

Name of Church

Brecksville United Church of Christ

Address23 Public Square
Brecksville, OH 44141-1801**Conference:**

Heartland

Association:

Living Water (Heartland)

Title

Pastor

Start Date

Sep 1, 2026

Description

Brecksville UCC, an Open and Affirming congregation, seeks a full time settled pastor

Church Contact Information

(440) 526-4364 (Church Primary Phone)

Listing Information

Web Presences - Website: <https://brecksvilleucc.org>
No response - Social Media: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrecksvilleUCC>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@brecksvilleunitedchurchofc1620>
Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations
No response

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person**Name:**

Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen

Title:

Association General Minister

Phone:

330-942-2220

Email:

agm@livingwaterone.org

Summary Ministry Description

BUCC's ministry is centered in worship, relationships, and the practice of Christian welcome. People know this congregation as caring, accepting, and grounded in shared faith. Its common life is sustained by mutual concern, meaningful worship, music, fellowship, and a strong sense that this is a place where people can belong. At the same time, the congregation is seeking a fuller expression of that life through healthier patterns of participation, stronger ministry across generations, and a more visible relationship with the wider community. We seek a minister who will join a congregation with a strong relational center and help it live that life more fully, more steadily, and more publicly.

Church pictures



What we value about living in our area.

We value living in a place that is both rooted and connected. Brecksville offers the character of a real local community, while our location along the I-77 corridor connects us naturally to the larger life of Greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Many in the congregation live, work, travel, and care across a broad regional landscape, and that reality shapes how we understand both ourselves and our ministry. We also value the beauty and groundedness of this place, including the nearby MetroPark reservation and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and the sense of renewal and perspective they offer. For over 200 years our congregation has cherished this property, knowing it grounds a ministry that is small-town in character, connected to the city, and regional in spirit.

Current size of membership

157

Average in person attendance

49

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

Yes

Choose platform type(s) and number for virtual worship.

Video Hosting Platform

On average, how many views are received per service?

10

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

Pastor

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

Full Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes

[Link to current Conference guidelines](#)**Scope of Work**

Some fields reference The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ .

The United Church of Christ recognizes *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers* in the formation of ministers, in the practice of active ministry, and throughout life. For the purposes of completing a denominational Profile, ministers are asked to spend some time with the *Marks*.

The Scope of Work developed by our church using the Call Agreement Workbook.*No response***3 core competencies that we imagine could be foundational in our next minister's relationship with the church.****First:**

The scope of work for our next minister includes faithful preaching, thoughtful worship leadership, pastoral presence, and the strengthening of congregational life. It also includes collaborative work with staff and lay leaders, support for ministry across generations, encouragement of member participation, and a visible role in helping the congregation connect its life within the church to its life in the wider community. We are seeking a minister who can demonstrate theological depth, pastoral warmth, practical wisdom, and the ability to lead in partnership with others.

Second:

We envision our next minister helping widen participation, deepen trust, and strengthen the shared life we already value. We hope to continue growing in clearer communication, broader leadership, more sustainable patterns of ministry, and fuller use of members' gifts. We also want to strengthen ministry with children, youth, and younger households and help more people find meaningful places of responsibility and belonging. We are seeking a minister who can join a congregation already engaged in renewal and help carry that work into a strong next chapter.

Third:

The minister we are seeking will help the congregation carry its inward strengths outward with greater clarity and confidence. Brecksville United Church of Christ already has a strong identity rooted in welcome, compassion, and justice-minded faith. What we seek now is leadership that helps those commitments become more visible in the wider community through stronger presence, deeper relationships, and a more intentional public witness. Like many congregations, we are looking for a minister who can help us attract new members. Our new minister should help the congregation connect what we value most deeply to the life of the world around us.

Compensation and Support

The salary basis comes from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/ Housing Allowance. The Conference can assist in determining these amounts or provide a worksheet to be used to calculate these values.

SALARY AND BENEFITS OFFERED: SALARY BASIS: ITEM OFFERED	AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE(IF DETERMINED)	IS THIS NEGOTIABLE	PASTORAL CANDIDATE DETERMINES
Salary (Cash basis determined from Conference/ Association Guidelines)	0	☐	☒
Housing Allowance	0	☐	☒
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	☐	☒
Salary Basis: 0			
Pension/Annuity	0	☐	☒
Social Security and Medicare Offset	0	☐	☒
Medical/Dental Insurance	0	☐	☒
Life Insurance	0	☐	☒
Disability Insurance	0	☐	☒
Worker's Compensation	0	☐	☒

If needed, please comment further on your church's salary and benefits for the minister.

By "Pastoral Candidate Determines", we mean that we will negotiate a fair compensation package with the chosen candidate. Brecksville United Church of Christ intends to follow Conference Compensation Guidelines. Salary is negotiable based on education level, experience and budgetary considerations.

