



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,

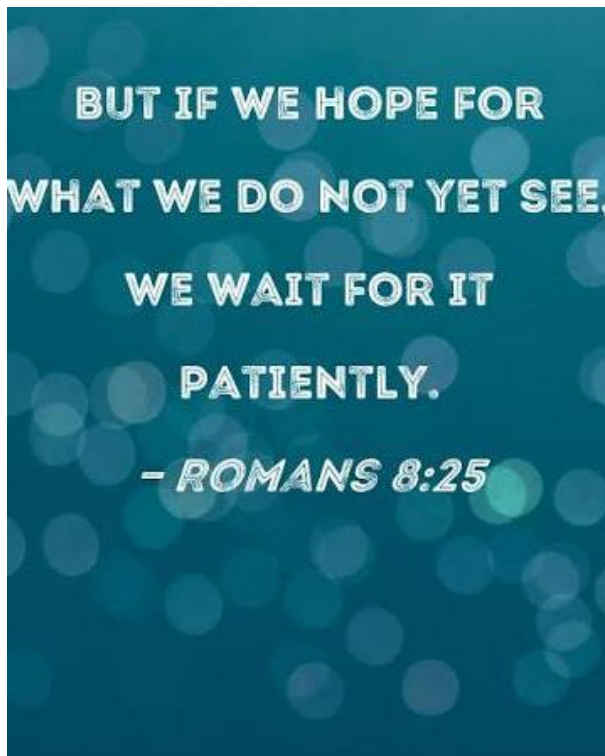
Whatever your gender identity or
sexual orientation,

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 19, 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!

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) that we can feature on social media and in upcoming Pillar issues as we celebrate this important anniversary. 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 12, 2026 – Adults: 28; Kids: 3; Online: 4; Total: 35
Additional Views: 11

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. July 21	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
	7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
Wed. July 22	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Fri. July 24	7:00 am – Film Screening
Sat. July 25	3:00 pm – Olivia and Sam “In Bloom”

Volunteers:

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Betsey Wilson
Greeter:	Carol Miller
Reader:	Diane Gressley
Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
	Janet Renovetz
Counters:	Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Aidan Cunningham
Snack:	Joe Wilson
Set up:	Joe Wilson
Clean Up:	Joe Wilson

July 19, 2026

Evelyn Seager
Volunteers Needed
Volunteers Needed
Jill Zedan
Volunteers Needed
Janet Renovetz
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Aidan Cunningham
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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Patient God, tend what is tangled, unfinished, and growing in me.

Prelude

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

arr. Tom Fettke

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 Genesis 28, Psalm 139 and Romans 8)

One: The Holy One is in this place! Do we know it?

Many: The Holy One has searched and known us, our path, and all our ways.

One: The Holy One is in this place! Such knowledge is too wonderful!

Many: Wherever we go, Spirit goes with us! We cannot flee for God is there!

One: The Holy One is in this place! Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and we gather and wait in hope.

Many: The Holy One is with us. Praise God!

***Gathering Song**

Goodness of God

Verse 1 I love You Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me all my days.

I've been held in Your hands from the moment that I wake up until I lay my head; I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful; all my life You have been so so good; With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Verse 2 I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In darkest night you are close like no other. I've known You as creator, I've known You as a friend; I have lived in the goodness of God. **(chorus, bridge)**

Bridge

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now; I give You everything.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. **(chorus)**

***Prayer of Openness [Unison]**

Holy Love, God of Sarah and Rebekah, we come before you knowing you go before us and you keep us in safety. We come to this place in space and time across distance and difference as your offspring to receive an inheritance of your promise and to renew our lives in your covenant. Let our spirits receive your word and our hearts ignite with your compassion, mercy, and righteousness. Let your kingdom spread in us and through us as we worship and follow you. 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: Romans 8:12–25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of

the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Music offering

Any Dream Will Do
Fiona Stevens

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Sermon

By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

O God in Heaven

#279

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", Search Committee

(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

Come Now, Almighty God

#275

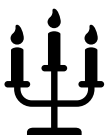
Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

***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]**

Holy One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and your provision. Magnify them for your purpose and grant us discernment to be caretakers of the resources entrusted to us. Amen.

***Commissioning and blessing of the search committee**

Leader: God of welcome and wisdom, you have guided Brecksville United Church of Christ through many seasons; through visioning and memory, struggle and healing, joy and hope.

ALL: We give thanks for God's faithfulness in every season.

Leader: Today we commission and bless those called to serve on the Search Committee. This is holy work that will shape the next chapter of this congregation's life. They will carry the congregation's stories, meet candidates with grace, and listen for the Spirit's leading.

Congregation: We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

Leader, to the Search Committee: Will you enter this work with patience, courage, humility, and care? Will you remember the whole story of this congregation; the welcome and wounds, the resilience and hope, the gifts and growing edges; and seek not personal preference, but faithful discernment?

Search Committee: With open hearts and God's help, we will serve with faithfulness, humility, and hope.

Leader, to the Congregation: Will you surround this committee with prayer, trust, encouragement, and patience? Will you honor the confidentiality and trust their work requires, keep tending deeper belonging, trustworthy communication, shared gifts, and visible welcome already growing among us, and prepare to receive the pastor God will bring as a partner in the future this congregation is called to share?

Congregation: We will hold them in prayer, walk with them in trust, and make room in our hearts and shared life for what God is doing among us.

Leader: Let us bless this Search Committee together.

Congregation: Holy God, bless these trusted partners in ministry as they carry the hopes of the congregation. Give them earnest hearts, patient spirits, and perseverance when the way is not yet clear. Give them courage to speak with honesty, humility to listen with care, and wisdom to notice where your Spirit is quietly leading. Hold them together in trust. Steady them with grace. Keep them prayerful, hopeful, and open to what you are preparing among us.

Leader: Bless the candidates whose names and stories will be received. Bless this congregation as transition continues. Lead us toward the pastoral partnership that will help welcome become belonging, gifts become shared ministry, and hope become faithful steps forward.

Congregation: May each candidate be treated with dignity, kindness, and grace. Continue shaping us into a community where all belong, where courage and compassion walk together, where truth is spoken with grace, and where the welcome we cherish becomes more visible in the life of this congregation and beyond it.

All: Give us open hearts, steady spirits, and hopeful lives that reflect Christ's welcome, the Spirit's movement, and mercy made new each morning. Amen. Let it be so.

***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 a musical score for two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above are A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above are A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' are written below each staff.

***Benediction**

Postlude

How Great Is Our God

arr. Tom Fettke

Let me practice hope where change is slow and healing is hard.

Special Thanks to our guest musician Fiona Stevens this morning