



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- Mark your calendars and bring your enthusiasm for our third Missions Café session... your input is invaluable!

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>

During coffee hour we will be celebrating the arrival of the 10th edition of Nursing for Wellness in Older Adults by Carol A Miller, featuring our Over the Silver Rainbow Hiking Club. The 10th edition will be living in our library for borrowing.

Mitten Tree - the Mitten Tree in the narthex will retire on Sunday March 22. If you do have hats, gloves, scarves as well as socks that you would like to donate, please bring them in by March 22. Thank you to all who donated such beautiful items over the last few COLD months. It is very appreciated.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering Today- 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.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper- Join us April 2nd at 6pm for our Maundy Thursday Soup Supper Service. We are looking for 3 volunteers to make soup, 3 loaves of bread, and volunteers for set up and clean up. Sign up via Breeze or contact David Pastor at ridave@hotmail.com or 440-552-4403

Attendance last Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Adults: 43; Kids: 2; Online: 5;
Additional Views: 17; Total: 67

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

- Tue. Mar 17 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
 7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
- Wed. Mar 18 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
 6:00 pm – Braver Angels
- Thu. Mar 19 10:30 am – Called to Care
 12:00 pm —Thriving Church Study Group
- Fri. Mar 20 6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares
- Sat. Mar 21 10:00 am – Choir Practice

Volunteers:

	<u>March 15, 2026</u>	<u>March 22, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Bill Witt	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Carol Miller	Sherrill Witt
Reader:	Sherrill Witt	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Carol Miller	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Kathy Pastor	Kathy Pastor
	Jan Renovetz	Jan Renovetz
A/V:	Fred Pederesen	Volunteers Needed
	Sue Stenzel	Sue Stenzel
Snack:	Carol Miller	
Set up:	Sue Stenzel	Sue Stenzel
	Sue Stenzel	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Jeff Thompson	Jeff Thompson
Communion Bread:	Gayle Colbert	N/A

Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday March 15, 2026

God of light, open our eyes to your newness.

Prelude

Give Me Jesus arr. Faye López

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: God invites us to be a people of generosity.

All: That's our love offering to the world.

One: God invites us to remember our blessings.

All: That's our love offering to the world.

One: God invites us to build a legacy of love.

All: That's our love offering to the world.

One: God invites us to give cheerfully.

All: That's our love offering to the world.

***Hymn of Praise**

Come, O Thankful People, Come

#422

***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

You provide for all of our needs, O God, even when we do not realize or recognize it. You are the source and we are the resource. You modeled generous giving when you freely offered us your Son, Jesus Christ. Nothing is too wonderful for you. As we begin worship on this One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, stir up in us the desire to give cheerfully from the great wellspring of gifts you have gifted to us. In Christ's name, we pray. 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 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to

you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Continuing Testament of Lament

Leader: Throughout the history of faith, God's people have spoken not only words of praise, but also words of lament. Lament is the language of honesty before God.

ALL: It is the courage to speak about what weighs on us, the grief we carry, the truths we struggle to name, and the hopes we are almost afraid to trust.

Leader: Last Sunday, worshippers of this congregation were invited to write anonymous laments. We bring before God what is heavy and unfinished.

ALL: What we will hear now are the voices of this community.

(The laments are now spoken aloud.)

Leader: These laments belong to this community.

ALL: Faith does not require us to hide what is heavy or unfinished.

Leader: So we place these words before God,

ALL: trusting that even what is spoken in sorrow is held within the life of grace. Amen.

Time with young worshipers

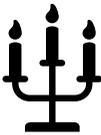
Anthem "Holy Forever" Chris Tomlin

Sermon "Unmasking Despair: Seeing What God Sees" By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection Just As I Am #207

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

Thy Word



***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]**

Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of generosity and with a heart full of gratitude for what we've been given. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. We offer these gifts with a cheerful heart as our love offering to brothers and sisters we may never meet. Bless the gifts, just as you have each of us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

Communion Invitation

ALL are welcome to receive communion. No exceptions.

Communion Hymn

Give Thanks

♪ Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One; Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, the Son
And now let the weak say I am strong; Let the poor say I am rich; Because of what the Lord has done for us; Give thanks ♪

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]

Generous God, from the beginning you have given abundantly. You created the world and entrusted it to our care. Even when we turned away and failed to care for one another, you did not abandon us. In Jesus you showed us mercy, compassion, and a new way to live. Through your Spirit you continue to guide and sustain us. With grateful hearts we give you thanks for all your gifts. Amen.

*Hymn of Departure

God of Grace and God of Glory Vs. 1,3,5

#436

*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

Classical Postlude arr. James Mansfield

Go with open eyes, trusting God is still making all things new.