

## The Testing of Our Faith

---

***<sup>6</sup> So be truly glad.<sup>[a]</sup> There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.—1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)***

Greeting my friends! Blessings to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

I write to you today from the hospital setting as Dan and I continue to rely on the Lord for the healing and strength needed each day. Definitely proving that “each day has enough troubles of it’s own” as we go one step forward and two steps back and then maybe two steps forward and one step back hoping everything will settle down completely as we pray. There have been life-threatening moments when our faith has been tested through this ordeal. We still hold to the hope we have in Jesus Christ no matter the circumstances. We have felt your prayers and God’s presence with us in the midst of these trials. We thank you for the support you’ve given to us in our time of need. We’re not there yet, but like I said, we’re trusting Jesus. He has been our strength and peace carrying us through all of this.

Despite the many scriptures that tell us that we will suffer many trials and afflictions, I honestly don’t know if my human mind can understand the reason “why” this is necessary. I can only grasp that through trials, we are forced to either trust God or to give up all hope. When faced with matters beyond our control, we can choose to trust Him or to not believe in Him and His mighty power. Our faith grows when we learn to rely solely on Him and He’s given the chance to prove himself to be real and powerful and almighty. And, that faith then would never be tested if we were never to face any times of trial where we had to rely on Him. The words from the hymn “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” come to mind...

*“Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I’ve proved him o’er and o’er!*

*Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust him more!”*

It’s hard to think of rejoicing, to count it as wonderful joy, to be tested as our faith gets challenged to endure. But, we must remember that these challenges, these tests, can be faced if we put our faith and our whole trust in Jesus. Even when things don’t go the way we hope, Jesus comforts and gives rest to our weary souls. For his faithful companionship through the storms of life, we are grateful. And our strong faith will honor and bring glory to him now and to us one day when we return to our intended eternal home.

Peace be with you all!

*~Pastor Carolyn*



A **New** monthly feature submitted by: Heather Hawley

More available at:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/the-difference-between-compassion-and-justice>

**Talk About It!** Many times, as parents, it is difficult to start conversations with our kids--period. They are busy. We are busy. And if nothing seems to be wrong, we sometimes just keep moving through our days doing the best we can. We hope to provide some excellent resources and possibly some tidbits in this new section of our MUMC newsletter to help with those conversations with our children, beginning with this short review of *acts of compassion* and *acts of justice*, both very important in our world.

As Christians, we are called to do Acts of Compassion and Acts of Justice, but sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between them. Compassion is showing kindness for another person. Justice is an action that creates a change that makes things fairer in our community or world.

Use the chart below to start this discussion with your kids. Use what seems appropriate and save the rest for another time. See what they have to say about compassion and justice! Ask them how they can or already do show compassion and justice. **Talk about it!**

ACTS OF COMPASSION	ACTS OF JUSTICE
Befriend someone who is being bullied.	Start an anti-bullying campaign at your school or in your community.
Serve meals in a feeding ministry.	Simulate a hunger experience; then raise funds and participate in a CROP Hunger Walk.
Clean out weeds or plant flowers at the church or an older member's house.	Learn about earth care. Create a ministry that leads the congregation to recycle, reuse, and reduce.
Pack lunches for the homeless.	Learn how your community is addressing homelessness and educate your congregation. Explore how you or your congregation will assist in alleviating homelessness.
Visit an animal shelter and help care for the animals.	Learn about humane treatment of animals. Work with church staff to offer a "Blessing of the Animals" service and include a time to share what you discovered.
Befriend someone who comes from a different culture.	Write a letter to your congressperson about an issue of discrimination.
Tell a responsible adult if you know someone is being abused.	Participate in a walk that brings attention to the abuse of children.

Mark your calendars! We set the meeting dates for the Education team for the rest of the year. Times for the meetings will be **6:00 PM-7:00 PM**.

Dates are:

**April 2nd**

**July 8th**

**Oct. 7th**



### **Backpack Program 2020 Backpack Leader: Patty Curtis**

Please continue to pray for this ministry. If you would like to get involved, please notify the office. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We pack them on **Fridays at 1:00 PM-1:30 PM** with the help of kids from the Ben Logan Key Club and our Youth One80. We have received some donations from people outside our church and some organizations.

Let's do what we can to keep this ministry growing! Volunteer to help pack!

### **Operation Christmas Child Shipping fund!**

We sent so many boxes we need to replenish this fund for the year of 2020! In the narthex are empty pill bottles. Fill them up with quarters. Each bottle will hold 36 quarters worth a value to \$9.00. Once it is filled you can place in the offering plate. This small bottle is enough to ship 1 shoebox and help the Gospel to be told around the world!



Sign-Ups LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

- ⇒ **We need greeters/communion servers/scripture readers for March/April**
- ⇒ **3 more Communion Servers for Ash Wednesday Service**
- ⇒ **Groups to sign up and organize and execute the community meal for Feb**
- ⇒ **Volunteer to pack backpacks for backpack program**
- ⇒ **New Landscaping team**

**New Year Brings Changes.** Patty Curtis is resigning as church secretary. The SPRC has filled the position. Some details of starting dates are still be worked out. Please stay tuned for more information.

