



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*“In the end,
nothing we say
or do in this
lifetime will
matter as much
as the way we
have loved one
another.”*

*- Daphne Rose
Kingma*

**JESUS SAID TO
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
THERE ARE
NO EXCEPTIONS.**



 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 18th, 2025 • 10:00 AM

Pastor
• John King

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic
Ministers – All of Our Members

Administrative Assistant
• Miranda Lacefield

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,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

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!



- 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.

****LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILIABLE UPON REQUEST****

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday May 18th, 2025**

Prelude

Lord, Make Me More Holy

#75

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

Ubi Caritas – Taizé (Insert)



“People who truly love one another are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another.”

-Saint Theresa of Calcutta.



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

***CALL TO PRAYER**

One: We gather in this sacred and holy space

ALL: To become the people whose lives proclaim the Risen Christ

One: We gather after having traveled from our broken spaces

ALL: To experience the reviving love of the Risen Christ

One: We gather as one, even though we are diverse and unique

ALL: We gather as one, because God calls each and every one of us “My Beloved.”

Hymn of Praise

All Are Welcome (Haugen)

Insert

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]**

God of love and unity, open our hearts and our lives so we may receive your Spirit. Help us to see beyond the differences that separate us. We invoke your Spirit of Love through the Risen Christ so we may become the church of hope that welcomes an entire community, celebrating our diversity.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Gathering Song:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be



peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Acts 11:1-18

Gospel Reading: - John 13:33-35

Continuing Testament: Jim Rice, editor of Sojourners

Time with
Young Worshipers

Sermon: "Can You Spare Some Change" By Pastor John King

Anthem

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

598

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Jonathan Langham, Tony Cuninghame, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Prayers of the Church

Silent Meditation

OUR LORD'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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

* Invitation to the Offering

* Doxology: [UNISON] 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]

God, we have asked that you be at the center of our lives, homes and community, guiding us to perfect unity. We also ask that you be at the center of our gifts, which we offer to you. Empower these gifts so they may heal a broken heart, mend a broken home, and unite a broken community. We dedicate these gifts to your mission, and we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

Communion

At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.
No exceptions. No Kidding.

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are nourished by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

* Hymn of Departure

God Our Author and Creator

#530

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World (Acolyte)

* Circle of Community

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 musical score is written on two staves 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 second staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

*Benediction

Postlude

Alleluia, Alleluia (L. Beethoven)



Readings

First Reading Acts 11:1-18 (NRSV)

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, O God; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.

And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Gospel Reading John 13:33-35 (NRSV)

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jewish authorities, so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Continuing Testament From Jim Rice, editor of Sojourners

There are many ways to identify members of a group or organization. Most of these make use of material signs: a uniform or item of clothing; an ornament, style of hair, or marking of the skin. In today's gospel reading, the beginning of Jesus' farewell address, he gave his followers a different kind of way by which they would be known—their love for one another. They would be known not by the sign of the fish, or even the cross, but by the fruit of their conversion.

This was not an optional mode of behavior. Jesus repeats the command to love one another three times, first saying what it is ("a new commandment"), then how to love ("as I have loved you"), and finally noting that this love would stand as the trademark, the signifier, of his disciples.



Announcements:

Rainbow Rock Painting- TODAY please join us in Fellowship Hall after the church service to paint Rainbow Rocks. We are doing this with the children and all are welcome. You do NOT need any painting skills, just a willingness to have fun. Carol Miller will lead the rock painting, and we will distribute these beautiful works of art at the BBH Pride event in June.

Rubber Ducks Game- Join us in Akron on June 8th at 1:10PM at Canal Park for a rubber ducks game. Please let Betsey or Mary know if you are able to join by May 24th.

Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church-

Sunday May 25 at 4 pm we will be downtown to host and serve the hunger meal. Please note this is Memorial Day weekend. Let Diane Gressley know if you plan to help or serve. We will have sign up information in the narthex in May.

Seeking loan of a car for the summer- Two students from California are traveling to Cleveland this summer as part of the Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP- <https://www.ohipintern.org/>). They will be participating in a project to identify and help prevent occupational and environmental hazards, such as heat exposure, air pollution, and injuries for landscape workers in the Painesville area. They will be working with both Cleveland Clinic and HOLA-Ohio (<https://holaohio.org/>). They will need a car to get back and forth from Cleveland to Painesville. They are coming in at the end of the week of June 16 and will be here 9 weeks.

