



The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

June 2015, Issue Published May 22

So Much To Do; So Little Sunshine!

With summer just around the corner, we are all stretching our legs, preparing our gardens, and making fun plans for these warmer months. As you think about your summer priorities, continue to make time for worship. Our summer schedule makes it possible to be involved in worship, stay connected with your church family, and still have time for all the great hobbies and activities that summer makes possible!

Outdoor Worship at 8:30 am

Maximize your summer hours outdoors. Come to outdoor worship! The service runs just under an hour, so you can enjoy worship and fellowship and still have lots of day left! Come as you are, bring a lawn chair, and a friend.

Sanctuary Worship at 10:00 am

Looking for a more traditional worship experience? Join us in our air-conditioned Sanctuary! With a combination of praise team and traditional hymns, there is a little something for everyone.

Plan to make worship a part of your summer. We look forward to seeing you!



Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Class of 2015: *Front Row* Maddie Piorkowski, Grace Auble, Quinn Slifcak, Kylee Brubaker, Ryan Rybak. *Back Row*: Matthew Sendrey, Emily Loughner, Kaitlyn Hazelton, Kristen Kubek, Megan Louttit, Aaron Georgevich and Matthew Ling.

After studying the Christian faith for a year, our 2015 confirmation class has affirmed their baptisms. As a congregation, we pledge our support to this fine group of young adults as they enter into full membership at Brecksville United Methodist Church.

If you have questions about confirmation, if you're interested in participating in confirmation or in becoming a confirmation mentor next year, please contact Courtney Drescher, Director of Youth Ministries, at 440.526-8938 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com.

EVERYTHING SUMMER



Sunday Mornings
Through August 31
8:30 Worship on the Lawn
10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew

associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Music & Worship:

Joy E. Parker

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Christian Education:

Jenny Gee

education@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Youth Ministry:

Courtney Drescher

youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Business Manager: Mike Memmer

finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager: Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Assistant Office Manager:

Leslie Miller

leslie@brecksvilleumc.com

Church School Registrar:

Joan Olszko

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

Organist: Chris Toth

tothchristopher@att.net

Published monthly by
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square,
Brecksville, OH 44141
Article deadline: 3rd Friday monthly
Editor, Melanie Smith
office@brecksvilleumc.com



New Things

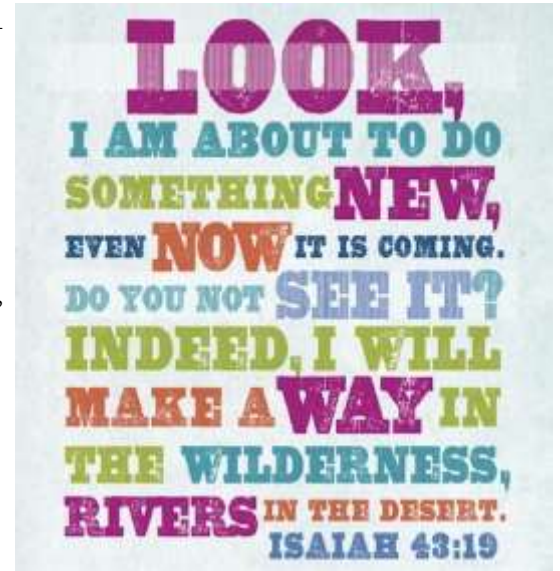
Rev. Clark Stein,
Senior Pastor

There is an ancient story of a sentry standing day after day at his post with no apparent reason for his being there. One day, a passerby asked him why he was standing in that particular place. "I don't know," the sentry replied, "I'm just following orders." The passerby then went to the captain of the guard and asked him why the sentry was posted in that place. "I don't know," the captain replied. "We're just following orders." This prompted the captain of the guard to pose the question to higher authority. "Why do we post a sentry at that particular spot?" he asked the king. But the king didn't know. So he summoned his wise men and asked them the question. The answer came back that one hundred years before, Catherine the Great had planted a rosebush and had ordered a sentry placed there to protect it. The rosebush had been dead for eighty years, but the sentry still stood guard.

It is a good practice to post sentries. We do it in a wide variety of ways. However, if we never stop to consider why we place them there, the things that they are guarding can become insignificant. Think about the ways we "guard" things. What is worth guarding, and where can we finally relieve the sentry of their duty?

