



Everywhere Fun Fair Vacation Bible School at BUMC



Last week, 84 children (preschool to fifth grade) and 38 volunteer teachers and crew leaders took part in our Everywhere Fun Fair celebration! The kids had the chance to sing, dance, hear Bible stories, play games, make crafts and do science experiments – all which helped to reinforce to them how much God loves each and every one of us!! What an awesome week we had amid temperatures reaching into the 90's each day!

Each day we highlighted a different country in the world and learned a little bit about its people and culture. We talked about what makes a good neighbor and learned a Bible story that showed us how to be good neighbors to each other.

On Monday we learned that **neighbors are friendly** as we travelled to Japan and heard the story of Abraham and Sarah welcoming the travelers.

On Tuesday we travelled to Zimbabwe and learned that **neighbors are giving**. We challenged the children to think of ways to earn money at home to donate to Smile Train. We set a goal for the week to collect enough money to fund three cleft surgeries in India! The kids heard the story of the generous widow who gave the last of her oil and flour to Elijah.

On Wednesday we learned that **neighbors are bold** and that we should be bold with our words and actions and be courageous enough to make the right decisions, even when others around us might not be. We hear the story of the bold and brave Samaritan and we learned about the people of the UK.

We found ourselves in Australia on Thursday learning that **neighbors are forgiving**. The children enjoyed hearing the story of Zacchaeus and learning that God is just, merciful and forgiving.

Mexico was highlighted on Friday. We heard that **neighbors should be welcoming**. As the children heard the story of Peter and Cornelius they discovered that people who are different from each other can still be friends and neighbors! God welcomes us with love and wants us to do the same.

At the closing celebration on Friday the children learned that they had indeed raised enough money to fund three cleft surgeries! There was an enormous roar of excitement from the group. These children were generous and giving to neighbors on the other side of the world that they will never meet. Praise God!!

Thank you to all the teachers and crew leaders who helped throughout the week and members of the congregation that helped decorate or purchased items for use during the program. This was a fun, festive and faith-filled VBS! *View more pictures on our church website!*

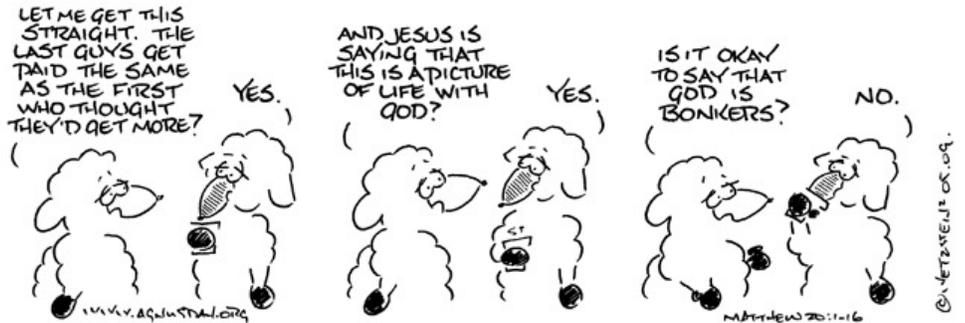


8:30 Worship on the Lawn
 10 Sanctuary Service
 Youth Worship Tuesdays at 5:30



Matthew 20: 1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



“It’s not fair!” How often do we hear these words? A wealthy landowner needs workers for his vineyard. So he goes out throughout the day and employs people in need of work. In the late afternoon, when he sees a group not working he asks, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?” They answer, “Because no one has hired us.” So he hires them. Everything seems to be okay until the end of the day when, regardless of when the workers have entered the vineyard, he pays them the exact same wage. Can you imagine that? The ones who came on the job at 5, just an hour or two before sundown, got the same pay as those who had worked from the early sunrise. The grumbling they must have heard from those early ones as they stood at the back of the line...and rightly so, wouldn’t you say?

Ah, but this story challenges our feelings by suggesting to us that what we would term as fair is not what is important. It is what helps that makes the difference. It is what helps that is important. Jesus told this story about a wealthy man. He had the power to do anything he wanted. He could help; but the people grumbled at the way in which he helped.