The expected living situation for our next minister.

Living nearby with a housing allowance. We expect that our new pastor would live within a reasonable commuting distance.

If a parsonage is provided, will the church offer a home equity allowance to the pastor? (The recommended guidelines for a home equity allowance is equal to 1.5% of the average home value in the community; this is considered taxable to the minister. The Housing Equity Offset should not be calculated into the Salary Basis upon which other Benefits are determined. Churches should consult a tax advisor prior to establishing any account for an equity allowance to ensure compliance with IRS rules on nonqualified deferred compensation plans.)

No

No response

How our church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment.

No response

Additional reimbursements the next Pastor can expect to receive as part of their employment:

Conference and/or Association meeting registrations

Other meeting registrations (or educational requirement registrations).

Criminal background checks.

Other:

Documented mileage for church business.

Peer and professional supports available for ministers in our association/conferences.

Our new minister will have the support of the Brecksville Ministers Association, which, along with the BUCC minister, includes pastors from Brecksville United Methodist Church, St. Basil the Great Catholic Church and Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. Living Water Association also has a wide range of support groups and programs for UCC ministers, including access to regional and national programs.

Who Is God Calling to Minister with Us?

The ministry goals we envision our next minister collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

Our ministry is centered on worship, relationships, and the practice of Christian welcome. People know our congregation as caring, accepting, and grounded in shared faith. Our common life is sustained by mutual concern, meaningful worship, music, fellowship, and a strong sense that this is a place where everyone can belong and participate. At the same time, we are seeking a fuller expression of that life through broader patterns of participation, stronger ministry programs for all generations, and a more active relationship with the surrounding community. We are seeking a minister who will join us in strengthening and extending our relational center—deepening the connections that already sustain us while helping our congregation live its welcome more fully, more consistently, and more visibly in the wider community.

How our vision of the minister we are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

The minister we are seeking will help the congregation translate its inward strengths into outward engagement with greater clarity and confidence. BUCC has a strong identity rooted in welcome, compassion, and justice-minded faith. We are looking for leadership that helps bring these commitments to life in the wider community through a stronger presence, deeper relationships, and sustained, intentional public engagement. We are seeking a minister who can help the congregation share what it values most deeply in ways that enrich the life of our members and the surrounding community.

We are seeking a minister who will walk alongside our congregation with faith, compassion, and wisdom. This person will help lead us through preaching and worship, offer pastoral care and encouragement, and nurture the relationships and shared life that make our church community strong. They will work closely with staff and lay leaders, support ministry across generations, and help us live out our faith both within the church and in the wider community.

We hope to welcome a minister who brings thoughtful faith, a caring presence, practical wisdom, and a collaborative spirit — someone who can lead with grace, build meaningful connections, and help our congregation continue to grow in love, service, and discipleship.

Language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling.

While there is no specific language requirement for this role, we do seek a minister with strong cultural sensitivity, emotional intelligence, and the ability to lead in a congregation where welcome, dignity, and justice are central to its identity. Our next minister must be able to honor the congregation's Open and Affirming commitment with clarity and conviction while helping the congregation grow in its capacity to engage a wider and more diverse community with humility, respect, and genuine openness.

Based on what we have learned about who our church is, who our church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, these are four areas of excellence from The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry that our next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

God is calling us to become a congregation where welcome is fully embodied in the way we make space for newcomers, and interact beyond our familiar circles. A congregation where belonging is something everyone can feel in the rhythm of our life together—across generations, backgrounds, and experiences.

We want to strengthen our community into one where leadership is more widely shared, where gifts are recognized and trusted throughout the body, and where people are encouraged to take meaningful responsibility for our common life. In this way, our life together becomes more open, more steady and more life-giving—not delegated to a few but carried by many.

We are also being called to create a community where people of all ages actively participate in the life of our church, and where young people are able to get involved, build meaningful connections, and form friendships that will carry them forward as they continue growing within our shared faith community. A future that is more participatory, where worship, decision-making, and ministry are shaped by the voices and gifts of the whole community. A future that is more outwardly engaged, attentive to the needs of the wider world, and willing to be present beyond our own walls. And a future that is more deeply rooted in the gifts God has already placed among us.

We are not trying to become a different congregation. We are seeking to become more fully the congregation God is calling us to be.

Who Is God Calling Us to Become?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who God is calling us to become as a congregation.

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How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.

God is calling us to respond to both our internal life and the wider world with attentiveness, courage, and care. Within our own life together, this means deepening trust, encouraging fuller participation, strengthening communication, and sharing responsibility more widely so that our common life is resilient and rooted in mutual support.

At the same time, we are being called to notice and respond to the realities shaping the lives of those around us—loneliness and isolation, the strain on mental health, economic pressure, and the deep human need for dignity, connection, and belonging.

