

THE COMPASS

August 2025



**BRADDOCK
STREET**
United Methodist Church

THIS MONTH'S SERMON SERIES



For most of us, summer involves getaways and escapes. When we getaway with God, we reset our priorities spiritually and open up to the new reality of God's purpose in our daily lives. Join us as we getaway with God on mountain hikes, road trips and fishing holes.

-Pastor Jason

DAMASCUS MISSION TRIP

By Chuck Drake

Hurricane Helene, the deadliest storm to hit the US since Hurricane Katrina, came ashore in late September 2024 taking a devastating path through multiple states including Southwest Virginia. The Baptist General Assembly of Virginia immediately established a disaster response center in flooded Damascus, Virginia for emergency feeding and coordination of recovery efforts with other faith groups. Having worked with this organization in the past in Grundy, Virginia, we sent our first team of adult volunteers to Damascus in November, 2024.

We recently sent another team of volunteers to Damascus from 6/22 - 6/26 where we worked with fellow volunteers from two other Methodist congregations. We worked on several home sites including flood damaged houses, newly constructed homes and donated homes in need of renovation. To date, 80 homes have been renovated, repaired or new homes built with dedicated volunteer labor by several different faith groups. While work at this disaster site is nearing completion, we know there will be need for Christian volunteer work in the future. Adult mission disaster response depends on people willing to dedicate 3 - 5 days of their lives to show our presence in religious service. Building skills are optional when showing your faith.



BELIZE MISSION TRIP RECAP

By Jill Barker

The team met very early in the morning on Saturday, June 28 to travel to Belize. Once we were through Customs, we met our trip leaders, Reina and Arodi, and our bus driver, Lendale. We checked in at our campground in Yo Creek and then headed over to Trial Farm Full Gospel Church in Orange Walk where we met Pastor Mosa and started preparing for our week.

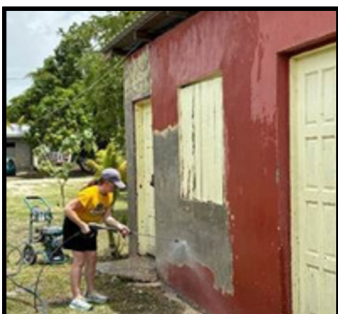


On Sunday, June 29, we went back to Trial Farm to attend Sunday School and meet some of the children attending the church. We went shopping to get food and basic housing supplies for church members. Thanks in part to Braddock Street's commitment to missions, we were blessed to purchase at least two weeks worth of food and supplies for these members. "Loaves and fishes" came up more than once! We finished our day by attending a church service spoken in both English and Spanish and met many church members. It was a long but rewarding day!

Monday, June 30 was packed from morning to evening. We divided into three groups in the morning. One went to deliver our food/housing packages to church members. We spent time talking to and praying over the church members, which was a true blessing. Another prepped supplies for our afternoon sports and crafts ministry. The remaining group went to Shipyard, a Mennonite community. The funds allocated for our team service project were used to purchase ceiling supplies for the church which was damaged the previous week due to flooding. The funds should have only covered approximately one-half of the ceiling. The Mennonites provided a substantial discount, and all of the ceiling supplies were able to be purchased! The church members were quite excited at this incredible blessing! They closed the church for the week to install it. It was finished by the time we returned home.



While the ceiling was being worked on, we spent time preparing the concrete exterior for painting. A neighbor was gracious enough to share his power washer with us to prepare the church walls. Matt stayed behind with Pastor Mosa to work on the church while the rest participated in the sports and crafts ministry. We played many games, drew with chalk, blew bubbles, and made and decorated homemade frisbees. Monday night ended with a youth and young adult night that the team organized. We went back and forth between songs and games. There was so much laughter and joy! The Dicksons led a great devotion all about buckets. When we finished, our new friends weren't quite ready to leave, so we continued to sing. It was a day where we saw Christ at work pretty much everywhere we turned.



BELIZE MISSION TRIP RECAP

(continued)

Tuesday, July 1 involved a lot of bus driving. We traveled to Altun Ha, the Mayan Temples! We had a lovely tour, and as we returned to Orange Walk, one of the bus tires blew out. We made it back to the church safely and began painting the church. A few of the team members stayed at the church to paint while the others went to the basketball courts to play with the children. We made lots of balloon animals, decorated and created homemade fidget spinners, and played all sorts of games, including ones with the parachute. By the time dinner was served, one side of the church had been painted! After dinner, we went shopping to get school supplies for some of the church members.



