

# MCKOWNVILLE CHURCH NEWS

Volume 7 No.5

LOVE GOD, FOLLOW JESUS AND PASS IT ON!

May 2016

*Spirit Filled, Mission Driven*

*Articles for the  
June Newsletter  
are due by  
May 20.*



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## Brooks BBQ!

Make sure to stop  
my our 60th Brooks  
Barbeque:



**Saturday, May 7th**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**7:00 p.m.**

### Summer Sessions

begin on June 12 (special service in the park). This means only one service at 9:30 a.m. Also, starting June 19, worship will alternate weekly between praise and traditional worship services.

**REMINDER** - The church's fiscal year end is June 30. To those who are current or ahead on their pledges, a BIG thank you! If those who are behind could fulfill their pledges by June 30, the church will end the year on a more positive financial note. Thanks to all who contribute to our missions, programs and outreach!

~ Barbara O'Neill, Financial Secretary

### SPAC EVENT: COME ONE, COME ALL!

The date for our August outing to SPAC has been booked for Saturday, August 13, 2016. We will have dinner at the Hall of Springs at 6:00PM and then walk across the lawn to the amphitheater where the program will be:

Sophisticated Ladies: A celebration of the groundbreaking icons of American popular song, from Ella Fitzgerald to Sarah Vaughan to Dinah Washington and of course, Billie Holiday.

**CONTACT Marion Leizer** for info or to make reservations (\$67/person). Tickets are refundable before July 20th.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is here and it is the season to go back to gardening. Since I have lived in an apartment now almost two years ago, I have missed my own personal garden a lot. I remember when I started serving a church years ago I also started making and expanding gardens of the parsonage. I started making a small garden and it soon became several patches of garden. After many efforts and with much energy, flowers showed off their beauty, uniqueness, unity and harmony within a couple of years.

Gardening has been a joy for me. Making and tending and sauntering around the gardens were part of my daily routine during the summer. I picked how to grow some vegetables from my own experiences of long time ago. I grew up on a farm and many days each year I had to help my parents to plant, water and weed. Everything was done by hand and it was tedious and boring for me a teenager. I thought I would never enjoy garden work. But when we started a ministry, my wife wanted to make a garden and church family members started bringing flowers for my newly-made gardens. I planted those flowers and vegetables and watered and weeded them and soon I came to feel a certain bond with those plants. Garden work was a source of my joy and peace.

In making and tending gardens there was role assigning between my wife and I. My wife had ideas for the garden and gave me tasks to do and I carried them out. She was a brain and I was brawn. She was software and I was hardware.

Gardening has been an amazing wisdom book for me. I have learned a lot of lessons for life and ministry from my gardening. Gardens always reflected what I did for them. If they were cared and tended well, they showed up in a good shape. The more I put my heart and hand, the more beautiful they turned out.

And I came to know that flowers seem not to be very different from people. Some flowers are splendid, whereas some are shy. Some are flamboyantly bloviating, while some are coyly reserved. Some are individualistic, while some are corporate-minded. But every flower needs care and love.

Some flowers are so sensitive to a new environment that when they are transplanted they soon wilt and wither and eventually die. Some flowers adjust themselves to the new environment quite well and show no sign of needing to be cared for. Once planted it seems to grow naturally.

Some of the many lessons that I have learned from gardening are the significance of waiting and patience for life and ministry. A garden always takes time until it gets into good shape—this is much like ministry. Like flowers need water, weeding, fertilizer, and so on, ministry needs loving care and patience.

As a church, we are a garden of God. In that garden we are diverse and different in shape and size, color and contour, but make a beauty through harmony and unity. And so we are giving joy and honor to God in our own ways. And God is the greatest gardener. We will be tended by Him when we are planted and grow together.

I hope you enjoy gardening again this year.

*By Charlie Yang*



## Grace Period

The definition of grace period is: *the extra time allowed before having to pay a debt or complete a transaction.*

It's a commonly used phrase, and it has a bit of a compassionate ring to it. A grace period – when the bank allows an extra week to make a payment before we incur a late charge. Students sometimes receive a grace period when handing in assignments. Sometimes we use the term in our everyday lives and say, “don’t worry about it, pay me back next week, I’ll give you a grace period.”

A grace period can be very helpful, or it may be a danger zone. For example, if we’re returning from a trip, and simply need a few more days to make a payment, it can save us from an unnecessary late fee. Thankfully, whoever it is we owe the money to understands that from time to time, we need a grace period.