Peace,

Pastor Clark



ministries OF *Caring*

The Caring Committee is here for you and available to visit those who can't make it to church regularly or anyone who may be lonely and looking for support or someone to lend an ear. Contact Pastor Barbara, 440-799-3126, to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one.



Pop Tops for
Ronald McDonald House:
Why throw them away? Turn your pop
tops into cash for Ronald McDonald
House. There's a collection bin
in the cloak room.
Thank you!

Serve Over Summer

Vacation - Just Say Yes

"It seems hard to believe that Scott and I have now worked at the church for over five years. We've learned a lot in that time and enjoy what we do. As much as we enjoy the work, it is good to get away from time to time. In our time at the church we have only taken one extended vacation. All other vacation has been taken a day or two at a time.



During our time away Cliff Thielman has always filled in. Cliff does a great job, but it would be great if he didn't have to carry the load alone. As it is said, many hands make light work. If we could have several people from our church family volunteer 1 or 2 hours during the time we are away the church could be kept in great shape. The kind of duties we are talking about are dry mopping, vacuuming, trash collection, room setups for meetings and cleaning bathrooms. That last one may seem less than desirable, but it's really not bad. I will meet with anyone who volunteers to make sure you're comfortable with the task you volunteer to complete. At this time we don't have specific dates for our vacation, but it will likely be in July. Can you help? It is my hope I will hear from many of you. Please stop by the church or give me a call on my cell phone at 216-990-1563. " - Jeff Hastings, Facilities Manager

You're Needed! Bike Round Up!

We're collecting and rejuvenating used bikes for kids in need in greater Cleveland. Can you help? Our Bike Round Up is in keeping with the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School—movement. Let's work together to help give kids wheels!



Bikes Needed! As you clean out your garage this spring, don't send that old bike to the dump. Give it new life! Tell your friends and neighbors about our bike drive and keep an eye out for bikes at garage sales, too! We have a collection area on the stage in Fellowship Hall or you can drop your bikes off in the coat room on the first floor (near Fellowship Hall.) Maybe you have some old bike parts, tire tubes, bike chain oil, bike baskets or paint that you could spare. Our bike repair team can put them all to good use! Want to help the Repair Team? Have questions? Ideas? Suggestions? Call Jenny: 440-526-8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

Summer Ushers Needed

Would you be willing to usher at our 10:00 service during the summer? This is a great opportunity for an individual or family to serve! If you have never ushered before, Karen Thielman will help you get to know exactly what to do. If you can help with this important ministry of hospitality, please contact Karen Thielman at 330-467-1014 or by email at kthielman1015@roadrunner.com.



How We Do What We Do Pastoral Actions Reminder

As weddings, baptisms and funerals are frequent occurrences at Brecksville United Methodist Church, it is important to occasionally be reminded of "how we do what we do" concerning pastoral actions.

Ultimately, it is up to our senior pastor to officiate or grant permission to officiate all events in our sanctuary. It is the pastor's responsibility to monitor activities in our sanctuary.

Our senior pastor is the first contact for all weddings, baptisms and funerals. The senior pastor considers the requests of the families involved, and subsequently talks with our visitation pastor and any clergy or requested speakers outside of our church.

The senior pastor is aware of and ultimately approves the preparation for each service. This can be a creative process that meets the desires of the family. We have had weddings with a catholic priest and our pastor both present and active in the service! There are many options that can be arranged, with consideration for everyone involved.

- Your Staff Parish Relations Committee



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

We give thanks for the Confirmation Class of 2015, twelve young people who have reaffirmed their commitment to a life of faith. Praise God!

On May 17, we celebrated the baptism of Jennifer Mathewson and her infant son, Connor. We welcome them, along with Jennifer's husband, Phillip, and pray for their continued spiritual grace.

"We would like to thank the congregation for the tremendous support given to Marilyn during her illness. Marilyn truly loved this church and its congregation and you gave that love back to her when she needed it most. Marilyn really wanted to be here for this announcement, so please read it as it is written: Jeff and Marilyn Schillo joyfully announce the birth of their 10th grandchild. Zoey Schillo was born April 17th in Orlando, Florida to Matt and Kristin Schillo." - Jeff Schillo and family

Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!