We believe we are being invited to hold these together: to tend faithfully to the life we share within our congregation, while also opening ourselves more fully to the needs of our neighbors and our wider community. In both directions, the call is the same—to live with a faith that is attentive, compassionate, and outward-looking, and to embody a way of life that reflects God's care in tangible ways.

Congregation Reflections**We would describe our congregation's life of faith as...**

Brecksville United Church of Christ (BUCC) is a thoughtful, welcoming, and resilient congregation where faith is both deeply rooted and lived. Our life together is expressed through meaningful worship, vibrant music, authentic fellowship, and a genuine commitment to caring for one another. We hold a steadfast conviction that God continues to guide us through seasons of strain and change, and we seek to embody that trust by remaining present to one another, practicing kindness, and choosing togetherness amid life's challenges. Ours is a community where belonging is real, relationships matter, and faith takes shape in everyday acts of compassion and shared life. In worship, we speak of God as still-speaking, ever-present, and compassionate—one who both comforts and calls us forward. Our liturgy reflects a trust in God's ongoing movement in our lives and in the world, inviting us into deeper practices of justice, mercy, and wholeness. The Holy Spirit is experienced as a living presence among us—stirring in music, guiding our discernment, strengthening our connections, and renewing our sense of purpose. The Spirit continues to lead us with courage and openness into the future.

Strengths or positive qualities of our congregation.

BUCC's strengths are grounded in a deep commitment to welcome, care, and shared life, fostering a genuine sense of belonging among its members. We strive to be a community where all people are accepted and valued, regardless of background or circumstance—where, as we often say, “you are only a stranger once.” Music enriches our worship and binds us together, while fellowship nurtures meaningful relationships and mutual support. Loyalty to one another and to the life of the congregation sustains us through changing seasons, and resilience has become a defining quality of our shared journey. Together, these strengths shape a congregation that is compassionate, connected, and enduring. We make a strong effort to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and accepted. Diversity is something to which we are highly committed despite the demographic limitations of our surrounding community. Our members are committed to social justice and actively engage as described in the community engagement section.

A growing edge for our congregation and what we plan to strengthen as a congregation

A key growing edge for our congregation lies in how we organize and sustain our common life together. We recognize the need to strengthen communication, cultivate and support emerging leaders, and broaden participation so that more voices are engaged in shaping our shared ministry. We are also committed to developing healthier, more faithful ways to navigate tension and conflict, approaching challenges with honesty, grace, and mutual respect. Looking ahead, we seek to deepen our relationships with youth and younger households, ensuring they are fully welcomed and

integrated into the life of the church. At the same time, we aim to nurture a stronger culture of invitation, service, and shared ownership, where all feel a sense of belonging and responsibility. In all of this, our goal is not to change the heart of who we are, but to build the structures and practices that will sustain and strengthen the life we already cherish.

What worship is like when our congregation gathers.

When the congregation gathers, there is a palpable sense of warmth, reverence, and genuine participation. Worship is grounded and engaging, shaped by a community that values being present with one another and with God. Music plays a central role in this shared life: our small but mighty choir offers faithful leadership throughout much of the year, while the summer months bring a rich variety of soloists whose gifts add depth and beauty to the service. We celebrate an open Communion table with juice instead of wine and gluten free bread. This is a meaningful and unifying practice that draws us back to the heart of our faith.

Preaching is thoughtful and varied—consistently well-prepared, biblically rooted, and relevant to daily life. Sermons invite reflection, challenge assumptions, and encourage spiritual growth with both passion and practicality. Each service concludes with a cherished tradition: the congregation forms a circle, joining hands to sing together. This closing moment with the joining of our hands in our "circle of community" embodies our sense of connection and shared purpose, sending each person into the week with a spirit of encouragement, blessing, and belonging.

The educational program/faith formation vision of our church.

BUCC's vision for faith formation is to be a congregation where people of all ages are invited to grow in faith, understanding, and spiritual depth. We nurture this through worship, learning, and shared experience. Sunday School and our "Time for Young Worshipers" offer children and youth a meaningful space to express their thoughts, questions, and beliefs, affirming that their voices are an essential part of our life together. We value Bible study, encourage active youth participation, and celebrate traditions like our annual Christmas pageant, which brings joy and connection across generations. Looking ahead, we feel called to strengthen our intergenerational life and cultivate a fuller culture of learning and discipleship—especially by deepening our engagement with youth and younger households and creating more opportunities for faith to be explored, practiced, and lived together.