We, who tend to grumble, must begin to realize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about grace, not morality, not decency, not being watchdogs of the public welfare. The Gospel doesn’t have to do with our goodness except as some kind of by-product, and it really doesn’t have anything to do with our trying to become salty and radiant persons ON OUR OWN. It is about the business of so steeping ourselves in the goodness and grace of the Lord, that the beauty of His spirit and the brightness of His light reflects in our lives. It is extra. It is the way God deals with us beyond what we deserve or feel that we have earned. For in spite of our grumbling...it is not what is fair that makes the difference...it is what helps.

Please pray for peace,

Pastor Clark

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ENTERFaith Summer Program



The Cambodian-American Buddhist Temple.

Do all paths really lead to God? Is it true all religions are basically the same? Can people of contrasting faiths get along? What do other religions actually believe?

These are some of the ambitious questions we aimed to answer through an interactive week of study, visits, and discussion. Underlining our journey were explorations of culture's response to pluralism. How do we respond to other faiths? Keep them private? Say all religions are the same in the name of keeping the peace? Syncretism? With a focus on tolerance and understanding, our group aimed to really comprehend each religion's different truth claims.

Our group, comprised of middle school and high school youth along with adults, began each day with worship led by Joy Parker, Eli Shively, and Jenna Schroedel. Three of our days were spent traveling out to visit the Cambodian-American Buddhist Temple (Elyria), the Guru Nanak Foundation Gurdwara (Richfield), and the Islamic Center of Cleveland Mosque (Parma). Each visit was a fun, important and unique chance to actually sit down with lay people and clergy of other faiths and ask real questions. We enjoyed tours of the unique structures and received explanations of the rooms, art, and holy scriptures as well as introductory presentations on each faith. At each site, we dressed accordingly including covering our heads and being mindful of how we sat.

Our Buddhist hosts illustrated Buddha's *dharma* to us and explained the different Buddha statues. At the Sikh *gurdwara*, we experienced both *kirten* (Sikh hymn singing and music in Punjabi) as well as a form of *langar* (community meal). Our mosque visit fell in the midst of Ramadan, and our host explained the fast, pillars of Islam and fielded a ton of questions from our group.



At the Sikh gurdwara

Our program concluded with a presentation on Christianity and the unique themes of love, redemption, salvation, and grace. Youth then led creative presentations which pulled together all they had learned to compare and contrast Christianity with the other explored faiths.

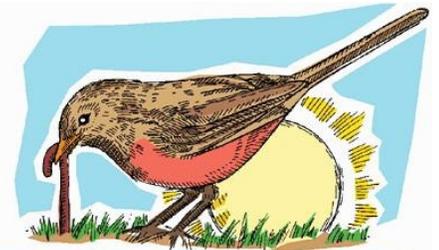
It was an amazing week of growing in faith, asking questions, and finding answers. We hope that we can do this program again soon in the year with adults and more high school youth. -Kyle Allen, Director of Youth Ministries



Visiting a mosque

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

When you shop for school supplies please remember the children at Guidestone (formerly Berea Children's Home.) These kids need pencils, pens, markers, paper, back packs, crayons, and other school supplies. If you can help, please bring your donations to the box in the coat room through August 18. Thank you! ~Sandy Crist and the United Methodist Women



Dawnbreakers

Start your Wednesday morning with fellowship ~ and breakfast! Join the Dawnbreakers, who will be meeting this month at Panera Bread (August 7, 14, 21 and 28) from 6:30 - 7:30 am. All are welcome! Contact Skip Smith for more info: 440-526-4264.



