



# Brecksville

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## 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!*



***Sunday April 26, 2026***

*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**

• 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!

Wrap-Up session: Choose one:

Sunday, June 7th after church;

Wednesday, June 10th, 1 pm

Wednesday, June 10th, 6 pm

**LAST-MINUTE MART at BUCC** -Join us on Saturday, May 2nd from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Pilgrim Hall for our LAST-MINUTE MART—just in time for Mother's Day! 🌸

Shop a wonderful selection of local vendors, artists, crafters, and bakers while supporting a great cause. All vendor table fees will benefit BUCC!

We're also looking for volunteers to help greet guests, direct vendors, and assist at the BUCC Trinket Table. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Heidi Spangler for more information.

Come shop, support, and celebrate our community—we hope to see you there!

**Garden of 11 Angels-** On Saturday May 9 from 9 am to 12 noon, several of us are gathering to clean up with the Western Land Conservancy at the Garden of 11 Angels located at 12205 Imperial Avenue, Cleveland. This is an annual event that several of us participated in last year. The Conservancy does provide all the tools and equipment needed for the clean up, you just have to show up. They do have snacks and water as well. You can sign up at

<https://wrlandconservancy.org/event/garden11angels-spruce-up-26/>

or just let Diane Gressley know that you plan to attend. If you would like to carpool to the site, let us know.

**Edna House-** On Sunday May 10 for Mother's Day, we will be collecting a special offering for the Edna House. We have a long standing relationship with the women at the Edna House. More than just teaching the residents to abide by the 12 steps of recovery, they also provide life lessons, job skills, and help women build responsibility and self-respect that stay with the women long after they leave The Edna House. What makes their program vastly different from traditional sober homes or institutional recovery centers comes down to simplicity. The residents are provided a safe, focused environment, in which women eat, sleep, and breathe their own recovery. The women take responsibility through ownership of the house and commitment to a structured daily life. And most importantly, we provide access to the recovery community that is the essential link towards making real, lasting change in a woman's life. Please check out their website as they do offer open house tours.

Attendance last Sunday, April 19, 2026 – Adults: 40; Kids: 4; Online: 10; Total: 54  
 Additional Views: 15

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following**

- Today Transition team meeting (Parlor)
- Tue. Apr 28 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
- Wed. Apr 29 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
- Thu. Apr 30 7:00 pm – Choir Practice
- Sat. May 2 10:30 am – Last Minute Mart

**Volunteers:**

	<b><u>April 26, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>May 3, 2026</u></b>
Early Usher:	Joe Wilson	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Late Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Diane Gressley
Greeter:	Jeff Thompson	Carol Miller
Reader:	Betsey Wilson	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	Sue Stenzel	Maureen Stanley
Counters:	Jan Renovetz	Sue Stenzel
A/V:	Sue Stenzel	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Snack:	David Pastor	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Jenn Elting
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Jenn Elting
Communion Bread:	N/A	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
		Gayle Colbert

# Forth Sunday of Easter

*Call my name, Good Shepherd, and lead me into life.*

**Prelude**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

*arr. Faye López*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light**

Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.**

**\*Call to Prayer** (inspired by Psalm 23)

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

**Many: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.**

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

**Many: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.**

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

**Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky vs. 2-3*

**#563**

**\*Prayer of Openness [Unison]**

**God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kingdom come. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Grace**

**\*Gathering Song**

*On Eagle's Wings*

**#775**

**First Reading: Acts 2:42–47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Second Reading: John 10:1–10**

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.

I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

### **Time with young worshipers**

#### **Anthem**

*As the Deer*

*Marty Nystrom*

#### **Sermon**

*Led Along the Paths of God's Imagining* By Rev. Jeff Jackson

#### **Hymn of Reflection**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**#252**

### **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, Allison Colbert, Gayle Colbert, Thea Cunningham, Tony Cunningham, "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**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*arr. Cindy Berry*



**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, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.

**Hymn of Departure**

*This is the Day vs. 1, 3*

**#84**

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

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A (above G), E (above B), A (above C), D (above C), Bm (above E), and E (above G). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords below the staff are: A (below G), C#7 (below B), F#m (below C), Bm (below C), E7sus4 (below E), E7 (below G), and A (below G).

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Benediction Medley*

*arr. Mark Hayes*

*Go now—step through the gate that opens to life, and do not linger outside.*