On the other hand, a grace period can lead to trouble. For example, if the credit card bill is due, and we utilize the full grace period while running up charges for next month, we might find ourselves behind the curve in just a couple short weeks when the “rent is due” again. The friendly firm that offered the grace period the first time, might not be so accommodating next time around. And so it goes in our daily lives, we can be grateful for our occasional grace periods, or we may look back and view them as a slippery path.

Where the true beauty of a grace period comes to life is in our walk with Jesus. Jesus always offers us a grace period. In fact, when we place our trust and faith in Him, our entire lives are grace periods. Jesus paid for all of our sins many, many years ago on the Cross. We have no debt to pay Him. Where a banker’s grace period may save us from a penalty on a loan, Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin, and the grace period never runs out!

We have our ups and downs in life. And we have our grace periods that may be part of a written contract, or simply sincere words stated from a friend. But, there is nothing close to the grace period that Jesus has offered each of us.

When our faith is in Him, we live our lives, every hour of every day, in a grace period given to us freely by God Himself, through His Son.

Jesus paid our debt for sin, and He offers us forgiveness for our past, present and future. With Jesus we can live our lives in peace knowing that He provided us with an ***unlimited and guaranteed grace period.***

*Have a wonderful spring,*

*Dom Perfetti*





# HISTORICAL NOTE:

## Sunday School - Not Just Children

*Sunday School has been part of McKownville Methodism since before the church was built.*

A Sunday School was maintained in the eastern part of the Town of Guilderland before 1860. The Bible classes would have been for adults. It was noted in August 1867 for the Guilderland and McKownville charge: "There are connected with these [two Sabbath] Schools two Bible Classes of considerable interest and could they be better supplied with a Teacher I think they would be the Source of much good. I am not able to report what attention your S. School Committee have given to the Schools during the current Quarter.

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference for Guilderland circuit in February 1880, Aaron Oliver was approved as *Sunday School Supt. for the East Church* [built 1866 in McKownville].

In May 1911 the weekly Altamont News reported McKownville's afternoon service and sermon at 2:30 "promptly" with the *Sunday school meeting* as usual *immediately after the service of worship*. (It was the Guilderland Methodist Episcopal Church which had the privilege of Sunday morning service with the joint pastor.)

In 1921 *Sunday school continued in the summer except for a 4-week all-church vacation break*. "The picnic of the Sunday School held at McKown's Grove last Saturday was well attended. .... There will be no services in the church the first four Sundays in August, the vacation period. Sunday School and services will again be held August 23th for the first."



ca. 1947 Sunday School class (church did not become United M. C. until 1968)

A small one-story wood frame apartment dwelling on the property was converted and refurbished to accommodate added facilities for the Sunday School program. The newly acquired land also afforded off-highway parking for church use.

Following World War II, from 1947 through 1953 the growth from suburban expansion had so taxed the church facilities that an expansion program was felt necessary. During this period, Sunday School enrollment grew from 92 to 200 students and worship attendance from 54 to 170.

In 1954 a 23-acre plot of land bordering the church property was purchased. A



In back, chicken coop -> apts. -> SS

An educational wing was added 1959/1960 to the church structure along with a new sanctuary. A picture of the 1965/66 Adult Bible class shows five women and four men present. In September 2006 rotational stations were started in Sunday School for preschool through grade 6 classes.

## YOUTH NEWS

**CONFIRMATION:** Seven youth have been working with mentors on a course of study to lead them toward confirmation. Join us **June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am** to congratulate these students on their studies and welcome them into membership in our congregation!

### Our Youth Programs:

#### Sunday School

9:15 a.m. (Sept.-June)

—JR. High Class (grades 6-8)

—High School Class (grades 9-12)



#### Youth Group

—Senior High Youth Groups for 9th-12th grade and held each Sunday during the school year (Sept.-June) at 7:15 p.m. (varies for special events).

★ Contact **Angela Stott** for more information about youth involvement and activities. **Phone:** (518)-456-6528. **Email:** [ASTott@AAAHV.COM](mailto:ASTott@AAAHV.COM)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Adult Forum Series Sundays at 9:30am & Mondays at 7pm

### Does God Exist? Building the Scientific Case

Can we prove the existence of God, or are we left to grapple in the dark and take blind leaps of faith about what we believe?

Everyone asks these questions, and maybe you think you have the answers. But can you defend your beliefs when peers and professors are challenging your worldview?

In *True U: Does God Exist?* Dr. Stephen Meyer plays a sort of "philosophical survival" game pitting four worldviews against one another in the quest to decide which one gives the best answers. Dr. Meyer helps you examine the evidence and provides the tools needed to defend your faith and make it your own.