Wednesday, July 2 was our final day at Trial Farm. Saying goodbye to our new friends was bittersweet, but we are so grateful for all that they have shared with us. We continued food and supply deliveries to church members. There was time in the afternoon to deliver the school supplies purchased Tuesday evening. The painting of the church was completed, and we power washed and began to prime the meeting room. We also had our final day of sports and crafts ministry. It was our busiest day, and it was wonderful to be able to give each of the children a drawstring bag with bubbles and some snacks at the end. We had one final amazing meal - barbecued chicken and cold Coca Cola! Our time at Trial Farm ended with a lovely farewell service at the church and an opportunity to chat with our new friends one more time.



Early Thursday, July 3 we left Yo Creek to drive to Belize City and took a boat over to Caye Caulker. We fed some tarpons and snorkeled in gorgeous water among sharks, sting rays, and fishes. We had time to explore the island, and took some snapshots. It was a great opportunity to share where we saw and felt God at work this week as well as the bittersweetness that comes from realizing how much more there is to do here. We are thankful to work with a ministry like Praying Pelicans that will continue to assist our new friends.

Friday July 4, we began the trek back home. We were thankful for flights that were on time and quick custom re-entries. It was exciting to see the sky come to life through Fourth of July fireworks, but we were even happier to see our loved ones as we left the airport and returned home. Thank you again for all your prayers and support in helping us be able to serve in Belize! We are so thankful to have been able to serve as His hands and feet there, and we are even more grateful for what we have gained in return by trusting in His plans.



STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION A SPECIAL EVENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By Ellen Schwalenstocker

Saturday, August 23 - 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

The Climate Change Team of the BSUMC Social Justice Initiative invites you to join us for a special event, featuring Nick Snow, MD, Adjunct Professor of Health Professions at Shenandoah University. Hear the latest news on climate change, how it affects us locally, and what we can do about it.



This gathering is open to all and welcomes your ideas on how we can take meaningful steps – big or small – toward sustainability in our community. Whether you have suggestions for energy conservation, waste reduction, or local outreach, your voice matters. As stewards of God's creation, let's come together in fellowship to care for our shared home. We look forward to seeing you there! Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Ellen Schwalenstocker (ESchwalen@gmail.com)

"All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it." (UMC Social Principles ¶160) "The spiritual call – especially in a time of ecological loss – is loud." (Nick Snow, Winchester Star Commentary Open Forum) UMC Social Principles ¶160

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE - POVERTY/HUNGER POD

By David Titus



The Poverty/Hunger pod within the Social Justice Initiative is looking for additional members to help with direction and actions to better meet our mission. We are looking for ways to make people more aware of poverty and hunger in our area and beyond, and to change hearts towards those in need. If interested please contact David Titus. Email: DavidATitus68@gmail or (540) 327-8486. Thank you.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Ministry of Music

George Amos

george@braddockstreetumc.org.

Bel Canto (youth handbell choir).

We play once a month during the 8:45 AM worship service. All youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to participate. Invite a friend! Our first rehearsal will be August 17 at 5:00 PM. Rehearsal time is subject to change during the year due to availability and schedules. We will meet in the Gathering Space in the Sanctuary building.



Children's Choir

We sing for Children's Sabbath in September and perform two musicals a year. Our Christmas musical will be Sunday, December 21 at the 8:45 AM worship service. Our musical in the spring will be TBD based on availability and schedules. All children in grades K-5 are invited. Interested children in Pre-K need to get George's approval. Please invite a friend! Our first rehearsal will be August 17 at 6pm. We will meet in the Gathering Space in the Sanctuary building.

YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 19 - 20

Camp Overlook in Keezletown, VA

The Retreat Leader will be Rev. Paige Swaim-Presley who serves at Blacksburg UMC and the theme is "Walking Together, Connecting in Faith." Young women 18 - 40 years old are invited to attend. You do not need to be a member of Braddock Street UMC to attend. The Registration Form and scholarship information are available by contacting Megan Pugh, President of Braddock Street's UWF, at mpugh08@gmail.com.

LADIES' TEA

Saturday, September 27

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Join us for tea, finger foods, and a relaxing afternoon together! Stay tuned for more details.



United
Women
in Faith

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, October 18

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Cost: \$20 (Scholarships available.)

Light breakfast and boxed lunch included

Tikkun Olam:

Repairing the World through Story, Art and Humor

More details coming soon.

KIDS CHURCH

AUGUST SCHEDULE:

August 3 - Prayer Celebration: We will do a prayer walk, sidewalk chalk gospel, devotion time, prayer rocks and snack in the prayer garden after the children's moment during the 10:00 AM service. The rain plan will be to meet in room 201.

August 10 - Backpack Blessings service. Bring your school back packs to the service.

August 17 - Fall Promotion Sunday All kids Ages 3 - 5th grade, AND all 5th graders- rising 6th graders will join for a special celebration in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Parents must attend the first half hour to register your child and sign up for Children's Ministry needs. Please note that kids will not be in worship this day.

August 24: Regular schedule.

August 31- Regular schedule.

