



# Brecksville

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## United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

*"The sea throws rock  
together, but time leaves us  
polished stones."*

– *Ordinary Love*, by U2

**"Always Be Living Stones"**

1 Peter 2:2-10



**Sunday May 3, 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!***

**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.

**Pride Events- Save the Dates-** Saturday June 6- Cleveland Pride March and Saturday June 27 is the 4th annual BBH Pridefest at Broadview Heights City Campus & Amphitheater 9543 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights from noon to 7 <https://bbhpride.org/pride-events/pridefest-2026/>

**Strengthen the Church offering-** On Sunday May 24, Pentecost Sunday - we will be collecting the UCC offering for Strengthen the Church. The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. The theme for 2026 is Sent Forth in Love. Participating in the offering helps foster connections with the wider church and create possibilities for the church of tomorrow.

Attendance last Sunday, April 26, 2026 – Adults: 36; Kids: 7; Online: 12; Total: 55  
 Additional Views: 12

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

- Mon. May 4                    5:00 pm – Fellowship Meeting  
                                      7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
- Tue. May 5                    2:00 pm – Spiritual Life Meeting  
                                      6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)  
                                      6:30 pm – Social Justice Meeting
- Wed. May 6                    11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation  
                                      7:00 pm -- Council
- Thu. May 7                    7:00 pm – Choir Practice
- Sat. May 9                    9:00 am – Garden of 11 Angels

**Volunteers:**

	<u><b>May 3, 2026</b></u>	<u><b>May 10, 2026</b></u>
Early Usher:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Diane Gressley
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Greeter:	Carol Miller	Sue Stenzel
Reader:	Armand Eusanio	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Flowers:	Maureen Stanley	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Counters:	Sue Stenzel	Sue Stenzel
	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
A/V:	Betsey Wilson	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Jenn Elting	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Set up:	Jenn Elting	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Clean Up:	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Communion Bread:	Gayle Colbert	N/A

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Shape me, Living God, into what you are building.*

## Prelude

*Break Thou the Bread of Life*

arr. Faye López

## Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship and Bringing of the Light

*Enter, Rejoice, and Come In vs. 1-2*

#73

**Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.**

**Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.**

### \*Call to Prayer (inspired by Psalm 31)

One: In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary. In you, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

**Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in your hands. Strengthen us in your righteousness.

**Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

One: Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

**Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

### \*Hymn of Praise

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation vs. 1, 3*

#400

### \*Prayer of Openness [Unison]

**Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being. Amen.**

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

### **\*Gathering Song**

*My God, Accept My Heart This Day vs. 1*

**#352**

**My God, accept my heart this day, and make it always yours,  
That I from you no more may stray as long as life endures.**

### **Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and

like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

This honor, then, is for you who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"

and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **Time with young worshipers**

#### **Anthem**

*Let Me Be a Light in the Darkness*

*John Carter*

#### **Sermon**

*Built for This* By Rev. Jeff Jackson

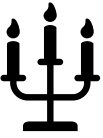
#### **Hymn of Reflection**

*God's Eye Is on the Sparrow*

**#475**

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **In our Prayers**



Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Chad Sproul, Dot and Stu Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, 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**

*My Heart Rejoices*

*Terry Osman*



#### **\*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 the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear. Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of needs among and beyond us. Amen.**

#### **Communion Invitation**

ALL are welcome to receive communion. No exceptions.

## Communion Hymn

Let us Break Bread Together

#330

Let us break bread together on our knees. (2x)

**Refrain:** When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (2x) **(Refrain)**

Let us praise God together on our knees. (2x) **(Refrain)**

*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]

**Living God, you have met us at this table and fed us with the grace of Christ. Shape us into what you are building: a people of mercy, courage, and light. Send us now as living stones, joined together in your love and ready for your work in the world. Amen.**

**\*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 image shows two staves of musical notation 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 written on a single line. The second staff is identical to the first. Chord symbols are placed above and below the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

### \*Benediction

## Postlude

Shout to the North

arr. Tom Fettke

*Go now—be built together into a life that lets light be seen.*

## 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!*