Melanie Smith
office@brecksvilleumc.com
440-528-8938

Betsy Jaszczak	1	Garrett Croes	10
Leslie Miller	1	Megan Rohrer	10
Laura Tereshko	1	Jim Monnett	11
Harmony Lasich	2	Sarah Hurder	12
Fran McClean	2	Marilyn Schillo	12
Judy McCrodden	2	Tom Kuttler	13
Bill Bisco	4	Jeanette Buttolph	15
Robert Butler	4	Amber Lasich	15
Aaron Georgevich	4	Zeke Stein	15
Grayce Herrick	4	John Falko	16
Tammy Jaite	4	Charlotte Sebastian	16
Russell Slifcak	4	Dan AuWerter	17
Kimberlee Fisher	5	Mary Hoffman	18
Cathy Krolikowski	5	Marge Novak	18
Walter Kudlaty	5	Judy Helm	19
Jenna Schroedel	6	Allie Cline	20
Darren Calovini	7	Kevin Kwiatkowski	20
Courtney Drescher	7	Russ Martin	21
Lauren Scott	7	Mark Pace	21
Ruth Koberna	9	Bill Webb	21
Gil Phillips	9	Stella Figer	22
Paul Phillips	9	Neilson Tait	22
Sam Phillips	9	Michael Pace	23
John Zakarowsky	9	Linda Rollins	23
		Anne Ford	24



Katie Bellingham	25
K. K. Hood	25
Kylie Hulten	25
Jacob Nelson	25
Brian Pasek	25
Jerry Bartholomew	26
Linda Crouch	26
Craig Czarnota	26
Darren Krolikowski	26
Jimmy Zawada	26
Shirley Galik	27
Jan Kranstuber	27
Ruth McDonel	27
Krissy Nelson	27
Joe Bartholomew	28
Dorothy Bowles	28
Liam McLoughlin	28
Melanie Smith	29
Taylor Cave	30



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. People like Bob, who delivers the mail to our church every day with a smile; Ruth Herman, who stepped in and organized lunch for our fair trade fair workers; Cec

Podolny who took a break from retirement and provided vacation coverage for the church office recently; May communion stewards, Chuck and Becky Gezze, whose willingness to serve and openness to the joy that participating in this special ministry brings is a true gift; and Harry Koberna who has returned to the church after thirty years and has been so generous with his time and talents! Thank you one and all for all of the ways, large and small, in which you contribute to the ministry of Brecksville United Methodist Church and for all of the ways that you radiate God's love in the world!

Our pies sold out last year! Don't miss out - order early!



United
Methodist
Women

**Brecksville
United Methodist
Women**



Grandma's Cherry Pies

At Brecksville Home Days
June 26, 27 and 28

Our Home Days tradition, is back! Don't miss out - - pre-order your sweet treats today! Complete this form and return to the church office. **PRE-ORDERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT—ESPECIALLY FOR SUNDAY. Help our bakers. PLEASE ORDER EARLY!!!** *Saturday and Sunday orders will be available for pick up in the church kitchen after 12 pm.*

Name:		Phone:	
Item	Qty	Price	Total
Favorite Cherry Pie - 10" Pie		@ \$12.00	
Bountiful Blueberry Pie - 10"		@ \$12.00	
Take & Bake Cherry Pie		@ \$12.00	
Take & Bake Blueberry Pie		@\$12.00	
Blueberry Cobbler - 8" Round		@ \$10.00	
Cherry Cobbler— 8" Round		@\$10.00	
Decadent Chocolate Cake - 8" Square		@\$7.00	
For Pickup: _____ Friday, June 26 _____ Saturday, June 27			TOTAL
<i>Make check payable to BUMW and return pre-paid order to the church office.</i>			

If you would like to help bake, contact Ruth Herman, 330-467-3237.
To work in the booth, sign-up between services on Sunday,
or call Janet Kleckner, 440-526-2386.

Stop by and visit our booth! We'll be serving pie, cobbler, Texas sheet cake, sundaes, and delicious pulled beef barbecue sandwiches.

All proceeds will benefit the important missions work of the UMW.

THANK YOU!!!!

Botanical Gardens Tour, Thursday, June 5

The United Methodist Women and Asbury Bremeth Circle will finish their program year with a tour of the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. Both of these groups will take a summer hiatus from meetings in July and August and will return in September. If you're interested in getting involved in The United Methodist Women or Asbury Bremeth please contact Ruth Herman at 330-467-3237 (UMW) or Nancy Knowlton at 440-838-4341.