How our congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

As a congregational church, BUCC organizes its ministry and mission through shared discernment, mutual respect, and the active participation of the congregation. We value a model of leadership rooted in trust and shared responsibility, believing that ministry belongs to the whole church and not to clergy alone. Members work together through Council, ministries and committees with collaborative decision-making processes that encourage broad participation and thoughtful conversation. At the same time, we recognize the importance of continued growth in the ways we organize our common life. We are intentionally strengthening clarity of roles, communication, and decision-making practices in order to better support our ministry, deepen congregational engagement, and sustain healthy relationships within the church community. Communication tools include our monthly newsletter, a weekly email, notices in the service bulletin, and announcements in the member Facebook group, during church services and on our website.

When it comes to decision-making, 15 hours are spent in meetings per month.

Is the pastor expected to attend all church meetings?

No

In times when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. These were the key leaders in taking this action and this was accomplished by...

We respond to challenges with resilience, faith, and a deep commitment to one another. We value shared leadership, trusting both pastoral leaders and congregation members to step forward when needed. During the nearly simultaneous departures of our pastor and music director, we remained steadfast in worship, ministry, and mutual support while maintaining hope and optimism for the future. That season revealed the strength of our congregational life, our adaptability, and our determination to move forward together.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we quickly organized virtual worship services and online coffee hours, ensuring that we did not miss a single Sunday service. We have also adapted effectively to weather-related disruptions and other unexpected challenges, maintaining continuity in worship and congregational life.

Communication is direct, caring, and grounded in a desire for unity and understanding. Rather than dwelling on difficulties, we seek healing, growth, and renewed possibilities, trusting in God's guidance as we move forward together in faith and purpose.

A copy of an organization structure, by laws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance

[Download Constitution BUCC 2025.docx](#)

[Download Annual Report 2025.pdf](#)

11-Year Report

Download a copy of the 11-Year Report developed with the help of our conference staff and UCC Data Hub.

[Download Brecksville UCC 11yr report 2025.pdf](#)

Congregation Demographics

Describe those who participate in your church.

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:	45
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	6
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	51

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

TIME	PERCENTAGE
MORE THAN 10 YEARS:	60%
LESS THAN 10, MORE THAN 5 YEARS:	20%
LESS THAN 5 YEARS:	20%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	8
12-17	4
18-24	2
25-34	4
35-44	5
45-54	10
55-64	10
65-74	20
75+	20

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	PERCENTAGE
SINGLE ADULTS UNDER 35:	2%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINORS:	7%
SINGLE ADULTS AGE 35-65:	4%
JOINT HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO MINORS:	75%
SINGLE ADULTS OVER 65:	12%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

EDUCATION LEVEL	PERCENTAGE
HIGH SCHOOL:	6%
COLLEGE:	40%
GRADUATE SCHOOL:	30%
SPECIALTY TRAINING:	10%
OTHER EDUCATION LEVEL:	14%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	PERCENTAGE
ADULTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED:	50%
ADULTS WHO ARE RETIRED:	33%
ADULTS WHO ARE NOT FULLY EMPLOYED:	17%

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

The range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Our church community is made up of people from many different professional backgrounds. Members include teachers, healthcare workers, engineers, IT professionals, self-employed, office professionals, tradespeople, attorneys, retirees, and those serving in public and nonprofit roles. While many households are middle- to upper-middle-income, the congregation values a diversity of experiences and perspectives, creating a community that is both grounded and welcoming.

The mix of ethnic heritages in our congregation, and the overall racial make-up.

Our congregation reflects the character of the surrounding community. Located in an established suburban neighborhood, our church today is made up primarily of longtime local residents and families from nearby communities. While our membership has historically reflected the demographics of this area (primarily white), we are committed to welcoming people of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, identities, and life experiences. We believe diversity enriches our shared life, deepens our understanding of God's presence in the world, and strengthens our witness in the community.

What diversity means in our context?

Our congregation is predominantly white (98%) and reflects the surrounding community. We are economically diverse. About half of our members come from Roman Catholic backgrounds and many others from various Protestant traditions. A significant portion of our congregation identifies as LGBTQ+, and our Open and Affirming identity is central to our life together. We value diversity as the practice of welcome, honoring each person's dignity and gifts. We continue striving to become more reflective of and welcoming to the broader community.

Has our congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do we plan to hold one on the near future

Yes

Comment after the exercise:

Brecksville United Church of Christ became an Open and Affirming congregation in 1991, making us the 59th of more than 1,800 UCC churches nationwide to publicly affirm the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life and ministry of the church. This commitment is not simply a designation we hold; it is a core expression of our faith and values. We believe that all people are created in the image of God and deserve to be welcomed, valued, and celebrated. We regularly examine how we live out our ONA commitment, recognizing that true inclusion requires ongoing reflection, learning, and action.