Take A Hike

This Month's Hike: **Sunday, Aug. 4**

Let's meet at 2 pm at the Schumacher Valley Area of the Cascade Valley

Park, 1690 Cuyahoga Street, Akron, OH 44313. The Metroparks describe this area as one of the most rugged in the Summit County parks. "Located in the valley's pre-glacial bedrock canyon are steep-cut ravines indicative of the Cuyahoga River's tributary streams. A canopy of oak, American beech, sassafras and black cherry provides cover for smaller shrubs. Great horned owls, chickadees and six species of woodpecker take cover here." We'll walk the 2.8 mile Valley Link trail. Watermelon afterwards, so please RSVP! -Carole Brachna, 330-908-2031



Do you have news to share? Contact Melanie!
office@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938

On June 20, just one month after the death of his beloved Kay, Wally Servey joined the church triumphant. Members of our church family since 1955, Wally and Kay were special people who will be sorely missed. Kendal Lancaster officiated the funeral service on June 24.

We also recently said goodbye to Louis Urban, who had been a part of our church family since 1951. A resident of Chippewa Place, Mrs. Urban would frequently stop by the church offices during her walks and tell us about her many years at the church, and we will miss her visits! Rev. Russell Martin officiated the funeral service on July 3.

Darren Krolkowski recently returned from a European tour with the Ohio Ambassadors of Music, an educational program comprising high school honors music students selected for their musicianship, leadership and good character. Way to go, Darren!

Words of Thanks

“Dear BUMC, Thank you for Savannah’s beautiful baptism. Every aspect of the service was perfect! Thank you for your continued prayers over the past few months for baby Savannah’s heart. The prayers are what pulled us through. We are very blessed that her heart is healed! Praise God! Thanks again, Ian, Tiffany & Savannah Jacob”

“Words cannot express our appreciation to all of you who prayed for our family, sent cards, donated a cherry pie and chocolate cake, or verbally expressed your sympathy in the passing of my mother, Dorothy Igo. At the age of 93, she lived a wonderful life, and as some of you heard at the service, she did it ‘HER WAY’. It’s a comfort to know we can count on each other through whatever life brings. Thank you, Cliff and Karen Thielman”

John	Dietrich	08/01	David	Meek	08/14
Daniel	Jaszczak	08/01	Karen	Oehl	08/14
Sally	Jones	08/01	Barbara	Tereshko	08/14
Letitia	Kwiatkowski	08/01	Kathleen	Auble	08/15
Austin	Smith	08/01	Charles	Gezze	08/15
Susan	Hurst	08/02	Nickie	Myers	08/16
Katrina	Orr	08/02	Matthew	Johnson	08/17
Nicholas	Orr	08/02	Karin	Meyer	08/17
Kaitlyn	Robinson	08/02	George	Diver	08/18
Bennett	Eberhardt	08/03	Nancy	Lundholm	08/18
Karen	Fisher	08/03	Sarah	Lundholm	08/18
Jeffery	Hastings	08/03	Robert	Tschannen	08/18
Steven	Vastartis	08/03	Robin	Engler	08/19
John	Zawada	08/03	Joan	Olszko	08/19
Catherine	Derry	08/04	Grant	Palmer	08/20
Kristi	Eberhardt	08/04	Roger	Wadsworth	08/20
Joan	Filips	08/04	Robert	Wilson	08/20
Judith	Novak	08/04	Grace	Auble	08/21
Karen	Walburn	08/05	Mark	Robinson	08/21
Lilly	Jatsek	08/06	Nathan	Robinson	08/21
Franklin	Pasek	08/06	Rebecca	Urso	08/21
Dean	Campbell	08/07	Jill	Zawada	08/21
Joan	Martin	08/07	Patricia	Fowler	08/22
Mary Jane	Opatrny	08/07	Ann	Zupanc	08/22
Jeffrey	Mihalich	08/08	Chelsea	Croy	08/24
James	Rollins	08/08	Andrew	Dorman	08/24
Laina	Culley	08/09	Denise	BonTempo	08/25
Elizabeth	Monnin	08/09	Helen	Lee	08/26
Valorie	Bender	08/10	Christopher	Nurre	08/26
Allison	Engler	08/10	Bridget	Gee	08/27
Ryan	Shijo	08/10	Amelia	Guell	08/27
Beth	Dadas	08/11	Diane	Pidwell	08/27
Maddie	Holt	08/11	Bryn	Bisco	08/28
Heather	Manocchio	08/11	Nancy	Cunningham	08/28
Scott	Ramsey	08/11	Janet	Nelson	08/28
Trey	Shively	08/12	Donald	Southam	08/28
Mark	Vastartis	08/12	Kristin	Bisco	08/29
John	Galik	08/13	James	Hocutt	08/29
Tanya	Garsteck	08/13	Margaret	Haseley	08/30
Lue	Andree	08/14	Patricia	Neville	08/30
Aleyna	Gee	08/14	Andrew	Scott	08/31
Lois	Markley	08/14			

