



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 5, 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!

Summer Special Music- If you are moved to share your talents with the congregation during the summer months, please reach out to Olivia! All are welcome to share their musical gifts, playing an instrument, singing, or dancing.

Upcoming recital- On July 25th at 3p.m., BUCC will present "Olivia and Sam in Bloom," a pride-themed recital featuring tenor Sam Jungman, pianist Olivia Tassone, and special guests. The recital will feature musical theatre and pop songs that illustrate the queer experience and share the joy of loving who you were born to be. The concert is free to attend with light reception to follow. A free-will offering will be collected to support the music program at BUCC!

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>

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. We usually serve about 15-25 persons. Please look for the sign up link in July.

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. We look forward to celebrating the many stories that make our church community so special!

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.

Attendance last Sunday, June 28, 2026 – Adults: 31; Kids: 1; Online: 12; Total: 44
 Additional Views: 6

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

- Mon. July 6 7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
- Tue. July 7 2:00 pm – Spiritual Life
- 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
- 6:30 pm – Social Justice
- Wed. July 8 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
- 7:00 pm – Council
- Sat. July 11 11:00 am -- Lois Lorenzo Celebration of Life

Volunteers:

July 5, 2026

July 12, 2026

- Early Usher: Jill Zedan
- Late Usher: **Volunteers Needed**
- Greeter: **Volunteers Needed**
- Reader: Sherrill Witt
- Flowers: Annette Pedersen
- Janet Renovetz
- Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
- A/V: Aidan Cunningham
- Snack: Sherrill Witt
- Set up: Sherrill Witt
- Clean Up: Sherrill Witt

- Diane Gressley
- Annette Pedersen
- Volunteers Needed**
- Volunteers Needed**
- Volunteers Needed**
- Janet Renovetz
- Volunteers Needed**
- Fred Pedersen
- Volunteers Needed**
- Volunteers Needed**
- Volunteers Needed**

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gentle Christ, receive my weariness and loosen what I do not need to carry.

Prelude

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) 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 Psalm 45)

One: In joy and gladness, enter the presence of the Sovereign One who rules and reigns over all creation. Worship the Holy One!

Many: The voice of the Holy One is powerful and gracious, loving and challenging, compassionate and convicting.

One: In joy and gladness, receive the fresh wind of the Spirit who ignites our hearts and connects us to one another. Worship the Holy Spirit!

Many: The voice of the Holy Spirit gives wisdom, discernment, comfort, and confirmation.

One: In joy and gladness, follow the path of the Embodied One. Worship God With Us!

Many: The voice of God With Us models for us what to say and how to live. Praise God!

*Gathering Song

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now I'm found; was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieve.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy rains - unending love, amazing grace.

Verse 3

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. **(chorus 2x)**

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine; But God who
called me here below will be forever mine. Will be forever mine. You are
forever mine

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

God of all nations and all peoples, bless us as we gather in your name. Open us to vessels in building your kingdom and spreading the good news of life and liberty. May we drink from the well of your abundance. May our cups overflow with your love. May our hearts burn in your presence. Be with us in this time and place. Amen.

****Assurance of Grace***

***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: Friends and Comrades By June Jordan (1936 –2002)

Our Continuing Testament comes from poet and activist June Jordan. In "A Short Note to My Very Critical and Well-Beloved Friends and Comrades," she speaks into the tension between love and criticism, reminding us how easily the work of liberation can be weakened when judgment becomes more powerful than relationship. Listen for the possibility of truth spoken with love—and love strong enough to help create change.

First they said I was too light
Then they said I was too dark
Then they said I was too different
Then they said I was too much the same

Then they said I was too young
Then they said I was too old
Then they said I was too interracial
Then they said I was too much a nationalist
Then they said I was too silly
Then they said I was too angry
Then they said I was too idealistic
Then they said I was too confusing altogether:
Make up your mind! They said. Are you militant
or sweet? Are you vegetarian or meat? Are you straight
or are you gay?
And I said, Hey! It's not about my mind

Second Reading: Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Time with young worshipers

Music offering

Sermon

By Rev. Jeff Jackson

Hymn of Reflection

O Come to Me, You Weary vs. 1, 2, 4

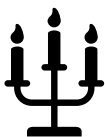
#484

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, Thea Cunningham, 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

Take My Gifts

#562

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Be Thou My Vision 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]**

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts, but empower us to give in mutual measure so that all needs are met. Bless these gifts and amplify their impact as a witness to your goodness and so all may flourish in your name. 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]

Gentle Christ, we thank you for meeting us at this table, for feeding us with grace, and for reminding us that we do not carry life alone. In this bread and cup, receive our grief, deepen our gratitude, and renew us in your love. 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: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A (above G), E (above B), A (above C), D (above D), Bm (above G), E (above E). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords below the staff are: A (below G), C#7 (below B), F#m (below C), Bm (below D), E7sus4 (below G), E7 (below E), A (below E). The piece ends with a double bar line.

*Benediction

Postlude

Down to the River to Pray arr. Mark Hayes

Let me walk gently and resist every burden that crushes my soul.