Participation and Staffing

Participation and Planning of Gatherings

WAYS OF CHURCH GATHERING	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ATTENDANCE	WHO PLANS EACH OF THE LISTED GATHERINGS
Adult Groups or Classes (in person or online)	8	Christian Education
Baptisms (number last year)	1	Family and Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	10	Christian Education
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	80	Spiritual Life
Church-wide Meals	55	Fellowship
Choirs and Music Groups	15	Director of Music
Church-based Bible Study	0	Pastor or Lay Leaders
Communion (served how often?)	2	Pastor and Spiritual Life
Community Meals	12	Social Justice
Confirmation (number confirmed last year)	0	Christian Education
Drama or Dance Program	0	Director of Music
Funerals (number last year)	1	Pastor and Family
Intergenerational Groups	10	Pastor or Ministry Grp.
Outdoor Worship	60	Spiritual Life and Pastor
Prayer or Meditation Groups	6	Lay people
Public Advocacy Work	10	Social Justice
Retreats	15	Pastor and Spiritual Life
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	0	Not available
Weddings (number last year)	0	Pastor and Families
Worship (digital / online / livestream)	14	Communications and Outreach
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	Christian Education
Youth Groups or Classes	6	CE Sunday School
Other	60	Director of Music

Worship Times

WORSHIP (TIME SLOT):	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ATTENDANCE	WHO PLANS EACH OF THE LISTED GATHERINGS
10:00	45	Pastor

Additional comments:

Our music program includes volunteer member solo or music offerings while the choir is off in the summer, as well as free public /community music concerts from outside groups or performers for the benefit of our local community where all are welcome to the concerts and a reception following to meet the musicians/performers. Attendance at these concerts can be from 40-100 depending on the musical offering and have been offered once or twice a year.

Special performances are held by the choir at Easter and Christmas.

List of all members or regular participants in our congregation who are ordained or commissioned ministers, or who hold Lay Ministerial Standing. Additionally the names of Members in Discernment in our congregation.

NAME	THREE-WAY OR FOUR-WAY COVENANT	MINISTRY SETTING	TYPE OF MINISTRY ROLE	RETIRED
Leroy Ford	none	Church	Pastor	
David Shackle	none	Church	Pastor	

Previous pastors or retired ministers who currently hold membership in the church and their role(s) in the life of the congregation:

Leroy Ford is a member who attends and participates in ministries and occasional substitution for the pastor.

Dave Shackle is a member who attends and provides pastoral support as needed.

List of all current staff:

STAFF POSITION	HEAD OF STAFF	COMPENSATION	SUPERVISED BY	LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION
Music Director	Pastor	part	Pastor	6 months
Interim Minister	Council	full	Council	8 months
Office Manager	Pastor	part	Pastor	18 months

Reflection: What this information reflect about our congregation's overall ministry:

Though our congregation is small in number, participation is deeply committed to faith, discernment, and shared ministry. Retired clergy and pastors worship with us regularly, while our office staff and Music Director continue to go above and beyond in service. Through Mission Café sessions and surveys, our Interim Pastor helped us hear the congregation's voice. Despite staffing transitions, we remain hopeful and committed to becoming a stronger church aligned with God's calling. We value authentic relationships, mutual care, and shared leadership as we move forward with faith and resilience.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	168581
Rentals of Church Building	25916
Interest and investment income	20000
Total	214497

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year):

267000

Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget–list current budgeted expenses here.

[Download 2026 Budget.pdf](#)

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage?

36

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?

No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year? (indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year)

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)
One Great Hour of Sharing
Strengthen the Church
Neighbors in Need
Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered?

OCWM support is gathered as a special donation during the church year as are the other contributions.

If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, this is the percentage?

5

Total amount of loan debt:

No response

Reason for debt:

No response

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

No response

Pictures



Description of any capital campaigns in the last ten years:

YEAR(S)	PURPOSE	GOAL	RESULT	IMPACT
0		0	0	
0		0	0	

Description of any capital campaigns underway or anticipated:

YEAR(S)	PURPOSE	GOAL	RESULT	IMPACT
0		0	0	
0		0	0	

Description the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign.

No response

Does your church have an endowment?

No

Other Assets

Church Building, Rental Property

Reserves (savings):

145000

Investments (other than endowment):

155000

Does the church have a parsonage?

No

Description of all buildings owned by the church:

Brecksville United Church of Christ owns the main church building with education wing used as a rental property , plus surrounding property, valued at \$2 million. Located in the heart of downtown Brecksville, the church is conveniently located 15 miles south of Cleveland on I-77. A two-tenant rental duplex that sits on our property is valued at \$250,000. The property's rental rates make it affordable to our tenants. Total rental income from Education Wing and Duplex is approximately \$30,000 annually.

Description of non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

None.

