bless the God of Israel

*Go, and carry love's light into every waiting place.*