WISHING YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

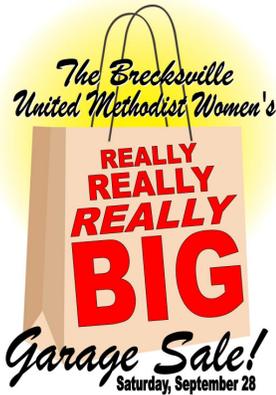


As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. Krissy Nelson has organized a fun art project for our kids; Dottie McDowell opened her home to our Youth

Annual Conference participants; and the Jaszczaks committed their energies in a special way to YSP! We are thankful for all of you!



Really, Really, REALLY BIG Garage Sale!



Don't throw it away! Empty those closets, clean out the garage, and bring the things you no longer need or want to our September really, really, REALLY BIG sale on **September 28!** If it's in working condition and clean, we'll take it! Garden tools, household "stuff", toys, sporting equipment, books and furniture are all great sellers. **No clothing, old telephones or computers, please. Proceeds benefit the United Methodist Women's Missions fund.** *Bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall stage after September 1. We need lots of hands to help! For questions, or to volunteer Contact Ruth Herman, 330-467-3237 or Barb Harper, 440-838-4938*



Serving in Love 2013-14 Committees Announced

We are thankful to those who commit to the vitality of this congregation as an integral part of the program and administrative life by serving on a committee or in a volunteer position. This month, we announce new volunteers and thank those who have served faithfully over the past year.

We are a community of busy, active people, and it take a tremendous number of willing volunteers to carry on the ministry of this church. Please help us to thank the following people who have leant their time, energy and creativity to a committee and whose terms ended last month:

Trustees: Ann Rittman, Kristi Eberhardt, Jamie Hocutt. *Staff Parish Relations:* Robin Raybuck, Scott Campbell, Liz Fredrick. *Finance:* Fran McClean, Jason Bell, Shelly Meek. *Nominating:* Marilyn Schillo, Lucy Fesler. *Gifts and Memorials:* Gerry Becker, Bill Rittman. *Commission on Education:* Amanda Auble, Gail Huth, Krissy Nelson. *Worship & Music:* Grace Ford, Kathy Louttit, Karen Schroedel, Amy Piorkowski. *Youth Board:* Judy McBride, Michelle Shively, Sean Lundholm.

A complete listing of new committee members is included in this issue of the Good Word, and available online at:

www.brecksvilleumc.com/admoffice/pdfs/CommitteeRoster2013.14.pdf



Mark you calendar for September 29, the date of the **31st Annual Southern Hills CROP Hunger Walk.** We hope you'll be a part of it! Our goal is to have at least 13 participants from BUMC for this annual walk in the park to raise money to fight hunger, both locally and around the world. Look for more details coming soon, both in the church bulletin and online. The focus this year is on ending child hunger. Together we can make a huge difference!

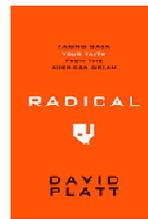
Sign up to walk or to donate at hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/BUMC13 or please contact Melanie Smith or Cec Podolny in the church office! Together, we will help end hunger, one step at a time!

Summer Book Group

Join us on the deck for summer sunshine, tasty food, and lively discussion!

Book group meets at Joy & Stacy's home in Strongsville [13432 Tradewinds Drive]. Grilled fare and beverages will be provided; bring a side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome!