Accessibility features of our building(s):

Exterior access such as ramps for wheelchair users or people requiring other mobility assistance
Accessible parking spaces
Interior access to different floors for wheelchair users or others with mobility aids (elevator, chair lift, ramps)
Access to child care spaces for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids
Listening devices in the sanctuary, or wireless technology to connect to hearing aids
Large print bulletins

Wheelchair access in bathrooms
Handrails on all stairs
Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)
Curb cuts
Accessible bathroom on each floor
Wheelchair areas in sanctuary (other than "front or back")

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

All spaces are available to wheelchair and mobility-limited individuals. There are three steps up to the pulpit and lectern that can easily be adapted with a short ramp.

Policies regarding financial practices of the church:

Our church has a volunteer financial secretary who uses a special software program to generate monthly income statements, balance sheets and other financial reports. The financial secretary also pays the bills. We have a Treasurer and a Finance Ministry who report to Council monthly regarding our investments, our spending and our current financial condition and oversee the payment of bills.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what this information reflects about our congregation's mission and ministry:

Our congregation recognizes that it is currently facing financial challenges and is working to overcome them. It is noteworthy that we have outside income and no debt.

Historical Information

Significant happenings in the history of our church that have shaped the identity of our congregation.

BUCC's identity has been shaped by its long history in Brecksville, its Congregational roots, and its enduring public presence in the center of the community. The rebuilding of the church after the 1965 fire remains part of the congregation's memory of resilience and continuity. The congregation's commitments to welcome and justice, including its 35+ years as an Open and Affirming witness, have also deeply shaped its identity. These threads together help explain a congregation that values both rootedness and responsiveness.

A specific change our church has managed in the recent past.

A significant recent change has been the congregation's movement from a season of disruption and strain into a season of more honest discernment, clearer direction, and constructive renewal. BUCC has been learning how to name what has been difficult, how to strengthen leadership and communication, and how to imagine a future that is stronger. This work has already shaped the congregation's self-understanding and has helped create a more hopeful and purposeful sense of its next chapter.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. "Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement....". These are our congregation's values and practices when it comes to conflict.

BUCC values honesty, respect, direct communication, shared discernment, and truth spoken with care. We believe conflict should be addressed rather than avoided, and that disagreements should be held within a larger commitment to relationship and the common good. We have been working to strengthen clearer communication, healthier boundaries, greater transparency, and patterns of leadership that help disagreements be addressed more faithfully and less destructively. Those efforts are part of the congregation's present life, not only its future aspirations.

The most recent major conflict through which our church has navigated.

The congregation has recently come through a significant internal conflict that affected trust, leadership, communication, and confidence in shared processes. That season was painful and has left a real mark on the congregation's memory and self-understanding. It also became an occasion for deeper reflection, more honest discernment, and the strengthening of healthier patterns of leadership and shared life. BUCC acknowledges that difficult season as part of its recent history, but it also understands itself as already engaged in the work of renewal and moving toward a future marked by greater clarity, collaboration, and trustworthiness.

Ministerial History:

<i>Name:</i> Edie O'Donnell	<i>Years of service:</i> 10	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Barb Bartholomew	<i>Years of service:</i> 1	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Chris Atwood	<i>Years of service:</i> 4	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Elizabeth Price	<i>Years of service:</i> 1	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Joyce Morris	<i>Years of service:</i> 1	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Pam Moffat, Mary Joseph	<i>Years of service:</i> 1	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> James Smith	<i>Years of service:</i> 2	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> David Shackle	<i>Years of service:</i> 14	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Allan Lane	<i>Years of service:</i> 1	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> John King	<i>Years of service:</i> 3	UCC Standing
<i>Name:</i> Jeff Jackson	<i>Years of service:</i> 1	UCC Standing

What our church has learned about itself and its relationship with people who provided ministerial leadership.

(Note: Reverends Bartholomew, Price, Morris, Smith, Lane and Jackson are interim ministers.)

Over the years, we have learned that the strongest ministry partnerships are built on shared values, mutual understanding, and genuine connection between pastor and congregation. When those elements align, our church flourishes. We have also learned the importance of discernment and honest reflection when a partnership is not the right fit. As a congregation, we value patience, listening, and trust in the process, believing that thoughtful decisions ultimately bear the best fruit.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination?

Yes

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

Yes

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church?

No

Has a previous minister been a contributor to conflict following their tenure as pastor?

No

Community Vision

How the relationships and activities of our congregation extend outward in service and advocacy.

BUCC's outward life grows from the same qualities that shape its inward life: care, attention, welcome, and a concern for dignity and justice. The congregation understands service as practical and relational faithfulness. It is expressed through presence, listening, generosity, hospitality, and the desire to stand with others in ways that are real. Our commitments to inclusion and justice belong to how we understand the Gospel and the life of the church in the world.

Some broader community concerns identified at BUCC's recent Mission Cafe are mental health, health care, poverty, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ support and safety. Future actions for service in the community include interfaith interaction, community meals, and Pride-related support and safety.

