



# Brecksville

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## United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*"May your walk with  
God provide a  
lifetime of blessings"*



*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**

- Wes Novak

**Office Manager**

- Miranda Lacefield

**Music Director**

- Bret Tassone

**\*\*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!***

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** -Congregational Meeting TODAY: 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.

**GAME NIGHT:** January 23, 6:30 pm. 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! Fellowship will provide shredded cheese, diced onions, sour cream and crackers. If you are not entering a chili submission, please bring a side, such as salad or cornbread. Does YOUR recipe have what it takes?

**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.

Attendance last Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Adults: 33; Kids: 2; Online: 22; Additional Views: 6; Total: 63



**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**

Today	Congregational Meeting
Tue. Jan 13	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 6:30 pm – Social Justice Meeting
Wed. Jan 14	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Thu. Jan 15	7:00 pm – Council Meeting 7:00 pm – Choir Practice

## **Volunteers:**

	<u><b>January 11, 2026</b></u>	<u><b>January 18, 2026</b></u>
Early Usher:	Joe Wilson	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	Evelyn Seager	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Reader:	Diane Gressley	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	Carole Snider	Jan Renovetz
Counters:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
A/V:	David Pastor	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snack:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Carole Snider
Set up:	Betsey Wilson	Carole Snider
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>

**About Bret-** Bret is excited to start sharing their passion for music with the awesome folks at Brecksville UCC. They hold degrees in music (voice and piano) from Ashland University and Kent State University and have been playing piano since the age of 9. Bret is active in the Cleveland theatre scene as a music director. They have been sharing their musical gifts with churches since the age of 17. Bret lives in Akron with their husband, Gabe, and three cats, Gracie, Felix, and Dillon Pickles. In their free time, they like to go to the theatre, relax at home with a good movie, and practice artistic makeup styles on themself and their friends.

# Baptism Of Jesus

## A Spoken-Word Service

### Sunday January 11, 2026

#### Prelude

“Before the waters touched Jesus,  
the Spirit was already hovering.  
Before any voice was heard,  
Love was already here.  
Let us enter this quiet with expectation.”

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Lighting the Candles as a Sign of God's Presence

*Beloved One, let me hear Your voice.*

#### \*Call to Prayer

Leader: In the beginning, God's Spirit moved over the waters.  
**People: Move over us now, Holy Spirit.**  
Leader: When Jesus rose from the Jordan, a voice declared: Beloved.  
**People: Speak those words to us again.**  
Leader: The water still glimmers.  
The Spirit still moves.  
The voice still calls.  
**All: Let us worship God.**

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

**God of new beginnings,  
we confess that we grow accustomed to dry places.  
We forget the courage of stepping into water.  
We forget that you call us Beloved  
before we do or accomplish anything.  
Free us from fear of failure,  
from habits of distance,  
from reluctance to connect.  
Renew your image in us.  
Silence.**

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

### **Choral Reading** Isaiah 43:1–7 — Call and Response (NRSVUE, adapted)

Leader: But now thus says the LORD, the one who created you, the one who formed you:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

**Pulpit Side: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,**

**Lectern Side: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.**

Leader: When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One, your Savior.

**Lectern Side: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,**

**Pulpit Side: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.**

Leader: Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, do not fear, for I am with you.  
Pulpit Side: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

**Lectern Side: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.**

Leader: I will gather you from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

**Lectern Side: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,**

**Pulpit Side: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.**

## **Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11**

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved: with you I am well pleased."

## **Time with young worshipers**

**Sermon**      Beloved—Even When the Music Pauses- Rev. Jeff Jackson

## **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

Leader:      "Today we remember that baptism is not a moment we leave behind, but a truth we live toward."

**Unison Response:** ***"We remember that we belong to God.***

***We remember that Christ guides our living.***

***We remember that the Spirit moves among us.***

***We remember we are beloved."***

Leader:      "In the silence that follows,  
hear the voice that named you beloved."

## **Prayers of the People - a Bidding style prayer**

Leader:      God of the waters,

**People:**      **Renew your people.**

## ***In our Prayers***



Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Tony Cunningham, Chad Sproul, Dot and Stu Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, Midge Cassidy, Sue Stenzel, Carolyn Chandler, Marge Culver, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

### **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**

Collected in quietness



### **\* Call-and-Response Doxology (Spoken)**

**Leader:** Praise the God who gives us life and calls us by name.

**People:** **We praise the God who names us beloved.**

**Leader:** Praise the Christ who stands with us in the water,  
before we speak,  
before we decide,  
before we are ready.

**People:** **We praise the Christ who calls us beloved.**

**Leader:** Praise the Spirit who breathes among us still—  
in quiet,  
in courage,  
in love that does not let us go.

**People:** **We praise the Spirit who keeps us beloved.**

**Leader:** One God—  
holy mystery,  
shared life,  
steadfast love.

**People:** **We praise you, O God,  
now and always.  
Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]**

Holy One, Source of Living Water,  
You have gathered us in,  
washed us in grace,  
and reminded us that we are your Beloved.  
As water flows from its source  
to nourish field and forest,  
so let our giving flow outward—  
to nourish hope,  
to tend to healing,  
to join the slow and sacred work of renewing the world.  
Bless these gifts,  
and bless the lives from which they come.  
May they ripple outward  
in acts of compassion,  
in courage where it is needed,  
in justice that is gentle and strong.  
Just as the river does not hold itself,  
teach us not to hold back our love.  
We offer what we have and who we are,  
with joy and trust,  
for the sake of your dream of flourishing.  
Amen.

**\*Circle of Community**

**\*Benediction**

*Holy Spirit, guide my steps in love.*