

THE *Pillar*  
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2026



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

## ***Pastor's Ponderings***

### **Becoming the Church We Are Describing**

January is a time when many of us feel the pull to take stock—of what has been, what is, and what we hope might yet be shaped. In the life of the church, that work often shows up in the process of creating or revising a congregational profile. It can sound technical or distant, but at its heart, it is deeply spiritual work.

To name our strengths honestly is not self-congratulation; it is gratitude. To acknowledge our weaknesses is not failure; it is wisdom. Profile-building asks us to tell the truth about who we are—our history, our gifts, our challenges, and our longings—so that the story we offer is both faithful and real. That kind of truth-telling has the power to reshape us, not just describe us.

This work is not simply about preparing for a future settled minister, as important as that is. It is about living now into the hopes and vision we claim. When we clarify who we are and who we are becoming, we begin practicing those commitments in real time—strengthening what is healthy, tending what needs care, and aligning our life together with the values we profess.

In that sense, the profile is not a document we complete and set aside. It is a mirror and a guide, inviting us to grow into the congregation we hope to be. We do not wait to become that church; we begin becoming it together, now.

Jeff



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## **Who Are Our Neighbors? An Invitation**

One of the most important questions before us as a congregation is simple but essential: Who are our neighbors?

Not only who lives near us, but who we are called to know, listen to, and engage alongside as a vital presence in our community.

This winter, the SPIRE Center is offering a six-session online Place-Based Ministry Workshop (Jan 12–Mar 2) that directly supports this work. Grounded in asset-based community development and a Beloved Community framework, the workshop helps participants move beyond charity toward meaningful partnership and community resilience. Each participant or team will come away with a practical community engagement plan rooted in their local context.

I am hoping that 3–7 people from our congregation will participate in this workshop to help us more faithfully answer the congregational profile question, “Who are our neighbors?” This learning will not only deepen our understanding of our setting, but also help set us in motion as a ministry with our neighbors rather than simply for them.

The workshop is facilitated by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, and takes place on Monday evenings via Zoom: January 12, 26; February 2, 9, 23; and March 2.

If you are interested in being part of this learning opportunity, please consider registering here:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/suyt79c>

If you would like to talk more about participating or about forming a small group, I would be glad to connect.

Jeff



## FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

**UN-Hanging the Greens-** Please lend a hand following worship on JANUARY 4 to take down and store our beautiful holiday decor. This job always goes quickly, especially with many hands. Thank you in advance!

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** -Congregational Meeting on January 11th: The BUCC Congregational Meeting will be on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2026 directly after our worship service. We hope that all members can attend this important meeting where we approve and vote on our Officers for the year 2026 as well as approve our Operating Budget. The slate of officers and the list of Ministry heads and members along with the Budget will be sent out via email for your review, and there will be hard copies of these items available at that time for those who prefer paper copies for review.

**GAME NIGHT:** Friday evening, January 23, time to be determined. Get out of the house and get out of your head with your BUCC friends! Bring games and snacks. Fellowship will provide drinks. The perfect post-holiday pick-me-up!

**SUPERBOWL CHILI COOKOFF:** Sunday, February 1 (the week PRIOR to the Superbowl) following worship. Compete with BUCC's best for 2026 bragging rights! There's plenty of time to fine-tune your winning recipe. More info. to come.



# JANUARY

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

Cassy	Martinez	January 05
Maxwell	Hunt	January 07
Sue	Maier	January 07
Jeff	Jackson	January 16
Janet	Renovetz	January 18
Dorothy	Cook	January 22
Jonathan	Cook	January 30
Cliff	Cribbs	January 31

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



# CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2026

**Thu., JANUARY 1**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Fri., JANUARY 2**

**Sat., JANUARY 3**

**SUNDAY., JANUARY 4**  
10am Worship Service  
11am Unhanging of the greens

**Mon., JANUARY 5**  
5pm Fellowship  
7pm Facilities meeting

**Tue, JANUARY 6**  
2pm Spiritual life  
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

**Wed., JANUARY 7**  
11am Mindfulness & Meditation  
4pm Stewardship Leadership

**Thu., JANUARY 8**  
10:30am Called to Care  
7pm Choir Practice

**Fri., JANUARY 9**

**Sat., JANUARY 10**

**SUNDAY., JANUARY 11**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., JANUARY 12**

**Tue, JANUARY 13**  
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall  
6:30pm Social Justice

**Wed., JANUARY 14**  
11am Mindfulness & Meditation  
7pm Council

**Thu., JANUARY 15**  
7pm Choir Practice

**Fri., JANUARY 16**  
6:30pm Brecksville Squares

**Sat., JANUARY 17**

**SUNDAY., JANUARY 18**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., JANUARY 19**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Tue., JANUARY 20**  
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall  
7:30pm Communication & Outreach

**Wed., JANUARY 21**  
11am Mindfulness & Meditation  
6pm Braver Angels

**Thu., JANUARY 22**  
7pm Choir Practice

**Fri., JANUARY 23**  
Game Night

**Sat., JANUARY 24**

**SUNDAY., JANUARY 25**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., JANUARY 26**

**Tue., JANUARY 27**  
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

**Wed., JANUARY 28**  
11am Mindfulness & Meditation

**Thu., JANUARY 29**  
7pm Choir Practice

**Fri., JANUARY 30**  
6:30pm Brecksville Squares

**Sat., JANUARY 31**

# PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

## **JANUARY 4, 2026**

Early Usher: Jill Zedan  
Late Usher: TBD  
Greeter: Lori Molesky  
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Flowers: Poinsettias  
Counters: TBD  
TBD  
A/V: Fred Pedersen  
Snack: TBD  
Set up/Serve: TBD  
Clean up: TBD  
Communion  
Bread: Gayle Colbert

## **JANUARY 18, 2026**

Early Usher: TBD  
Late Usher: TBD  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD  
Flowers: Jan Renovetz  
Counters: TBD  
TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: Carole Snider  
Set up/Serve: Carole Snider  
Clean up: TBD  
Communion  
Bread: Gayle Colbert

## **JANUARY 11, 2026**

Early Usher: TBD  
Late Usher: TBD  
Greeter: Lori Molesky  
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Flowers: Carole Snider  
Counters: TBD  
TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: TBD  
Set up/Serve: TBD  
Clean up: TBD

## **JANUARY 25, 2026**

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

# *The Pillar*

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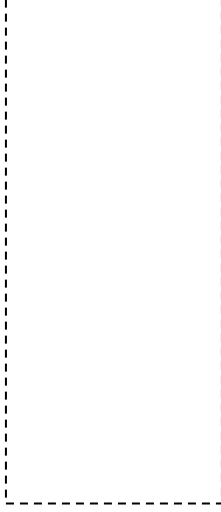
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FIRST CLASS



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