



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
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>

Carol Miller invites you to join her in celebrating the 10th edition of her book *Nursing for Wellness in Older Adults* with members of the Over the Silver Rainbow Hiking Club during coffee hour on Sunday March 15th.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Sunday March 15th- OGHS is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Attendance last Sunday, March 1, 2026 – Adults: 42; Kids: 6; Online: 26;
Additional Views: 9; Total: 83

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	Missions Café
Tue. Mar 10	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Mar 11	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
	6:00 pm – Missions Café
	7:00 pm – Council
Thu. Mar 12	12:00 pm —Thriving Church Study Group

Volunteers:

	<u>March 8, 2026</u>	<u>March 15, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Jill Zedan	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Lori Molesky	Carol Miller
Reader:	Diane Gressley	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Peg Duffy	Carol Miller
Counters:	Sue Stenzel	Kathy Pastor
	Jan Renovetz	Jan Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Jenn Elting	Sue Stenzel
		Carol Miller
Set up:	Jenn Elting	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Kathy Pastor	Sue Stenzel
Communion Bread:	N/A	Gayle Colbert

Third Sunday in Lent Sunday March 8, 2026

God meets you without disguise.

Prelude Reflections from a Stained Glass Window John M. Rasley

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**

Leader: In this season of Lent, we are invited to renew our life with God.

People: We come as we are.

Leader: We have worn what was expected of us and carried what felt
necessary.

People: We are ready to set some of it down.

Leader: Come, let us bow before the One who made us, who knows us
more deeply than we know ourselves.

People: We come to worship with open hearts.

***Hymn of Praise**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

#197

***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

God of mercy,

In this season of Lent, we stand before you without excuses. You know the
ways we protect ourselves. You know the roles we play. You know what we
avoid. Give us courage to face what is true.

Where we have been defensive, make us open. Where we have been rigid,
make us gentle. Where we have hidden, bring us into the light.

As we worship today, receive us as we are and lead us in your way. 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: John 4:5–42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought

him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."

So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Second Reading: An adaptation from Padraig Ó Tuama's sermon, Thirst

In the Eastern traditions — both Catholic and Orthodox — she is named Photine: the light-filled, or luminescent one. Photine is a rich feature of the gospel of John. She, it seems, is thirsty to experience and remember herself in a new way. Perhaps because of her identity as a Samaritan, or because of the way her own people treat her, she may not find it so easy to break free from the constraints of culture or other people's imagination of her past. She is, like many of us, keen to find a way to be more free in herself, and more free from the things people project onto her.

How do we belong? And what do we do with our thirst to belong?

In our thirst to belong, people do terrible things: they sacrifice their integrity, we treat people as members of a big 'other' group without treating them as individuals; we re-enact the wars of history in the stories of today, we escalate hatred and get caught up in old stories. What groups do we learn about? Usually — like the Jews and Samaritans — neighboring groups are too close for comfort, and we create hatreds for our near neighbors that we don't demonstrate to people who are far away.

Most violences against another group begin in the imagination both of ourselves as well as the other. We imagine that THEY are corrupt because of blah, blah, blah and WE are not corrupt because of blah, blah, blah. Violence of attitude begins in the imagination of the other.

Jesus and Photine were each on the edge, and the only way into a bigger imagination of their civic belonging was to bring people along with them. She rushed home and said to people, Come meet the man who told me

everything I ever did. She invited her people across a sectarian divide to learn from people of so-called Otherness.

Jesus needed conversation with his followers because they were shocked at his having a private conversation with a woman from Samaria. Was it because she was a Samaritan, or because she was a woman? Unfortunately, people, because of the latter. In this encounter with Photine, Jesus demonstrated that he believed women had minds, intelligences, beliefs and reasons in their life, all of their very own. It's a shock to think that this was a surprise then; it's an abomination to recognize that this is alive now.

In a strange way, one of the messages of this text for us today is to seek belonging outside the places of our belonging; to push the boundaries, to imagine that our ways of life as groups of people will be enhanced by meaningful encounters with the other; and not just simple aren't you lovely encounters, but ones that go to the heart of things, ones that invite us to say when we disagree, to meet, to talk, to speak from the mind of belief and the heart of yearning. To be open to ourselves in the space created between ourselves and another.

Time with young worshipers

Anthem

In Christ Alone Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

Sermon *"The Thirst We Don't Admit: Power That Reveals Us"* By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

#489

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, "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 of truth, We offer these gifts as we are.

Use them to build communities where people can live honestly and without fear. Shape us into people who serve with humility and speak with courage. Receive what we give and make it part of your healing work. Amen.

***Hymn of Departure**

God Be With You

#81

***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;
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. ♪

***Benediction**

Postlude

How Great Thou Art arr. Lucy Ann Warriner

Be your true self, even when you feel small