



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*"It is not more surprising
to be born twice . . . everything
in nature is resurrection."*

- Voltaire



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>

Mitten Tree - the Mitten Tree in the narthex will be retired after church today. Thank you to all who donated such beautiful items over the last few COLD months. It is very appreciated.

Hallelujah Chorus- If you have always wanted to sing with the choir, but never had the time, or even if you just love the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah, now is your chance to join us for Easter Sunday! The choir will be meeting on Saturdays March 28th, and April 4th from 10am-12pm. We will rehearse the Hallelujah Chorus at 10am, so you can show up to learn with us and then given the choice to join us to learn the rest of the music for Easter, or be excused. This is the perfect short-term commitment for anyone who would love to join the choir but cannot commit to weekly rehearsals throughout the year. Let Olivia know if you have any questions! We'd love to have you join us!

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 15, 2026 – Adults: 43; Kids: 2; Online: 9; Additional Views: 10; Total: 64

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

- Tue. Mar 24 6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
- Wed. Mar 25 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
- Thu. Mar 26 12:00 pm —Thriving Church Study Group
- Sat. Mar 28 10:00 am – Choir Practice

Volunteers:

	<u>March 22, 2026</u>	<u>March 29, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Evie Novak	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Armand Eusanio	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Peg Duffy	Easter Flowers
Counters:	Kathy Pastor	Volunteers Needed
	Jan Renovetz	Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Betsey Wilson	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Sue Stenzel	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Sue Stenzel	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel	Volunteers Needed
	Jeff Thompson	
Communion Bread:	N/A	N/A

Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday March 22, 2026

God who lifts, raise what feels buried in me.

Prelude

Go to Dark Gethsemane arr. Cindy Barry

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. X2

*Call to Prayer

Leader: This is not the time for platitudes, for simple answers and tired clichés.

This is the time for breaking hearts and weary spirits.

All: Let our worship be arms that can hold all that grieves us.

Leader: This is not the place for blame, for pointing fingers and second guessing. This is the time for angry tears and aching wails.

All: Let our worship be a witness to journey alongside us as we break.

Leader: When we are standing at the edge of the tomb staring into the truth of the death-dealing forces of our world, when there is nothing left to do but to go and weep,

All: Let our worship be the song calling us forth from the grave to the community that can unbind us and set us free.

*Hymn of Praise

Let It Breathe on Me

#288

*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

In this hour, as we look death in the face, stay with us, Weeping Jesus, stay with us. In this hour, as we try to hold on, try to believe, try to hope, stay with us, Tender Love, stay with us. In this hour, as we risk the vulnerability of love, the possibility of joy, the dream of freedom, stay with us, Sweet Spirit, stay with us. 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. X2 ♪

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12–14

Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Second Reading: Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*, Chapter 2. *The Practice of Paying Attention* (p. 24). (Function). Kindle Edition.

The practice of paying attention really does take time. Most of us move so quickly that our surroundings become no more than the blurred scenery we fly past on our way to somewhere else. We pay attention to the speedometer, the wristwatch, the cell phone, the list of things to do, all of which feed our illusion that life is manageable. Meanwhile, none of them meets the first criterion for reverence, which is to remind us that we are not gods. If anything, these devices sustain the illusion that we might yet be gods—if only we could find some way to do more faster. Reverence requires a certain pace. It requires a willingness to take detours, even side trips, which are not part of the original plan.

Time with young worshipers

Anthem

10,000 Reasons arr. Heather Sorenson

Sermon

“The God Who Refuses Our Boxes” By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

Show Us Christ

Prepare our hearts, O God, help us to receive. Break the hard and stony ground, help our unbelief. Plant Your Word down deep in us, cause it to bear fruit, open up our ears to hear, lead us in Your Truth

Refrain: Show us Christ, show us Christ, O God reveal Your glory through the preaching of Your Word until ev'ry heart confesses Christ is Lord.

Your Word is living light upon our darkened eyes, guards us through temptations, makes the simple wise. Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave, riches for the needy soul, come speak to us today.

(refrain)

Where else can we go, Lord, where else can we go?

You have the words of eternal life. (twice) (refrain)

Prayers of the Church

In our Prayers

Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Tony Cuningham, 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

Just As I Am, Without One Plea arr. Mark Hayes

***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]**

From these offerings, Holy One, create freedom. From these hearts, Holy One, raise up love. From these hands, Holy One, bring life. From every one of our gifts, in the sharing of our resources, may we be unbound, and called forth into a new day together. Amen.

***Hymn of Departure**

Lift High the Cross Vs. 1,2,5

#198

***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

Little Postlude in G arr. Lani Smith

Go and notice where life is rising.

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!