If you have a car or have an idea, please contact me: Kathy Fagan, 216-513-6155, occmeddoc@sbcglobal.net

Summer Music- June 1 through August 31, the choir will begin their summer sabbatical and their musical replacement will be individual solo or duet/group performances.

If you are interested in singing at one of these Sunday services, please contact David Pastor who is accumulating names. You can contact David on Sundays or at ridave@hotmail.com or 440.552.4403

To Donate Electronically– If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!



SHARING GOOD NEWS

At the beginning of the Sunday service you are welcome to share announcements. Please keep these brief by avoiding details. Share the essentials, then share how people can learn more details (e.g., see the bulletin announcement or talk to somebody). Also, feel free to share good news such as birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, awards, etc.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

TODAY	Rainbow Rock Painting
Tue. May 20	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:30 pm – Communication and Outreach
Wed. May 21	11:00 am -- Mindfulness and Meditation
Thu. May 22	7:00 pm -- Choir Practice

HOLY GROUNDS- Join Pastor John for an informal conversation and a cup of coffee at Panera (Brecksville). On most Tuesdays, at 8:15-9:15 you can stop by anytime, to talk about whatever is on your mind. You never know who might stop by! Of course, if you are looking for a more private conversation, you can always set up an appointment with Rev. John anytime you like.

SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something that speaks to you, please email it to Pastor John buccpastor23@gmail.com)

You'll notice scriptures for upcoming weeks listed in the Sunday bulletin – ideas that connect to those particular scriptures are especially welcome. In October, our Music Director started a once-monthly brainstorming session scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! At BUCC, WE ARE ONE, and we look forward to your unique input into our shared journey.

PRIVACY MATTERS- Our services are broadcast live online, and recordings of services are available for replay and sharing. That allows us to expand our outreach, but it also brings additional concerns. Please keep in mind:

Children who come up for the “Time with Young Worshipers” will be seen and heard online. By permitting your child to come forward, be aware that this implicitly gives the church permission to share their participation online.

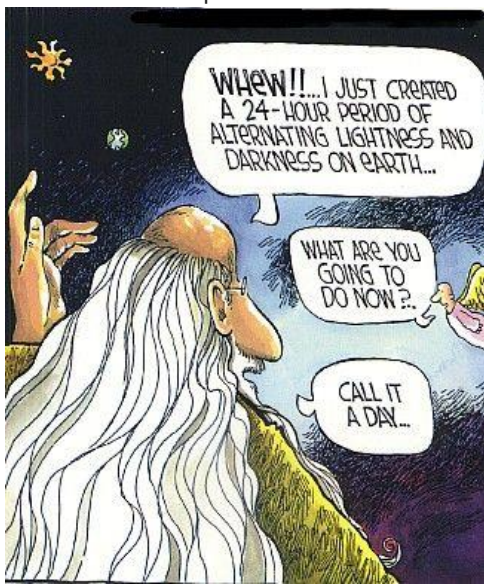
We are glad to include your prayer intentions in our communal prayer. But avoid disclosing personal medical information without permission. With that in mind, please either:

Ask permission to publicly share their health information in our prayers,

OR

Avoid details or keep anonymity by the way you phrase your prayer.

If you sit in the first few pews, you will be visible online. If you prefer to avoid being seen online, avoid those pews. But if you don't mind, please consider migrating to the front pews. When our videos show empty pews, the sanctuary looks vacant even when it is full. So, please populate those first pews to ensure that our online presence accurately depicts the vibrant and growing congregation that we truly are.



THANK YOU

Volunteers

May 18th, 2025

Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Sue Stenzel Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Betsey Wilson
Snacks:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed
Communion Bread:	Jason Lawrence

May 25th, 2025

Early Usher:	Evie Novak
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Peg Duffy
Counters:	Janet Renovetz Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve:	Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Sue Stenzel



The sanctuary art this week is “The Artist’s Garden at Giverny (1900)”
By Claude Monet

Attendance last Sunday, May 11th, 2025 – Adults: 46; Kids: 8; Online: 25; Total: 79
Next week’s scripture readings will be, **Revelation 21:10, 21:21-22-5** and **John 14:23-29**