West Side Sisterhood

Thank you for your generous donations to the UMW's West Side Sisterhood Underwear Drive this spring. We were able to deliver a nice collection of undergarments for the girls in the program, helping to give them a great start to every day. Thank you donors!



Evening Circle!

Thursday, June 11 at 7 pm. Join us for our end of the year meeting where we will work on setting our

schedule for next fall. Bring ideas for speakers and projects! After our business meeting we will enjoy a Bible study about the woman at the well. What did Jesus mean when he talked to her about living water? Why did Jesus know so much about her? Why did the townspeople take her word for it that she just met the Messiah? This is a fascinating story that paints a clear picture of Jesus' compassion and caring. Join us!

Golf Scramble & Steak Dinner



Third Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

Saturday, June 20, 2015

BRIARWOOD GOLF CLUB

2737 Edgerton Road, Broadview Hts, OH 44147

1 pm Shotgun Start / Arrive by 12:30 pm

\$75.00 Person ~ \$60.00 Youth 21 and Under

\$25 Dinner Only

Foursomes and individuals welcome! Steak Dinner after 18 holes.
(If you don't want steak, we'll have chicken and veggie burgers available, too.)

*Come enjoy a great day on the
links with friends new and old!*

The love of the game and outdoors is only part of the reason to join us, as you'll be golfing to support our church's music scholarship fund! Register using the form below or online— address below.

Short of a foursome?

Contact us and we'll help you find additional team members.

Ric Lesinski office@brecksvilleumc.com

Not a golfer? Join us for dinner!

Fee Includes:

- ◆ Entry into Scramble
- ◆ 18 holes and cart
- ◆ Dinner
- ◆ Soft drinks
- ◆ Prizes
- ◆ Charity!
- ◆ Fun!
- ◆ Fellowship!

Return the registration form below by May 31st.

Send to BUMC Music Department, 65 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141

Call 440-526-8938 with any questions or E-mail music@brecksvilleumc.com

GOLF TEAM REGISTRATION

Name of Golfer 1)_____	\$75	yes	no
Name of Golfer 2)_____	\$75	yes	no
Name of Golfer 3)_____	\$75	yes	no
Name of Golfer 4)_____	\$75	yes	no
DINNER ONLY: _____	\$25	yes	no

Do you eat steak?

Checks Payable to BUMC ~ "Golf Outing" in memo line. Total Enclosed: _____

Contact Person for Confirmation: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

**\$200 Dinner
Sponsors**

☐ YES, I'll help
sponsor the meal!
(4 needed)

**\$100 Hole
Recognitions**

☐ YES, I'll
sponsor a hole!
(18 available)

Prefer to sign up electronically? Visit: www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/regformgolf

2015

SUMMER BOOK SERIES

Wednesday Evenings 7 pm: July 1, July 29 & August 26

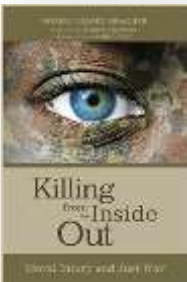
This summer, you are invited to be a part of open and honest conversation about some of the most challenging issues currently facing us as individuals and communities. The theme for the series is violence as it manifests itself, both in war and in times of supposed peace. Discussion will be led by Joy Parker, Director of Worship, and the conversation is open to all. Whether you are a person of faith or not, regardless of your political affiliation (or lack thereof), and whatever your background, you are welcome. The only requirement is a genuine desire to be in open, honest conversation with others in a respectful and edifying environment. For more information, visit www.brecksvilleumc.com or contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com. There is no charge for book discussion (other than the cost of the books); dessert and beverages will be provided.

Our First Book ~ Wednesday, July 1

Killing from the Inside Out: Moral Injury and Just War

by Robert Emmett Meagher (2014)

This conversation will take place in the church parlor (2nd floor)



Armies know all about killing. It is what they do, and ours does it more effectively than most. We are coming to realize, however, that we are also especially good at killing our own “from the inside out,” silently, invisibly. In every major war since Korea, more of our veterans have taken their lives than have lost them in combat. The latest research, rooted in veteran testimony, reveals that the most severe and intractable PTSD – fraught with shame, despair, and suicide – stems from what Robert Meagher describes as “moral injury.” He asks how veterans can be suffering under the weight of this moral injury even in conflicts that are viewed as “just” or justified, examining the “Just War Theory” that has grown up over the centuries in our churches and political institutions alike. Ultimately, *Killing from the Inside Out* radically questions the notion of just war, examines its legacy, and challenges readers to look beyond it for wisdom that is, at once, both ancient and new. [This text is available in Paperback and Kindle (digital) format.]

