



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

ONA Covenant

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, You Are Welcome Here! If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White, You Are Welcome Here! If you are male, female, or transgender, You Are Welcome Here! If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old, You Are Welcome Here! If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, or a life-long member of the UCC, You Are Welcome Here! If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual, You Are Welcome Here! If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities, You Are Welcome Here! 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 26, 2026
Celebrating 35 Years as an
Open and Affirming Congregation

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.

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

Strawberry Shortcake Social- Sunday August 16th following worship! Bring your appetite.

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. Join us at 10am at the Sagamore Hills park Rose Mary Snell Pavilion (11551 Valley View Rd. Sagamore Hills), bring a friend, a dish to share (with copies of the recipe and why this one is meaningful to you) and remember don't go to church! There's a playground for little worshippers, we hope to see you at this beloved and annual BUCC tradition!

Attention BUCC "Artists!" - Our spring Paint & Sip art event was such a hit that we're bringing it back this fall... with a spooky twist! Details and the event date are coming soon, but there's one thing you'll need to do now: start looking for a landscape or painting of a house (thrift stores and attics are a great place to look!) At the event, you'll transform your picture by adding a spooky guest and festive fall décor, creating a one-of-a-kind Halloween masterpiece you'll be proud to hang in your home! Truly, no two will be alike! Stay tuned for more details... if you dare!

Called to Care Volunteers Needed-Called to Care helps make sure people in the congregation are remembered and supported through cards, phone calls, visits, and prayer. Volunteers are needed to help extend this care. Whether you can send an occasional card, make a friendly call, offer a visit, or hold someone in prayer, there is a place for you. Please contact the church office or Evie Novak to become part of the Called to Care team.

NEW Bulletin Board- Check out our updated bulletin board outside the kitchen celebrating the 35th anniversary of our ONA status!

Attendance last Sunday, July 19, 2026 – Adults: 41; Kids: 3; Online: 4; Total: 48
Additional Views: 5

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR includes the following

Today	4:00 pm – Community Meal
Tue. July 28	10:00 am – Pastoral Relations
	6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. July 29	11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Fri. July 31	7:00 pm – Brecksville Squares

Volunteers:

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Sherrill Witt
Reader:	Jill Zedan
Flowers:	Sherrill Witt
Counters:	Janet Renovetz
	Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Aidan Cunningham
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
Communion:	N/A

August 2, 2026

Jill Zedan
Volunteers Needed
Jeff Thompson
Volunteers Needed
Volunteers Needed
Janet Renovetz
Volunteers Needed
David Pastor
Jenn Elting
Jenn Elting
Volunteers Needed
Gayle Cobert

Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

God of hidden treasure, turn my heart toward what heals, frees, and includes..

Prelude

True Colors

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

Leader: Thirty-five years ago, this congregation publicly declared itself Open and Affirming.

People: We give thanks for the courage, faith, and love that made that declaration possible.

Leader: Brecksville United Church of Christ committed itself, in every aspect of its life and mission, to minister to all people.

People: We renew that commitment today.

Leader: We promised to receive the God-given gifts of every person with respect, appreciation, and gratitude.

People: We will welcome those gifts, make room for them, and allow them to shape the life we share.

Leader: We affirm that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, nonbinary, and gender-diverse people are beloved by God and essential members of the Body of Christ.

People: Rooted in love, justice, and affirmation, we shall not be moved.

***Gathering Song** *Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives*

**Impartial, compassionate God of all lives,
in Christ you have shown us your love actualized,
incarnate and weak in the arms of the poor,
destroying all systems that keep closed the door.**

**Creator of beauty, we stand not in pride,
we do not assume you will stay on our side.
For yours is the sacred, untarnished by sin,
a refuge for outcasts that all may come in.**

**Our hope is your freedom for both great and small,
to strive for perfection and know all means all.
We challenge and question each law without grace,
affirming the image of Christ on each face.**

**All honor we give you, O help us to see,
your children are worthy to claim victory.
And so let our actions flow out of our praise,
to seek transformation, your Kindom to raise.**

***Prayer of Openness [Unison]**

God of steadfast love, root us in grace and courage. Open our hearts to your presence and our lives to your transforming Spirit. Renew our commitment to welcome, affirm, and honor every person. May our worship deepen our love, strengthen our witness, and help us live the covenant we proclaim. 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.

Continuing Testament: PFLAG

Continuing Testament: Are you registered to be an organ donor? David Pastor

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

This is what the Lord says:

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the Lord.
That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.
"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."

Music offering

Stand in the Light

Olivia Tassone

Sermon

By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

I Know That God Loves Me

**I know that God loves me. I know that God loves me.
Proudly placed on this earth so that others might see
just how much my God loves me. (3x)**

**Proudly placed on this earth so that others might see
just how much my God loves me.**

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

O for a World vs. 1, 3, 5

#575

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]**

Generous and welcoming God, receive these gifts and receive us. May what we offer become more than an act of generosity; may it become a living witness to your widening love. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is fear, dignity where it has been denied, and belonging where people have been left outside the circle. Continue shaping this congregation into a community where every person is known as your beloved child. In the spirit of Christ, we pray. Amen.

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.

Postlude

Lady Gaga

Let me exert myself this week on what heals, frees, and makes room for love.