



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,

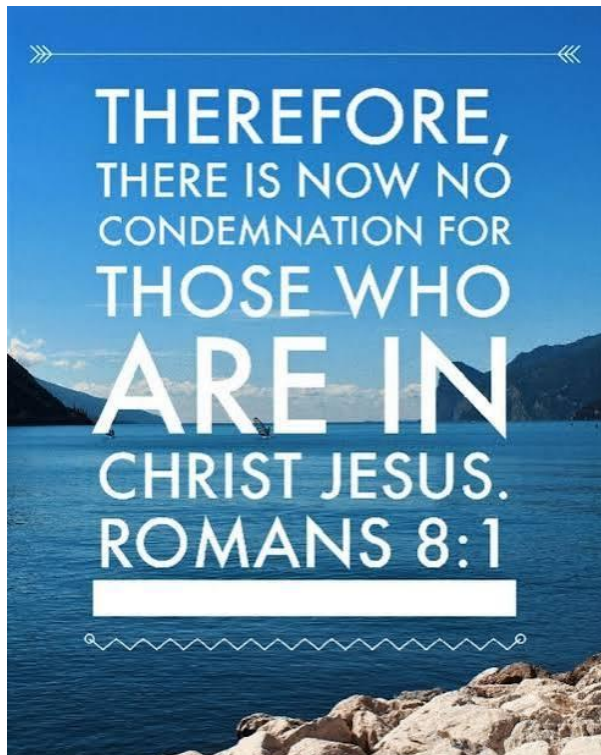
Whatever your gender identity or
sexual orientation,

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!



Sunday July 12, 2026

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 Launch Survey- The Mission Café process helped Brecksville UCC listen for who we are and where God may be leading us next. From those conversations, seven guiding words emerged. This survey offers possible starting points for each word. Please choose the ideas that give you the most energy, add your own thoughts, and help us see what feels meaningful, faithful, and possible for the season ahead.

Film Screening: 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture

Join us on July 24 at 7pm, for a screening of the award-winning documentary 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture. This feature-length film follows researchers as they investigate the origins of anti-gay theology in Christianity, tracing it to a Bible translation change introduced in 1946. Drawing on newly uncovered archival materials from Yale University, the documentary explores the history behind this translation and features conversations with biblical scholars, pastors holding diverse perspectives, and the filmmakers.

Because we are licensing the film specifically for this event, the licensing fee is based on attendance. To ensure we obtain the appropriate license, **advance ticket reservations are required. Tickets are \$2.50 per person** and are available through Eventbrite. Reserve your seat here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1946-the-mistranslation-that-shifted-culture-tickets-1991735691068>

Upcoming recital- We are delighted to share that Brecksville United Church of Christ will be hosting a special concert. Join us on Saturday, July 25th at 3pm for "Olivia and Sam In Bloom". In a vibrant celebration that extends beyond the conclusion of Pride Month in June, tenor Sam Jungman, pianist Olivia Tassone, and their special guests will perform a recital featuring selections from Musical Theatre and Pop Music. This program highlights the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals and celebrates the joy of community and self-acceptance. This concert also marks the 35th anniversary of Brecksville UCC as an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation on July 27th. After the recital, there will be a light reception, providing an opportunity to meet the artists. Admission is free, with a voluntary offering collected to support the music ministry at Brecksville UCC.

Community Meal- The next Community Meal will be held Sunday July 26 from 4pm to 6pm at the Wholeness Project located at 3389 Fulton Road Cleveland. We will be serving hamburgers and hotdogs and salads.

Share Your BUCC Story!- On July 27, BUCC will celebrate 35 years as an Open and Affirming congregation! As we prepare for this special milestone, the Communications Ministry invites you to share your story. What brought you to BUCC? What has your experience here meant to you? How has being part of an Open and Affirming congregation impacted you or your family? We're looking for brief reflections (under 600 words) Please send your submission to buccoffice23@gmail.com. If you have any questions, contact Heidi Spangler.

