



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

• Wes Novak

Office Manager

• Miranda Lacefield

Music Director

• Olivia 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-Neighbor 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:

Neighbor Café

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

Bread Tag Collection- BUCC is glad to announce that we are now collecting plastic bread tags for recycling in partnership with SCARCE. Funds used by recycling our tags will provide wheelchairs for children in need! This win-win story has many steps. It takes about 260,000 tags to fund a wheelchair. So have fun and get your friends, family and neighborhood involved in this easy way to make a difference. Look for the BREAD TAG COLLECTION container in our church entry way and drop yours in. No plastic bags please.

For more information about SCARCE, an award-winning environmental education nonprofit dedicated to creating sustainable communities, and the Bread Tag Project, talk to Peg Duffy and go to the website at:

<https://www.scarce.org/bread-tag-recycling-provides-wheelchair>

Attendance last Sunday, February 22, 2026 – Adults: 33; Kids: 4; Online: 11;
Additional Views: 18; Total: 66



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

- Mon. Mar 1 5:00 pm – Fellowship
 7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
- Tue. Mar 3 2:00 pm – Spiritual Life
 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
 6:30 pm – Social Justice
- Wed. Mar 4 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
 1:00 pm – Missions Café
 4:00 pm – Stewardship/ Leadership
- Thu. Mar 5 12:00 pm —Thriving Church Study Group
 7:00 pm – Choir Practice
- Fri. Mar 6 6:30 pm – Paint and Sip

Volunteers:

	<u>March 1, 2026</u>	<u>March 8, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed	Annette Pedersen
Greeter:	Sue Stenzel	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Volunteers Needed	Diane Gressley
Flowers:	Peg Duffy	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Sue Stenzel	Sue Stenzel
	Jan Renovetz	Jan Renovetz
A/V:	Volunteers Needed	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Communion Bread:	Gayle Colbert	N/A
Snow Herder:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

Second Sunday in Lent Sunday March 1, 2026

Unmask what is false in me. Lead me into what is true.

Prelude Meditation on Songs of the Cross Robert J. Hughes

Welcome & Announcements

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: We come carrying the stories that have shaped us - stories told to us,
stories told about us, stories we have told ourselves.

**Many: We come from places that have named us, from lives that have given
us identity and belonging.**

One: There is a moment when the call comes to leave what is familiar and
step toward a future that cannot yet be seen.

Many: We come as those learning to trust the One who leads us onward.

One: There are moments when the veil lifts, and we see with sudden clarity
what has been true all along.

**Many: We come to listen for that voice, to follow in faith, and to worship the
One who calls us forward.**

***Hymn of Praise**

Enter, Rejoice and Come In

#73

***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

God of the journey,

you meet us in the midst of what is familiar and call us toward what we do not
yet see. You interrupt our assumptions and invite us to trust beyond what feels
secure. You open before us a future shaped not by our certainty, but by your
presence. Quiet the fears that hold us back. Steady us in this moment. Make
us attentive to your voice and ready to follow where you lead. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song**

Be Still and Know

#743

♪ Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God. ♪

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Second Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Third Reading: Padraig Ó Tuama — "The Facts of Life" (from Readings from the Book of Exile)

The Facts of Life

that you were born and you will die

that you will sometimes love enough and sometimes not

that you will lie if only to yourself

that you will get tired
that you will learn most from the situations you did not choose
that there will be some things that move you more than you can say
that you will live that you must be loved
that you will avoid questions most urgently in need of your attention
that you began as the fusion of a sperm and an egg of two people who once
were strangers and may well still be
that life isn't fair
that life is sometimes good and sometimes even better than good
that life is often not so good
that life is real and if you can survive it well survive it well with love and art and
meaning given where meaning scarce
that you will learn to live with regret
that you will learn to live with respect
that the structures that constrict you may not be permanently constricting
that you will probably be okay
that you must accept change before you die but you'll die anyway so you
might as well live and you might as well love
you might as well love
you might as well love

Time with young worshipers

Anthem

A Lenten Prayer arr. Hal Hopson

Sermon

"When the Old Stories Crack Open" By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

#184

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

Thoughtful 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]**

**God who leads us onward,
you have shown us more than we expected and called us further than we
planned. Receive what we offer and guide our steps. Strengthen us to walk
faithfully into the life you are unfolding before us. Amen.**

Communion Invitation

ALL are welcome to receive communion. No exceptions.

Communion Hymn

Nothing Can Trouble

#772

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 grace,

you have met us at this table and given us what we need for the journey.

Strengthen us with this gift. Clarify our vision. Lead us from this place with

courage and trust, that we may follow faithfully wherever you lead. Amen.

***Hymn of Departure**

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

#76

***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



Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -



-cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Finale arr. Rick Parks

You have called me forward. I will follow in trust.

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