- July 29 at 7 pm. Our Second Selection is
Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America by Adam Winkler
- August 26 at 7 pm. **In August, we'll discuss**
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson (2014)
Learn more about these titles on our website,
or in the next issues of *The Good Word!*



Mulching and Yard Clean Up

Saturday, June 13 starting at 8:30

Grab your rake and gloves and come help spruce up the church yard and get it ready for summer and Home Days! (If you've got a wheelbarrow, pruners, shovel, or other gardening tools, those would help, too!) Many hands make short work.

First Saturday To Do

Here's a big THANK YOU to our Men's Small Group, six guys with big hearts, who have offered to work on church projects on the first Saturday morning of each month, starting June 6. This will be a huge help for our busy church!





VBS!

Monday, July 13
through Friday, July 17
9 am until Noon

Register On Line at:
www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/youth/vbs

G-Force VBS is service and mission minded. Each year we have a worthy mission focus involving the children. This year, in keeping with the theme of movement, we are collecting play equipment such as balls, hula hoops, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, etc. We are also collecting old bicycles which we will be fixing up and donating to kids in need. *Do you have an old bike?* Drop it off in the coat room. *Do you have the skills for fixing them?* Join our little crew of mechanics. *Do you possess neither the goods nor the mechanical abilities but you still want to help?* We could use cash donations too. Make checks payable to BUMC with 'Bike Round-up' on the memo line, or cash in an envelope marked the same way. The funds will be used to purchase parts and supplies to help fix the bikes.

It's All About Getting Out and Moving!

The kids are counting down the final days of school, adults are sharpening the mower blades and shining up the grill... **this can only mean one thing... SUMMER!!** Summer brings with it some pretty wonderful things like splashing in the swimming pool, catching lightning bugs and VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



This year VBS will be the week of July 13-17 from 9 a.m. until noon. We will have an awesome time praising God and discovering how God has called each one of us to use our special gifts and talents to be in service to others. The kids will meet some people from the Bible who used their hearts, minds and bodies to serve others and to serve God.

The kids will explore ways to use their whole selves to follow God in new and active ways through craft, music, games, Bible storytelling and science. VBS is always an AMAZING week at BUMC.

Do you want to be a part of it? See below for ways we could use *your special gifts and talents* to help make this week happen! You will find that it is not only the kids that feel transformed at the end of the week!

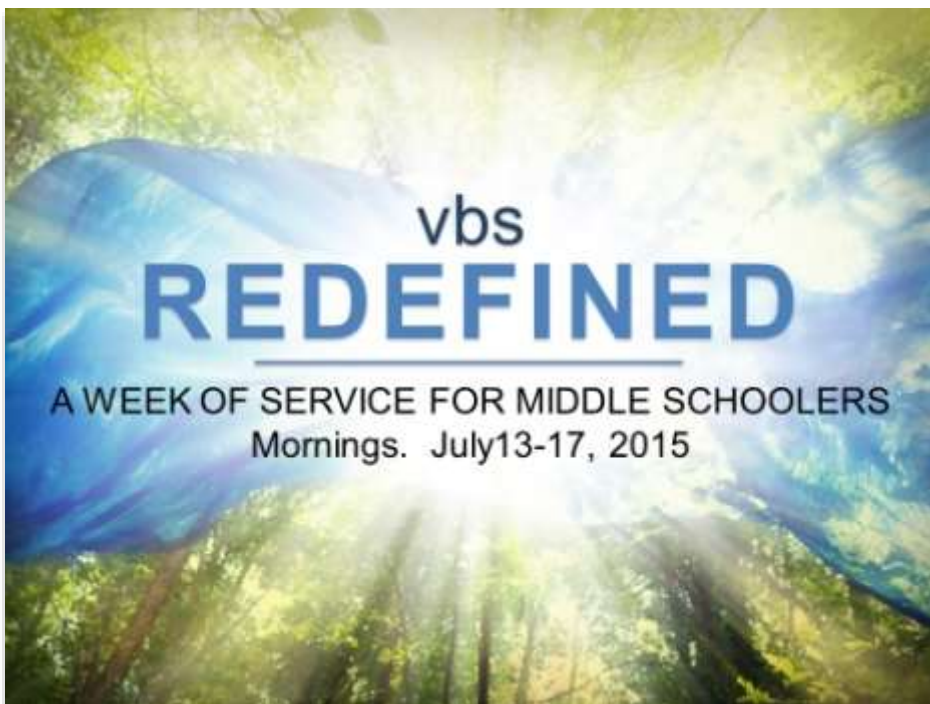
We need your help to make VBS happen:

- Preschool Activity Center Leaders – folks willing to help our littlest participants make crafts, run simple and cool science experiments, or play games.
- Crew Leaders – Do you like children? This position asks you to simply be with a small group of kids, keep them safe and together and transport them from location to location.

