



# Brecksville

## United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141

### *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**

• 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 Tuesday – Thank You!***

**Missions Café-** Get ready for Session 2 of our Missions Café meetings. We are asking congregants to attend these one-hour sessions that are fun, interactive gatherings designed to get everyone's input for the path forward to selecting our new minister. Mark your calendars and bring your enthusiasm... your input is invaluable!

Session 2: Choose one:

Wednesday, March 4th, 1 pm;  
Sunday March 8th after church,  
Wednesday, March 11th, 6 pm

Session 3: Choose one:

Wednesday, April 1st, 1 pm;  
Wednesday, April 8th, 6 pm;  
Sunday, April 12th after church

Wrap-Up session: Choose one:

Sunday, June 7th after church;  
Wednesday, June 10th, 1 pm  
Wednesday, June 10th, 6 pm

**Paint and Sip-** Get ready for a night of creativity, color, and great company—Fellowship has scheduled a Paint & Sip night just for you (guests welcome!) Join us at BUCC on Friday, March 6 at 6:30 pm for a fun, laid-back evening where we'll paint, sip, and socialize. The cost is \$34 per person, and we're aiming for at least 20 participants (the more the merrier!) **A firm commitment is needed by Friday, February 27**, and signing up is easy—payment will go directly to the event organizers through a provided link. Bring a snack to share and your own wine, and Fellowship will take care of pop and water. Grab a friend, save your spot, and sign up soon—this is one you won't want to miss! 🎨🍷✨

Attendance last Sunday, February 15, 2026 – Adults: 37; Kids: 2; Online: 5;  
Additional Views: 13; Total: 57



**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. Feb 24                    6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)  
 Wed. Feb 25                    11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation  
 Thu. Feb 26                    12:00 pm —Thriving Church Study Group  
                                          7:00pm – Choir Practice

**Volunteers:**

	<b><u>February 22, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>March 1, 2026</u></b>
Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Reader:	Jim Duffy	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Flowers:	Annette Pedersen	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Counters:	Jan Renovetz	Sue Stenzel
	Sue Stenzel	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
A/V:	Fred Pedersen	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Snack:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Set up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Clean Up:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>
Communion Bread:	N/A	Gayle Colbert
Snow Herder:	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>	<b><i>Volunteers Needed</i></b>

# First Sunday in Lent

## Sunday February 22, 2026

### Prelude

Breathe arr. Alex-Zsolt

### Welcome & Announcements

### Silent Meditation

*God, you are here. We do not need to hide.*

**\*Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light** Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying  
Lord, Listen to your children praying. Lord, Send your Spirit in this place. Lord,  
Listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

### \*Call to Prayer

One: Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

**All: Come, beloveds, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.**

One: In the midst of our hunger for comfort, provoked by lies of scarcity,

**All: this Lent journey promises bread and abundance.**

One: In the midst of our longing for safety, enticed by promises of security,

**All: this Lent journey promises angels and costly solidarity.**

One: In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity,

**All: this Lent journey promises prayer and turning around.**

One: The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

**All: Come, beloveds, to worship, venturing deeper and deeper into the wilderness of our broken and beautiful world.**

### \*Hymn of Praise

Take My Gifts

#562

### \*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, lead us, Holy Spirit.  
In the hungering and the holding and the humbling, accompany us, Holy Spirit.  
In the tempting and the testing and the turning, move us, Holy Spirit.  
In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, guide us, Holy Spirit.  
Ground in us, as we ground in you. Breathe with us, as we breathe with you.  
Turn with us, as we turn toward you. As the new way emerges, we pray. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Grace**

**\*Gathering Song**

*Be Still and Know*

**#743**

**First Reading: Jericho Brown — “The Tradition” (section on truth-telling)**

Aster. Nasturtium. Delphinium. We thought  
Fingers in dirt meant it was our dirt, learning  
Names in heat, in elements classical  
Philosophers said could change us. Stargazer.  
Foxglove. Summer seemed to bloom against the will  
Of the sun, which news reports claimed flamed hotter  
On this planet than when our dead fathers  
Wiped sweat from their necks. Cosmos. Baby's Breath.  
Men like me and my brothers filmed what we  
Planted for proof we existed before  
Too late, sped the video to see blossoms  
Brought in seconds, colors you expect in poems  
Where the world ends, everything cut down.  
John Crawford. Eric Garner. Mike Brown.  
(Brown, Jericho. The Tradition (p. 10). (Function). Kindle Edition.)

**Second Reading: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.  
And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden,  
but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."  
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"  
The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,  
but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"  
But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die,  
for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### **Third Reading: Matthew 4:1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,

and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

### **Time with young worshipers**

#### **Anthem**

"A Prayer" Robert H. Young

#### **Sermon**

"Living Without the Mask" By Rev. Jeff Jackson

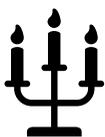
#### **Hymn of Reflection**

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

**#211**

## 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, Gabe Tassone, Carolyn Chandler, Mirium Rosewitz, "Edna House"

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

### Pastoral Prayer

#### 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

Interlude arr. Thomas Chesterton



#### \*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]

Jesus resisted the tempter's lies of scarcity by remembering we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. What are some of these nourishing words to which we can dedicate our offerings? To these sacred stories, this holy work, these blessed words, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Departure

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

#77

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

Hear Our Prayer, O God

#769

Musical notation for the hymn "Hear Our Prayer, O God". The score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -  
-cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Toccata Jubiloso Lani Smith

*God, you know us. We go as ourselves*

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