Sun 5/1 & Mon 5/2  
Sun 5/8 & Mon 5/9  
Sun 5/15 & Mon 5/16

**8:** So It Was God after All  
**9:** The Moral Evidence: Right and Wrong  
**10:** The Moral Evidence: Failure of Relativism



### New Members

Are you interested in being a part of a dynamic and vital congregation? We will be receiving NEW MEMBERS on June 5th along with new confirmands. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Charlie.

### 150 Years Celebration

The 150 years since McKownville UMC's founding will be especially celebrated in November. Sunday, November 6 will be a special combined worship service with past pastors participating. Saturday, November 19th will be a special dinner and program.

### Women Together

This group continues to meet monthly and is a small group of older women who are alone for some reason or another. We support each other because we enjoy getting together (fellowship), eating of course, considering a small spiritual topic, and occasionally doing a small service project. Contact Emma Herendeen at [eherendeen@nycap.rr.com](mailto:eherendeen@nycap.rr.com) if you are interested in joining.

### Old Magazines

Bring in your old magazines and deposit them into the container found in the rear of the sanctuary. They are taken to Albany Medical Center for use by patients & in waiting areas. We have done this for over 20 years!

### Pictures For Our Sesquicentennial

Do you have pictures of activities at church? We plan to display pictures during September, October, and November. Any photos from 1866 through present day will be appreciated and used along with those we already have in our historical files. If you only want to LOAN them please inform us. See Emma Herendeen for further details or call (518) 765-4099.



# **Brooks Chicken BBQ**

## **SATURDAY, May 7th**

### **11AM-7PM**

Full dinner includes: Brooks BBQ famous barbeque chicken, baked potato, fresh coleslaw, and dessert. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

**Adult Chicken Dinner**

**\$11.00**

**(take out or eat in)**

**Child's Dinner**

**\$8.00**

**(eat in only)**

**Chicken Only**

**\$8.50**

**(take out only)**



**MCKOWNVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1565 WESTERN AVE.  
ALBANY, NY 12203  
(near Crossgates Mall)**

## *150th Anniversary Memorial Patio*

We are moving forward with the Memorial Patio you have been hearing about for the past few months. As you know, our Church first opened its doors in 1866. Since that time it has been not only a place of Worship and Spirituality, but has provided the opportunity for hundreds of members and area residents to meet on a weekly or monthly basis for dance and yoga classes as well as for Cub and Boy Scouts, Brownies and Girl Scouts. Our Church has been a welcoming, private location, enabling many recovering alcoholics, drug addicts and gamblers to get back on their feet and become, or continue being, productive members of our community. Throughout the past 150 years our Church has been used for showers, weddings and end-of life celebrations. We host a Chicken BBQ twice a year, a Fish Fry and sell Pumpkins each fall. We have hosted Christmas tree sales, roast beef and spaghetti dinners, as well as Lost Radio Rounder's concerts. In addition, our Church is a designated voting/polling location.

Our Church has touched the lives of each and every one of you, as well as many of your friends and neighbors and we hope you will show your support for all the Church has done for you and the Community by purchasing a brick for our Memorial Patio. In the back of the Sanctuary is a sample brick. Each brick is 12" x 12" and can be inscribed with your name or the name of your loved ones either in memory or in honor of their lives. Each brick can hold up to 12 lines with 23 characters.

Each brick costs \$150 and we need to sell 400 bricks to build this Memorial Patio! When considering your purchase, please remember that the message contained within each brick you purchase, whatever it may be, will be enjoyed for generations to come. The Memorial Patio will be built outside the back of the Sanctuary and will always be available for viewing by you, your friends and family, as well as all of your descendants. Think of the smiles your Memorial Patio brick will create when your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, etc., read your name and message in the future.

**You should be receiving a letter and order form shortly if you have not already. Please follow the instructions carefully and submit your order by June 3rd.**

If you have any questions please send an email to Trustee Noreen VanDoren at [Norvandoren@yahoo.com](mailto:Norvandoren@yahoo.com) with your contact information and she will assist you.

If you know of others in the community, whether they be former church members, friends, relatives or community members, who may be interested in purchasing a Memorial Brick, feel free to share Noreen's email address with them to start the process to join in this historical event. Let's start creating memories!