• Decorators – Has God blessed you with a clever, creative, imaginative side? Share that inspiration and help make our building come to life as a **skate park... the G-Force Zone!** Time requirements can be as much or as little as you are able to give based on your availability.

• Concessions – The children enjoy snacks each day and we need a second person to help prepare and serve simple snacks.

Keep your eye out for the list of craft and snack supplies that we need donated to help keep costs down. This list will be available after worship services in early July. - Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education



YOUTH NEWS

“Girl Talk” – High school girls are invited to a brand-new, summer-long Bible study! This weekly study will cover real-life topics, including appearance, friendship, girl politics, gossip, sexuality, value, and more. Schedule TBD to best accommodate the group – please contact Courtney at youth@brecksvilleumc.com if you’re interested in joining!

Youth Annual Conference – From June 12 to 14, our middle and high school students will be attending the Fortieth Annual YAC at Lakeside. This weekend will be filled with guest speakers, leadership development workshops, concerts, devotions, and plenty of ice cream! Please pray for our young people as they give up a weekend of their summer vacation to dedicate to the Lord, for traveling mercies, and for a strengthened sense of community and faith.

YSP – Please continue to support our Youth Service Project fundraisers! With just over a month left until our trip, we are in full “prep” mode! Sincere thanks to all who have supported us so far this year through Music with a Mission and the Plant Sale.

- **Flamingo Flockings** - They’re baaaack! We had so much fun with our Flamingo Flocking fundraiser last spring, we’re bringing it back! This fundraiser could bring a flock of pink plastic birds to your front lawn for 48 hours before they fly the coop and find another BUMC member’s yard to call home. Flockings and insurance will be available for purchase on Sundays throughout the month of June.
- **Mock Stock** - YSP’s traditional Mock Stock fundraiser will be offered each Sunday in June between services. Please help support YSP with your donation for Mock Stock. Your ‘investment’ supports our BUMC high school youth on their mission trip to Pocahontas, Virginia, and ‘appreciates’ in ways only God can predict!

VBS, July 13-17 – This year, we’re REDEFINING Middle School VBS. This week is going to be all about acting as the hands and feet of Jesus, and serving! To find more information, and to register, visit the church website today!

www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/youth/vbs/



Three flocks that landed in 2014.

Staff Question of the Month

What's Your FAVORITE SEASON?

- I'm a summer girl for sure... rely on a space heater from September to May (early June?)
- Summer - I love the heat!
- There are only two seasons - winter and baseball. I don't like winter. I love the Cleveland Indians!
- I love spring because I am filled with hope as I work in my garden and see all the new growth. I love being outside and working in the soil.
- My favorite season is probably fall because of all of the beautiful colors. Spring is also a favorite because of all the flowers that start to bloom and winter is over.
- Summer, because I like it hot!
- I enjoy Spring, when the grass begins to green, the first blooms appear and our street lined with Bradford Pears are full of showy white blooms. New life springs up and bursts out and brings me back to life and energy after the cold, barrenness of winter.
- Fishing Season!

A. Joy. B. Courtney. C. Melanie
D. Jenny. E. Jeff. F. Leslie. G. Pastor Barbara H. Pastor Clark

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Middle School VBS, too!

Monday July, 13
through Friday July 17
9 am - 12 pm each day
[2015.cokesburyvbs.com/
brecksvilleumc.com](http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/brecksvilleumc.com)

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

Consider adding the following to your prayer list...

Do you know that Brecksville United Methodist Church has an active e-mail Prayer Chain? To be added to the e-mail list, or to submit a prayer request, please contact Elrowan33@aol.com.