You are invited to contribute articles, devotions, personal testimony, or other such information of interest in our church newsletter. Extra fun and humor are encouraged if it is appropriate. All entries will be subject to pastoral approval.

Please email articles to pastor or the church email at [mumcoffice@embarqmail.com](mailto:mumcoffice@embarqmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month of every month.



The Upper Room daily devotional are free and is a *great way to help us focus on him daily. Jan/Feb devotional books are available now in the narthex.* If you do not currently read them, try them! Start a new Years resolution to spend more time with God.



**Do you love getting dirty outside in the dirt?**

**Do you have a talent of arranging plants to make the world a better place?**

Come join our Landscaping team!

This group will be responsible for pulling weeds during the summer months, trimming hedges, watering plants, and planting new plants. There is a sign up in the narthex. If you have any questions contact the office.

### **Community Meal**

We are organizing and planning the community meal a little bit differently. We are looking for groups of people to plan/organize/execute the meal. There is a fund for the community meal. If you purchase food for the community meal, you can fill out a reimbursement slip and get reimbursed. A list of duties and sign - up sheet is in the narthex.

**We need a group of people to sign up for Feb. ASAP.**

The next community meal date is **Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020**

**KIDS CLUB—** This group is for Children in grades K-4th. Leader is Heather Hawley. It meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at **6:00 PM**. Feb dates are **Feb 5th & Feb 19th. Kids are invited to come have fun learning about Jesus through games, crafts and snacks!**

**Youth 58—**Youth 58 meets twice a month on Sunday evenings **2:00-3:30 PM**. This is a casual, fun group for grades 5th-8th. Meeting location is the “Henry House” the home of Kevin & Mary Henry.

**Youth One80 —**Youth One80 had a Rocking BLAST with Josh Hardman at their 5th Quarter meeting. There is one more 5th Quarter on **February 7**. We would like to thank you all who support this ministry. Without your financial donations, this ministry would not be possible.

**Birthdays:**

Joy Buffkin	2/2
Jackie Parks	2/6
Jim Craig	2/7
Patti Mally	2/16
Carolyn Brown	2/17
Megan Henry	2/21
Jared Sater	2/25
Piper Slemmons	2/28

**Anniversaries-** Fred & Pat Wagner 2/10**Ad Council Highlights:**

Pastor report : Pastor Carolyn will begin a new 4-week Bible study on Paul and the Letter to the Colossians. There are no books to purchase, just bring your Bibles. We will meet on **Tuesdays at 7 PM** in the Library beginning Chapter 1.

**Outreach** 7 families were given gifts at Christmas time. Staff received gift cards, and Homebound Seniors gifts were distributed.

**Education** Heather Hawley is the new leader for this committee. Dates for future meetings are set for the year. Plans for VBS was discussed.

**Ladies Circle** held their painting party in Dec. The next meeting is **Feb 4th**. The calendar of events will be discussed.

**SPRC committee** has hired a new church secretary. More information on starting date is being arranged. Watch for information for First Aide Training for committee Leaders.

**Trustee:** Seth Allen is the new leader for this committee. Handicap signs will be added for additional handicap parking. Shed repairs will be completed. The safe sanctuary policy was updated. It will be reviewed by all committees and the church congregation.

The media team was created and the new leader is Tom Reynolds.

**Church Hours and Contact Information:**

**Secretary: Patty Curtis Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays at 8:00AM - 12:00 PM**

**Pastor: Carolyn Christman** Also available by appointment.

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. (Lunch from 12-1:00 PM) & 1:00 – 4:00PM

Website [www.middleburgumc.com](http://www.middleburgumc.com)

Facebook Page: Middleburg United Methodist Church

Facebook Group: Middleburg Ohio UMC

Church Office Email: [mumcoffice@embarqmail.com](mailto:mumcoffice@embarqmail.com) Pastor's Email: [cjchrist4u@gmail.com](mailto:cjchrist4u@gmail.com)

Church Office Phone: (937) 666-2844

Parsonage Phone: (937) 666-0003

Pastor's Cell phone (937) 248-8930

# February 2020

SUN	MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 8:00 AM Ladies Breakfast @Der Dutchman 6:00 PM Trus- tees Meeting 7:00 PM Ladies Circle Meeting 7:00 Bible Study	5 6:00 PM Kids Club 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	6	7 5th Quarter @Firehouse	8 9:00-12:30 PM CAN Leadership@ Powell UMC
9 2:00- 3:30PM Youth 58	10	11 7:00 Bible Study	12 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	13 6:30 PM Finance Meet- ing 7:00 PM Ad Council Meeting	14 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	15
16	17	18 7:00 Bible Study	19 6:00 PM Kids Club 7:00 Praise Team Practice	20 6:00 PM Com- munity Meal 7:00 Outreach Meeting	21	22
23 2:00- 3:30PM Youth 58	24	25 6:30 PM Worship Plan- ning Meeting	26 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	27	28 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	29