## MAY DUTIES CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS/ USHERS</u>	<u>LAY WORSHIP LEADER</u>
<b>May 1</b>	Darcianne Leizer, Tricia Stott	Diane Steffens
<b>May 8</b>	Alan Longshore, Norman Swanson	Angela Stott
<b>May 15</b>	Barbara and Paul Cullen	Paul Scoville
<b>May 22</b>	Bob Griffin, Todd Nemic	Kim Keane
<b>May 29</b>	Pat and Doug Arnott	Nancy Rutenber



**Greeters & Ushers Coordinator:** Pauline Martin - 456-3784

**Coffee Hour Coordinator:** Chris Steffens - 608-5300

**Lay Worship Leader Coordinator:** Nancy Rutenber - 456-0412

\* Please note that Greeters and Ushers duties are now combined.

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

### Anniversaries

### Birthdays

17 – Ric & Carol Barre

17 – Bill & Charlotte Seim

20 – Flo & Dan Willey

26 – Tim & Julia Roske

26 – John & Wendy Fox

30 – John DeFrancisco & Karen  
Tedesco

2 – David Atwood

3 – Phyllis Veley

3 – Michaela DeFrancisco

6 – Zachary Visker

6 – Amanda Markessinis

6 – Joan Pare

8 – Lindsay Jones

9 – Peggy Breakell

9 – Jackson Wells

10 – Robert Griffin

11 – Allison Van Doren

14 – Patrick Braun

17 – Robert Ezekiel

17 – Chris Van Doren

22 – Gail Van Patten

23 – David Smith

24 – Moryina Cole

26 – Barbara O'Neill

27 – Clyde Rivenburg

27 – Kathy Bond

27 – Mary Sottong

28 – Kerry Ann Williams

28 – Anne Calvagno

29 – Pat Beauregard

29 – Ann McCarthy

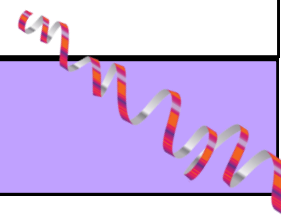
29 – Chris Scoville

30 – Virginia Van Zandt

31 – Caitlin Barre

31 – Chris Brewer

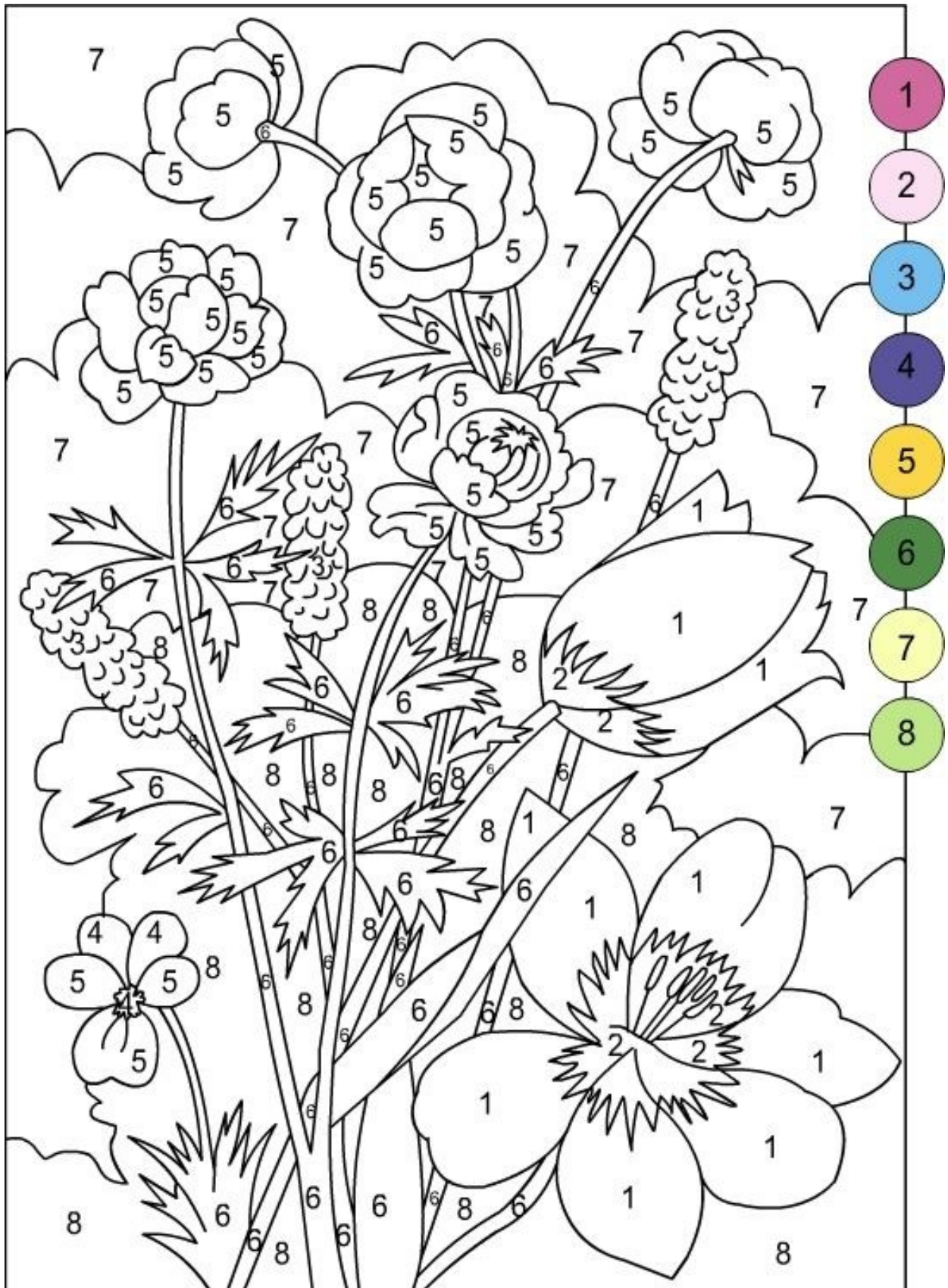
31 – Celia DeFrancisco



# MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Adult Forum 9:30 am Praise Service 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am	<b>2</b> Adult Forum 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> A.A. 4:30 pm	<b>4</b> Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehears- al 7 pm	<b>5</b> TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am	<b>6</b> Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	<b>7</b> Brooks BBQ! 11:00 am- 7:00 pm A.A. 7:00 am
<b>8</b> Adult Forum 9:30 am Praise Service 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am	<b>9</b> Adult Forum 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm	<b>11</b> Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehears- al 7 pm	<b>12</b> TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am	<b>13</b> Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> A.A. 7:00 am