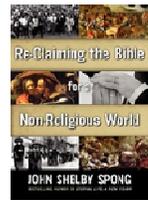
Sunday, August 4 @ 12:30pm



Radical by David Platt, Ph.D

In *Radical*, David Platt challenges you to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences. He shows what Jesus actually said about being his disciple – then invites you to *believe* and *obey* what you have heard. This book will offer a challenging theological perspective to many but also reinforces the way in which Christians of different theological perspectives must meet around our calling to work for God's justice in the world.

Thursday, August 29 @ 6:00pm



Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World by John Shelby Spong

200 years of biblical scholarship has been withheld from lay people, argues renowned bishop and social activist John Shelby Spong. In this brilliant book, Spong reveals not only the crucial truths that have long been kept hidden from the public eye, but explores what the history of the Bible can teach us about reading its stories today and living our lives for tomorrow.

For more information, contact Joy Parker, music@brecksvilleumc.com



VBS week began with an ice cream social on Sunday, July 14. The decorating committee surprised George and Jenny Gee with cake for their 20th wedding anniversary!



BY BRECKSVILLE YOUTH WORSHIP

Tuesdays
5:30-7:30pm

food friends faith in CHRIST

for ALL middle & hs youth

It happens every year.

Just as we're settling into summer...

it's almost fall.

Have you been away a lot this summer? Have the hot temperatures kept you at home? **We're excited to welcome you back to worship this fall.** And remember, wherever you are on your journey,

you are welcome here.

Worship

Beginning on Sunday, September 8, we will return to our regular worship schedule with services at 8:45am and 11:15am in the Sanctuary. Our 8:45 service tends to be more contemporary; 11:15 is traditional worship.

Music

Fall is a great time to try something new. You are always welcome in Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, or a wide variety of children's and youth ensembles. Contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com for information.

Education

An awesome year of education for children and youth will kick off on Sunday, September 8, with our education hour from 10:00 – 11:00 am. There is truly something for everyone, including classes for adults!

See you soon!

It's not the same without you...

Brecksville Youth Worship Tuesdays

Our BY Worship has changed to Tuesday evenings. We continue to meet first in Fellowship Hall at 5:30PM. Each evening begins with a delicious, and healthy homemade meal that helps our youth experience some new cuisines and see that vegetables can be fun! Most importantly though, our meals are times of hilarious stories, sharing, laughing, talking about our weeks, and getting to know one another. After dessert we all help to clean up and then move up to the Parlor.

Our worship times are filled with engaging videos, games, icebreakers, art, and even acting to bring the story of God to life. Our time is designed to engage youth, field honest questions, and bring praise and worship to Jesus as we grow in our understanding, faith, and friendships. Our summer will also include another picnic and game night, so stay tuned!

Parents, please encourage your youth to give it a try. Youth, tell a neighbor and bring a friend! BY Worship is open to all middle school and high school students as well as recent grads. Follow us on Facebook for updates and pictures –

[facebook.com/brecksvillyouth](https://www.facebook.com/brecksvillyouth)

Reconciling Ministries Network: What Is It?

Mobilizing United Methodists to create full inclusion of all God's children

Reconciling Ministries Network is a growing movement of United Methodist individuals, congregations, campus ministries, and other groups working for the full participation of all people in The United Methodist Church.

Mission: Reconciling Ministries Network mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the **full expression of Christ's inclusive love**.

Vision: Reconciling Ministries Network envisions a renewed and vibrant movement that is **biblically and theologically centered**. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, the Reconciling Ministries Network strives to transform the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of **grace, love, justice and inclusion for all of God's children**.

Guiding Principles: Reconciling Ministries Network is a Christian and United Methodist organization. Its work is guided by the following core principles:

Spiritually Grounded

Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to the justice imperative of the Gospel and grounding its ministries in the Wesleyan practice of personal and social holiness. RMN is committed to utilizing inclusive language and **respectfully recognizing the diverse approaches to scripture, tradition, reason, and experience** of the congregations and communities with whom it relates.