Our congregation's participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ.

BUCC understands itself as part of the wider United Church of Christ and values that connection through its polity, theology, and commitments to welcome, justice, and shared mission. Our congregational identity is shaped by the free church tradition and by the conviction that local church life belongs within a larger communion of witness, accountability, and service. In addition to supporting the UCC events delineated in a previous section, BUCC supports many local programs including the following: Edna House, Little Annie's Hope Train, Colony Cupboard for Brecksville/Broadview Heights Schools, the Immigrant Walk, the Food Drive, the Garden of 11 Angels, community meals 4 times a year, Cleveland Pride parade, and BBH Pride (booth and give away items including rainbow painted rocks and butterfly-shaped seeded papers, and free space for AA meetings. Additionally, BUCC regularly collects food, socks, mittens, hats and gloves to bring to local organizations.

How our church engages with the community organizing movements in our community.

BUCC engages the wider community through its commitments to welcome, justice, local presence, and practical compassion. The congregation values community engagement and recognizes that its calling includes participation in life beyond its own membership. It also recognizes that this outward engagement needs greater clarity, consistency, and visibility. We present ourselves as a congregation committed to growing in that work. In the past, we organized two postcard-writing campaigns opposing legislation that would negatively impact marginalized communities. Neighboring churches were invited to participate, and both events were well attended. In addition, we hosted a Tea Time for Peace event, which provided an opportunity for community members to come together in fellowship and reflection.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations, through Just World Covenants or affiliations with other groups. Check any of the following partnerships which your congregation has formally adopted, or movements which otherwise apply to your congregation.

Open and Affirming (ONA).

What the above statement(s) mean(s) to our community. How our congregation plans to work toward the above statements of witness in the future.

While the only designation we have formally adopted is ONA, our congregation actively supports many of the missions represented by the Just World Covenants. Over the years, members of our community have volunteered with organizations such as Newcomers Academy, Re:Source Cleveland, and Edna House. We have organized postcard-writing campaigns in opposition to legislation that would harm marginalized communities, and one community member established an anti-racism free library on our property. We also provided worship space for The Community of St. Bridget, a congregation served by ordained women Catholic priests.

In the past, we have hosted Teatime for Peace events, and several members remain actively involved in peace and justice organizations and movements. We also host a weekly meditation group on Wednesday mornings.

As we look to the future, we are hopeful that a new minister will help guide us in developing and formally adopting partnerships through the Just World Covenants.

Our congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).

BUCC values ecumenical and interfaith openness as part of faithful public life. We understand relationships across denominational and religious lines as part of the work of mutual respect, common good, and community well-being. We believe that cooperation beyond the boundaries of one congregation can be an expression of humility, hospitality, and shared responsibility. In the past, we provided worship space for The Community of St. Bridget, a congregation served by ordained women Catholic priests. We have also hosted a Teatime for Peace event and Passover Seders, creating opportunities for interfaith learning, dialogue, and community building.

How our mission statement compares to the actual time spent engaging in different activities.

Our mission statement aligns strongly with the congregation's commitment to welcome, worship, care, and belonging. At the same time, the congregation has become increasingly intentional about bringing its outward engagement, public visibility, and community connection into fuller alignment with those commitments. The desire for stronger partnership, greater visibility, and more sustained presence beyond the congregation is clear, and the congregation's recent discernment reflects real momentum in that direction.

The scope of work assigned to our pastor(s). How their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time.

Pastoral work at BUCC includes both congregational ministry and visible presence beyond the congregation. We expect our pastor to preach, teach, lead worship, provide pastoral care, and strengthen the shared life of the congregation. We also expect our pastor to support the congregation's outward engagement, participate in community life, and encourage ministry that connects the congregation to the wider world. Ministry beyond our walls is an expectation of the role and also part of the congregation's own understanding and implementation of its mission.

The ARDA or MissionInsite Reflection

ARDA/MI File

[Download ARDA reports.pdf](#)

From looking at our congregation's The ARDA or MissionInsite report, these trends and opportunities are what stood out to us.

The attached ARDA reports are based on a 5 (five) mile radius of our church's mailing address; however, we do have a small percentage of congregation members who live outside of this radius.

How our congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to our church, and b) other neighborhoods with which our church connects.

BUCC is not defined only by the immediate neighborhood around its building. It is a regionally gathered congregation with strong ties to Brecksville and nearby communities and with relationships that extend across Greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. That broader pattern of connection is essential to understanding who the congregation is. Our sense of neighbor is therefore both geographic and relational, both nearby and regionally connected.

How the demographics of the community are currently shaping ministry, or not.