<b>15</b> Adult Forum 9:30 am Praise Service 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am	<b>16</b> Adult Forum 7:00 pm	<b>17</b> A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm	<b>18</b> Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehears- al 7 pm	<b>19</b> TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am	<b>20</b> Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	<b>21</b> A.A. 7:00 am
<b>22</b> Adult Forum 9:30 am Praise Service 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am	<b>23</b> Adult Forum 7:00 pm	<b>24</b> A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm	<b>25</b> Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehears- al 7 pm	<b>26</b> TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am American Sew- ing Guild 12:30 pm	<b>27</b> Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	<b>28</b> A.A. 7:00 am
<b>29</b> Adult Forum 9:30 am Praise Service 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am	<b>30</b> Adult Forum 7:00 pm	<b>31</b> A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:15 pm	<div> <p><u>Sundays</u></p> <div>           9:30am- Praise            9:45am-Sunday School            11:00am—Worship            2:45 pm— Praise Team            Practice         </div> <div>           4:00pm— Quintessence            4:30pm— Wesley Ringers            5:45pm—New Song            6:30pm— Higher Up         </div> </div>			

# Color by Number!





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Twitter: McKownville Church  
@McKownvilleUMC

The Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor  
E-mail: pastorcyang@gmail.com

Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday: 9am-1pm

## Ministry and Team Leaders of the McKownville United Methodist Church

### Board of Trustees:

James Stott: Chair & Sexton Liaison  
Kelly Visker: Vice-Chair & Furnishings  
Whitney Daigler: Building Use Coordinator  
Chris Brewer, Frank Benjamin, Chris Spencer:  
Grounds & Planned Maintenance  
Steve DiDonna: Secretary  
Matt Gillam: Insurance  
Noreen Van Doren: Leases & Legal Affairs

### Ministry Teams:

Leadership Council: Paul Krekeler, Team Leader

Staff/Parish Relations: Leith Mead, Team Leader  
Douglass Arnott, Tara Brewer, Michelle Clark, Michael  
Keane, Alan Longshore, Oakley Neitzel, Scott  
Rosecrans, Nancy Rutenber Patti Krekeler.

Finance: Paul Scoville, Team Leader  
Treasurer & Payroll: Tim Pierce  
Finance Secretary: Barbara O'Neill

Worship: Charlie Yang, Team Leader

Evangelism through Outreach: Jim Bowen,  
Team Leader

Christian Education: Kim Keane, Team Leader

Memorials & Gifts: Nancy Pullen, Team Leader