Reconciliation

Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to reconciliation that leads to the healing and transformation of animosity into honest relationships that respect all God's children. Reconciliation is a profound ongoing individual and collective commitment from all those affected to establishing **new relationships embedded in mutual recognition**.

Naming Privilege, Ending Oppression

Reconciling Ministries Network aspires to fulfill our baptismal covenant to recognize and utilize our privileges to resist oppression in whatever form it presents itself in our movement, church, and world. RMN has a commitment to **ending institutional oppression in all its forms**.

Integrating Sexuality with Spirituality

Reconciling Ministries Network believes that human sexuality is a good gift from God. RMN is committed to supporting the integration of **healthy, loving expressions of sexuality and spirituality for everyone**.

Relationships

Reconciling Ministries Network acts in **hospitality across theological divides** and is committed to the creation of community, interconnectedness, and deep relationships.

Systems Change

Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to policy change and the creation of **long-term solutions and practices** that create full inclusion in The United Methodist Church and our broader society.

Stewardship

Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to the **stewardship of its organizational resources**—the people, time, talent, and treasures—that God provides for transformation of our church and world.

Organizational Authenticity

Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to operating in a way that mirrors the change we hope to create in the world. Towards that end, we commit to **honesty, integrity, excellence, equality, justice, dignity, civility, diversity, inclusion, and creativity**.

Copies of a [church assessment survey](#) are available [online](#) and in the Parlor.

Learn more at rmnetwork.org.

AUGUST 2013

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p><i>Communion Stewards</i> <i>Chuch & Becky Gezzze</i></p>				<p>1 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Spencer & Gee</i> Mowing</p>	<p>2 7 Emmaus</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:30 Worship - Lawn 10 Worship - Sanctuary 12:30 Book Group 2 Hiking Club 6 Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 Youth Wor- ship</p>	<p>7 6:30 Dawnbreak- ers at Panera 6:15 Wednesday Wheels</p>	<p>8 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Bloch & Campbell</i> Mowing</p> 	<p>9 7 Emmaus 4 Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 Wedding Day</p>
<p>11 8:30 Worship - Lawn 10 Worship - Sanctuary 6 Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 11 Staff Mtg 5:30 Youth Wor- ship 7 Council on Ministries 8 "Super Tues- day" Meetings</p>	<p>14 6:30 Dawnbreak- ers at Panera 6:15 Wednesday Wheels</p>	<p>15 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Brown & Sendry</i> Mowing</p>	<p>16 7 Emmaus</p> 	<p>17</p>
<p>18 8:30 Worship - Lawn 10 Worship - Sanctuary</p>	<p>19 9:30 UMW Board Meeting 7:30 American Guild of Organ- ists Meeting</p>	<p>20 9:30 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 5:30 Youth Wor- ship 7 Worship & Music Board 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees</p> 	<p>21 6:30 Dawnbreak- ers at Panera 6:15 Wednesday Wheels 7 Staff Parish Relations</p>	<p>22 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Lundholm & Herzing</i> Mowing</p> 	<p>23 7 Emmaus</p>	<p>24 Wedding Shower</p>
<p>25 8:30 Worship - Lawn 10 Worship - Sanctuary 11 Rally Day Potluck</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 Youth Wor- ship</p>	<p>28 6:30 Dawnbreak- ers at Panera 6:15 Wednesday Wheels</p>	<p>29 4 Women's Emmaus 6 Summer Book Group <i>Parker & Johnson</i> Mowing</p>	<p>30 7 Emmaus</p>	<p>31</p>

United Methodist News

“News in the Pews” from the United Methodist News Service

Resources for responding to violence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — On any given day, United Methodists respond to tragedy by offering support. Find resources for helping people cope and learn how to make a positive difference, even in the most difficult of times.

Go to umc.org/violence

Firefighter families receive devotionals

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. — Responding to the recent loss of 19 members of the Arizona Granite Mountain Hotshots, killed while fighting the Yarnell Hill fire, the Commission on United Methodist Men is sending 100 copies of the Strength for Service devotional booklets to the grieving community. Family members of the fallen firefighters and Prescott Fire Department personnel will receive the devotionals, according to Larry Coppock, who heads civic youth-serving ministries for the men’s organization.