- Let our prayers be with the victims of the earthquakes in Nepal, the floods in Texas, and other environmental disasters.
- Offer a prayer of thanks that the Ebola crisis seems to have come to an end in Liberia, and pray for continued recovery from economic ramifications of the crisis.
- Pray for those graduating this spring, that their lives will be rich, that their spirits will grow, and that they will choose a life of faith.
- Say a prayer of thanks that summer is here!

PRESENCE

Date	First Service	Education Hour	Second Service	Goal of 300
April 26	125	69	75	-100
May 3	133	74	85	-82
May 10	200	109	118	+18
May 17	132		182	+14

We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. We met that goal twice in the last four weeks! Can we keep it going into the summer? We can!

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
April 26	\$6,441
May 3	\$7,999
May 10	\$8,685
May 17	\$5,652

SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month (look for details in this issue of *The Good Word*):

- ▶ Serve as an usher during 10 o'clock worship service this summer. Help welcome everyone to church!
- ▶ Help keep the church clean and ready for service during Jeff & Scott's vacation this summer.
- ▶ Help serve Grandma's Cherry Pies, and other delights, at the UMW booth during Home Days. If you can't help out, come and eat! See details inside this issue.
- ▶ Be part of the Bike Round up this summer! Donate a used bike or bike parts, or help spruce up the donated bikes for kids in need.
- ▶ Join the VBS team. There are so many ways to help!
- ▶ Be a part of the Fall Fun Day festivities. Planning starts now! Join the team! Call the office to sign up.

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website!

The people of The United Methodist Church are putting our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, which is [our church's mission](#). Through the power of our connection, we are making a positive difference in more than 125 countries.

United Methodist News

New Businesses Bud in Haiti Through UMCOR-Supported Candle-Making Enterprise

By Susan Kim, From www.umcom.org

May 7, 2015—Haiti could soon have a new, strong set of grassroots women entrepreneurs, thanks to Prosperity Catalyst, a nonprofit with the mission of launching and fostering independent, women-led businesses in distressed countries.

UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is supporting Prosperity Catalyst through a grant that is helping assess exactly how small businesses can grow in Haiti. The assessment is focusing on candle-making enterprises that will create opportunities for vulnerable women to become empowered entrepreneurs.

Being a mother in Haiti

As Mother's Day approaches, mothers in Haiti face particularly large challenges. In the wake of the 2010 earthquake, the world reached out to help support the country's recovery. UMCOR responded with humanitarian relief as well.

With 80 percent of Haitians still living in poverty, the health situation of women and families is dire. Haitian women have a life expectancy of less than 63 years, and the infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the world. Lack of employment and economic opportunity impact these conditions.

"Our mission is to go to those places on the globe where women are most distressed," explained Libby McDonald, executive director of Prosperity Catalyst. "We are working with people who have never gotten a business opportunity that works. That's a dramatic shift."

Studies show that when women are gainfully employed, their families thrive. Increased doctor visits, the ability to pay for school fees, and the ability to provide more frequent, healthier meals for their families are all benefits of women's economic empowerment.

Analyzing the local market

UMCOR partnered with Prosperity Catalyst in 2013 to launch a pilot project to establish a women-focused candle enterprise. It brought together 20 women between the ages of 20 and 60. All were identified as economically vulnerable or escaping gender-based violence.

The new UMCOR grant builds on that experience and supports the women's efforts to take their experience to the next level.

Building a business in Haiti requires a business plan every bit as sophisticated as that needed to start a tech firm in Silicon Valley. As entrepreneurs in Haiti develop their candle-making operations, they will be strengthening the local supply chain through careful business planning, said McDonald.

"These small enterprises will be enlivening the local economy," she said. "For the candles, we have been assessing how to access the local network of beekeepers and local bee farmers. That's just one example."

The assessment UMCOR has helped to fund will answer questions crucial to sustaining a lasting business: what is the local demand? What is the potential for exports?

"We are helping women think strategically about the demand and their own capacity," said Stephanie Finigan, director of operations for Prosperity Catalyst. "We think very analytically and we are data-driven. I believe that's what makes us unique in terms of development work that helps entrepreneurs."

Your gift to [UMCOR Sustainable Recovery and Development, Advance #3021951](#), supports programs that engage communities recovering from disasters and building a strong, sustainable future.



facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC



twitter.com/BrecksvilleUMC



pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc

THE SUNDAY BLAST

A weekly e-mail Newsletter.

Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings, Announcements, Upcoming Events and More. To subscribe, e-mail office@brecksvilleumc.com