The surrounding community is shaping ministry by pressing the congregation to become clearer about who its neighbors are, where its strongest connections already exist, and how it is being called to serve with greater visibility and intentionality. BUCC carries a genuine desire to respond to the needs and hopes of the wider community. The work ahead is to make that response more coordinated, more sustained, and more fully integrated into congregational life.

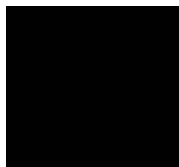
What we hear when we talk to community leaders and ask them what our church is known for.

BUCC is known for welcome, care, inclusion, and a commitment to justice. It is especially recognized as a congregation where Open and Affirming welcome matters and where people seek to live their faith with sincerity, compassion, and integrity.

What new people in the church say when asked what got them involved.

New people are drawn by the congregation's warmth, its inclusiveness, its sense of community, and the authenticity of its shared life. They come because they were invited, because the congregation felt like home, because they found alignment with what the church stands for, and because the relationships here felt real. What brings people in is not only statement, but experience.

References



☒ Mary Collingwood

Completed: Friday, Jun 5, 2026

Supporter of the BUCC.

Tennent in the church building, providing ministerial support to the BUCC at the same time ministering to our own community.

Primary Email Address: mecreg6@yahoo.com

Mobile Phone: 2164084657

Reference Response

The Community of St. Bridget (CSB) has been renting space at the Brecksville United Church of Christ (BUCC) since 2014. We have been met with nothing less than total hospitality and acceptance as a Christian community in need of a sacred space to gather in worship. BUCC leadership, facilitators, and office personnel have been very generous in inviting us to their services and outreach activities. On a few occasions, I have substituted as Presider/Homilist for their Sunday services. At other times, the BUCC music and audio teams have offered their support at our liturgical gatherings.

We are the receivers of BUCC's support, welcome, and kindness.
May those who knock at our doors continue to be welcomed into the loving
arms of all who gather in this sacred space.
In Gratitude and Solidarity,
+Mary Eileen Collingwood
Servant Bishop of the Community of St, Bridget



☒ David Loar

Completed: Wednesday, Jun 10, 2026

I did pulpit supply for the months July to October 2025 and 5 supply Sundays sporadically up to 5/26. I retired in 2014 & was ordained in 1976.

Email Address: canoeheaven@gmail.com

Personal Cell: (330) 760-7169

Mobile Phone: 330-760-7169

Reference Response

When I got the initial call, I could tell things weren't settled. I offered to fill in every Sunday until they were able to call a full time interim pastor. I would say the congregation I met that next Sunday and the members I got to know over the next months were shell shocked, confused and in grief. The congregation is informed, committed and active in advocacy for many peoples who are disenfranchised and alienated in our world. I would share in conversation with folks in fellowship time after worship and a few times went out to local restaurants to dine with members after worship. I loved the conversations. They are very attentive to their own fellowship in being in touch and offering care and concern particularly with those who are experiencing difficulties. Due to space limitations here, I have provided the Search Committee with a more detailed observation.



☒ Sam Alai

Completed: Tuesday, Jun 9, 2026

I have been the custodian and performing light maintenance duties for the BUCC for over 25 years.

Primary Email Address: nyr991a@gmail.com

Business: 4405263651

Reference Response

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to recommend the Brecksville United Church of Christ in their search for a new pastor. Having known the church and its members for twenty-five years, including my roles as Council President and Mayor of Broadview Heights, I have witnessed first-hand the positive impact the church has on our community.

Throughout my time working with various Music Directors, staff, and the congregation, I have been consistently impressed by the church's commitment to inclusivity and hospitality. The open and affirming policy is a testament to the welcoming spirit of BUCC, making it a place where everyone feels valued and accepted.

I am confident that with the right person in this leadership role, the Brecksville United Church of Christ will continue to be a significant pillar in our community for years to come.

Best Regards,

Samuel J. Alai, Mayor
City of Broadview Heights

Closing Prayer

God of welcome and wisdom, you have guided this congregation through every season—in worship and memory, in struggle and healing, in joy and hope. Shape us into a community where all belong, where courage and compassion walk together, where truth is spoken with grace, and where gifts are shared in love. Lead us to the minister and partnership that will help us grow in faith, trust, joy, and service. Give us open hearts, steady spirits, and hopeful lives that reflect Christ's welcome, your Spirit's movement, and your mercy made new each morning. Amen.

Statement of Consent

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

For example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.

A transition team is in place to complete this church profile.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

This profile offers both encouragement and candor. Our recent season of discernment through the Story Café, Neighbor Café, and Vision Café process reveals a congregation with a strong relational and moral center: welcoming, Open and Affirming, caring, justice-aware, and resilient. They also reveal a congregation speaking more honestly about its tensions, strengthening its practices of leadership and communication, and moving toward a future that is more participatory, more visible in the wider community, and more fully aligned with the life it believes God is calling forth.