Pastor goes homeless for a week

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — The Rev. Willie Lyle lived on the streets for the better part of a week to understand the lives of homeless people and to prepare for delivering a challenging first sermon at his new appointment, Sango United Methodist Church. “The (homeless) most definitely want food and shelter, but they also seek the food and shelter found in the message of Christ,” he told the Tennessean. “I’m not sure churches are addressing those needs. Actually, I believe churches could learn a lot from the homeless and hungry if they were willing to open their eyes to the truth.”

Volunteers big part of Okla. recovery

LAWTON, Okla. — Three southwest Oklahoma churches are part of a recovery effort for Moore, Okla., that has provided 9,800 hours of volunteer work through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Officials say the area still has far to go in recovering from catastrophic tornado damage. If you want to help, go to

www.umcor.org.

Raising \$1.27 million for malaria fight

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — United Methodist annual (regional) conferences raised \$1.27 million for Imagine No Malaria during sessions in May and June, helping boost the campaign total beyond \$40 million. The Holston Conference led the way. Learn more about the fight against malaria at imagineenomalaria.org.

‘Drive-by prayers’ offered

EMPORIA, Kan. — The parking lot at Grace United Church in Emporia, is a busy and spiritual place, thanks to a “drive-by prayers” program offered by church members to anyone passing by, reports the Emporia Gazette.

Supporting women’s rights through faith

ATLANTA — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter called the abuse of women the “most pervasive and un-addressed human rights violation in the whole world” and contrary to the basic premise of every religion during a June 27-29 forum at the Carter Center. Seventy religious leaders, activists, and religious scholars participated in the event, including World Council of Churches representatives.



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<http://umns.umc.org>

When we join The United Methodist Church, we vow to support it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But sometimes, our good intentions get lost in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life. As a church, how are we doing with our promises? Can you help fill in the blanks?

PRAYERS

Prayers of thanksgiving for the \$918 our Vacation Bible School kids raised for SmileTrain, and organization providing cleft palate surgeries for children in the developing world. During VBS, the kids learned that neighbors are giving and the “God loves a cheerful giver.” - *2 Corinthians 9:7b*. Because of their generous giving, we will be able to provide at least three life changing surgeries (at \$250 each). Pray for these children this month. To learn more about this effort, and how you can help, at smile-train.org.

Pray for our Staff Parish Relations Committee as they continue the work of filling the ministry need created by Pastor Libby’s retirement. *Prayers for our Caring Committee* who are stepping up their efforts to visit those in our congregation in need.

Other Prayer Concerns:

GIFTS

If you have made a pledge or a contribution, you will receive a giving statement (either electronically or on the other side of this page with your mailed Good Word) which outlines your gifts to date this year. If you need additional information, or if you have not received your statement, please contact the church office.

This table outlines the offering received each Sunday since the publication of the last *Good Word*.

Date	Offering
June 23	\$6,471
June 30	\$9,645
July 7	\$6,964
July 14	\$9,383
July 21	\$16,956

PRESENCE

We’ve set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. We fell short of this goal again this month. What’s keeping you from church on Sunday?

Date	8:30	10:00	Difference
June 23	104	100	-96
June 30	84	109	-107
July 7	91	108	-101
July 14	106	123	-71
July 21	83	115	-102

What are some other ways you can be present in the life of the church this month?

SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month:

- Serve as an usher. Contact Cec in the church office: 440-526-8938.
- Donate to the UMW’s Back to School Supplies drive. (Details inside this issue!)
- Volunteer for the mowing team. Contact Scott Campbell: srcampbell@roadrunner.com
- Become a church closer. Contact Al Harper: 440-838-4938.
- Teach a Sunday School Class this fall. Contact Jenny: education@brecksvilleumc.com
- Volunteer at Cornerstone of Hope. Contact Alan Scheufler: 440-526-1335.

Other opportunities are listed on the church website!