Worship in the Park- On August 30, our worship in the park will include a Blessing of Friendships. We invite you to begin thinking about the friendships that have carried you, surprised you, steadied you, or helped you become more fully yourself. Some of those friends may be present with us. Some may be far away. Some may be remembered with gratitude. Together, we will give thanks for the holy gift of companionship.

Church Clean Up- We are looking for volunteers to come in on your own time and pace to pull weeds and trim bushes around the church.

Attendance last Sunday, July 5, 2026 – Adults: 37; Kids: 2; Online: 14; Total: 53
Additional Views: 8

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. July 14	6:00 pm – AA "Love & Tolerance" (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. July 15	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Thur. July 16	10:30 am – Called To Care
Fir. July 17	6:30 pm – Brecksville Squares

Volunteers:	<u>July 12, 2026</u>	<u>July 19, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Diane Gressley	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Annette Pedersen	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Volunteers Needed	Diane Gressley
Flowers:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Janet Renovetz	Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Fred Pedersen	Aidan Cunningham
Set up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sower of life, make my heart ready for justice, mercy, and joy to grow.

Prelude

In Christ Alone

arr. Larry Dalton

Welcome & Announcements

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

O God You are my God and I will ever praise You. (2x)

I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways.

And step by step You'll lead me and I will follow You all of my days. (repeat)

*Call to Prayer (inspired by Psalms 119 and 65)

One: Praise is due to the Holy One, whose ways are the joy of our hearts.

Many: The Faithful One holds our lives and our hands. Happy are we who praise the Holy One!

One: Worship is due to the Holy One, whose revelation illuminates our path.

Many: The Just God is righteous. Happy are we who follow the Holy One!

One: Love is due to the Holy One, whose compassion, peace, and strength satisfies the prayers spoken and unspoken.

Many: The Sovereign God answers prayer. Happy are we who love the Holy One!

*Gathering Song

The Summons

Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let My love be shown, you will you let My name be known? Will let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when You but call my name. Let me turn and follow You and never be the same. In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

***Prayer of Openness [Unison]**

God who gathers us together, we delight to be in community with you and one another. Let your word be proclaimed in truth. Let us burst into songs that reflect the depths of our spirits. May our prayers be formed in your name and granted by your wisdom. May we know you, Divine Mystery, and ourselves better and deeper because we have entered your presence as a community of faithful, questioning, and hope-seeking participants in your kingdom. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

*** Passing of the Peace**

One: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you!

Many : And also with you!

***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.

First Reading: An excerpt from "Guest appearance: The grace in being the stranger" by Barbara Brown Taylor in the September 20, 2005 issue of Christian Century

When I study [Jesus'] example, I understand why being a guest has changed me more than being a host ever has. If I am able to offer any kind of hospitality at all, then it is thanks to the Jewish couple who invited me into their home for Shabbat and overlooked my gentile gaffes. It is thanks to the Muslim cab driver who picked me up at the Istanbul airport in the middle of the night and took me to the address I held out to him though I could not pronounce the words. It is thanks to the Pentecostal African-American church who asked me to preach though they knew I could not whoop and who showered me with "Amens" they knew I did not deserve.

In such gracious hosts, I have both met the Christ and been welcomed in his stead, to the point that being a stranger seems to me no longer like something to be avoided but like something to be sought. Whichever side of the door I find myself on, faith is the risky decision to open wide, on the pretty good chance that I know who is standing on the other side.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1–11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Time with young worshipers

Music offering

I Feel the Spirit!

Arr. Don Besig

Kathy Smith, Jan Renovetz, Armand Eusanio, & Jeff Thompson

Sermon

Where Christ Sits By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

O Spirit of God vs. 1, 3, 5

#60

Prayers of the Church

In our Prayers



Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Chad Sproul, Dot Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, Gabe Tassone, Carolyn Chandler, Allison Colbert, Gayle Colbert, Tony Cunningham, Pat Rehm, "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.

Hymn of Intention

Go Forth, O People of God

#614

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us arr. Tom Fettke



***Offering Response**

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

***Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]**

Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. 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 treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A. The lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written below the notes.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sunshine and Joy Medley arr. Mark Hayes

Let me scatter grace where the world has learned scarcity.