2025 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

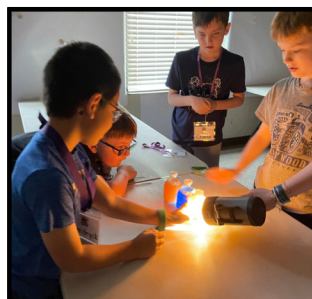
We celebrate all of Braddock Street for all your great support for Vacation Bible Camp! Thank you to everyone for all donations small or great, sharing your time and talents, and with creating beautiful props! This year, we had about 124 kids and over 75 helpers, leaders and volunteers. Each day the kids brought in bags of food for our mission offering project which went to help the BSUMC Backpack Ministry. We received over 200 donations!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Director of Children's Ministries
Patty Singhass



During our regular Kids Church schedule, all kids start in the 10:00 AM worship service. After the children's message, we travel to Kids Church with the leaders. Parent pick up at the classrooms. The nursery is open to all ages 12 weeks - 3 years.



JUST NEIGHBORS FUNDRAISER LATIN FESTIVAL

September 20, 2025: 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Building Bridges at Braddock is very excited to host a fun-filled fundraiser for Just Neighbors on September 20 from 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Just Neighbors is a non-profit organization that provides free humanitarian immigration legal services to low-income immigrant families working towards U.S. citizenship. Check out all of the fun activities:

- Entertainment from Folklore es Vida, a group of women who like to promote and show the different cultures of Latin American countries through dance.
- El Charro Robles, Mexican singer
- Food from Antojitos Mexicanos
- Cake auction
- Silent auction that will feature some of the following items:
 - 2 Washington National tickets
 - A 1 year-long family of four membership to Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum in Winchester, VA ~ \$125 value
 - Beach week in the Outer Banks
 - Orioles tickets
 - Rock Harbor golf & lunch for 4
 - \$250 Wegmans gift card
 - Multiple \$100 gift cards restaurants, Martins, Lowes, Home Depot
 - Gift baskets
- A short formal program from a representative from Just Neighbors including a short client video about the impact of Just Neighbors.



The cost is \$25/ticket. Children under 12 are free! Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code. We are very happy to raise funds for this worthy cause. Join us!

BUILDING BRIDGES AT BRADDOCK

Wednesdays - 6:00 - 7:30pm

Beginning September 10

Building Bridges at Braddock (Construyendo Puentes) starts back up on Wednesday, September 10th and runs throughout the school year, ending in May. Wednesdays classes are from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.

We are looking for ESL teachers. You do NOT need to speak Spanish, but you do need to have a heart for our students and excitement to teach! We have the curriculum and we offer you the opportunity to be in community with our Latino Ministry. We ask teachers to arrive 15 minutes early to be prepared and ready to greet your students. Contact Margie Hernandez ASAP! hernandez429@comcast.net (703) 431-7400





STUFF THE SHELVES WITH BLUE JEANS

July 28 through August 17, 2025

Cleaning out your closets, getting ready for the new school year & not sure what to do with the blue jeans your kids have outgrown??

CCAP is in desperate need of blue jeans – Mens, Womens, Teens & Kids, in all sizes.

Please help us stuff the shelves for our neighbors in need.



Donations may be dropped off Monday thru Friday between 9am and 2pm at 112 S. Kent St. Call CCAP at 540-662-4318 for a scheduled donation drop off if these hours don't work with your schedule. Or contact Charlene Falkner through Facebook IM, or Team Reach and I will be happy to pick your donations up and deliver them to CCAP.

Immigration Clinic

Saturday, August 9
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Montague Ave. Methodist Church

**3 SPANISH
SPEAKING
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Volunteers needed
Scan to sign up or email:
Mike Kasper at cwcollector@aol.com

Vital Signs:

YTD Average In-person Worship: 387
YTD Average Online Worship: 92
YTD Giving: \$17,157 ahead of budget

Monthly Budgeted Offering: \$85,128
January Offering: \$84,329
February Offering: \$92,977
March Offering: \$107,640
April Offering: \$77,847
May Offering: \$81,356
June Offering: \$84,134

STAFF DIRECTORY

Lead Pastor: Jason Duley

jason@braddockstreetumc.org

Associate Pastor: Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings

ahnnaalise@braddockstreetumc.org

Minister of Music: George Amos

george@braddockstreetumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries: Patty Singhass

patty@braddockstreetumc.org

Finance/Communications Admin: Rachel BeDell

rachel@braddockstreetumc.org

Secretary: Deya Hamilton

deya@braddockstreetumc.org

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Frank Sherman

frank@braddockstreetumc.org

Organist: Bill Baber

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Worship Video Arts: David Titus

david@braddockstreetumc.org

Building Superintendent: Jay Quintin

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Kitchen Manager: Sandi Webster

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**BRADDOCK
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A full directory of 2025 Church Leadership is available on request.

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