



## GOD CARES

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***“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.”—1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)***

May this verse get you through these times of enduring trials. Know that God is on your side and that he cares about the small, seemingly insignificant matters of your life just as much as he cares about the BIG things happening to his people around the world.

This verse is one that I turn to often when life seems overwhelming and I get too caught up in not knowing what is in store for the future, whether we're talking the near future or many years away. There's just so much touching us right now that is beyond our control. We can have opinions. We can give input. We can still choose to do what we want within reason, as long we are willing to accept the consequences of our choices. Still, this change from our “normal” routine and interaction has been increasingly stressful for all of us. It's hard to know if we are being cautious enough or if we're overly cautious. There are no definitive answers out there when the experts can't seem to agree. We simply must seek to trust the only One with a wise, all-knowing perspective.

Recently, I've been reminded of Dan's vision from a few months ago during his time in the hospital. He promised Jesus to remind people that God wants to be involved in the small stuff as well as the big stuff of our lives. It's the only way I have found that I can live each day. I have to do what the above verse says. In addition to giving thanks, I have to tell God all my concerns, big and little, and seek him for comfort, strength, guidance, wisdom, mercy, and love. I ask him every day to help me to trust him, to trust that He is working everything together on my behalf (to my benefit). ***[Romans 8:28—“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”]*** It's a promise!

I don't know what each of you might be going through as we learn how to live with this virus and all the guidelines and restrictions. Everyone is affected in some way and it influences how we react with the world and with one another. I pray for your relationship with the Lord to be strengthened and your relationships with your friends and loved ones. Just keep leaning in on God for whatever you need whether it is patience to bear with the continually changing mandates or whether it is to bear with one another while we are all just trying to manage our emotions one day at a time. Accept the gift of the ever-present God and give all your worries and cares to him for he cares for you in the midst of all we don't understand. Wait for the Lord for he is doing great things! Amen.

Blessings of Love & Peace,

~Pastor Carolyn

**The Brevity of Life.....***What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. James 4:14 NIV*

Several years ago a university student asked me what had been my biggest surprise in life. Immediately, I replied, "The brevity of life." Almost before we know it, the years have passed and life is almost over.

On one hand, life's brevity should challenge us. If ever we are to live for Christ and share Him with others, it must be now. Jesus said, "The night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

But life's brevity should also comfort us. Life is short—and before us is eternity! When sufferings overwhelm us or difficulties assail us, we know they will soon be over. Paul wrote, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...For the things which are seen are temporary" (2 Corinthians 4:17-28).

Don't live as if this life will continue forever. It won't. Live instead with eternity in view!

#### **HOPE FOR TODAY**

You promise a harvest, Lord, to those who don't give up (Galatians 6:9).

Give me the endurance to finish strong.

I want to look back and know that I didn't waste a single moment that You gave me.

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

We sent so many boxes we need to replenish this fund for the year of 2020! Continue to fill the pill contains 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!



**Please donate the items below for each month.**

**Remember toys must be new and no military toys or liquids.**

**August** - School supplies (crayons, markers, tablets, scissors, pencils, pens & erasers)

**September** - Washcloths & bars of soap

**October** - Small Toys such as: jump ropes, matchbox cars, balls, dolls, etc. (no guns or military toys)

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) no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.**

### **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 November.** The next community meal date is **Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM.**

### **How Can I Still Give To The Church**

You can continue your giving of your tithes and offerings by mailing a check to the church or by utilizing bill pay options online from your checking account. If you need assistance with this, please contact the church office.

**Pastor's Bible Study will begin again starting in September. We will meet on Tuesdays at 7 PM in the library. This will be an in-depth 3-4 week study of Scripture regarding homosexuality and the faithful response of the church. We will explore the scriptures together and address relevant questions.**

### **Church Hours and Contact Information**

**Please like us on Facebook and stay tuned to One call for instructions to join us online for services and meetings. We will be working from home during some office hours and limited office hours. The church building is closed until further notice.**

**Pastor: Carolyn Christman** Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 PM-4:00 PM.

Also available by appointment

**Secretary: Judy Slemmons** Wednesday & Thursdays 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

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

Sign-Ups LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

- ⇒ **Groups to sign up and organize and execute the community meal for Nov. New Landscaping team**
- ⇒ **Worship Leaders**
- ⇒ **VBS Volunteers**

#### **New Path Pregnancy Center Update.**

**Website: [www.newpathprc.com](http://www.newpathprc.com)**

If you encounter someone with needs for an infant see below.

The center is closed but they will make arrangements for supplies of diapers, formula, wipes if they are a current/active client.

If someone is not a current client but has an emergency need for baby supplies please have them email with their contact information.

**Email [kshanks@newpathprc.com](mailto:kshanks@newpathprc.com)**

If you are unable to email call (937) 642-5683 and leave a message with contact information

### **August Birthdays**

Leah Deardurff	8/4
Korie Slemmons	8/6
Alaina Glunt	8/8
Kookie Berry	8/8
Karen Reiff	8/10
Russ Kienitz	8/11
Tom Spain	8/11
Emily Sater	8/12
Rachel Kienitz	8/13
Brian Johnson	8/14
Beth Marshall	8/15
Peg Hill	8/18
Dan Christman	8/20
Hollie Nease	8/21
Dave Levingston	8/22
Rileigh Eleyet	8/22
Olivia Roose	8/23
Rachel Hammer	8/24
Elias Henry	8/26
Carolyn Christman	8/29
Heather O'Donnell	8/31
Jay Ackley	8/31
Mike Funderburgh	8/31
Richard Johnson	8/31

### **August Anniversaries**

Bill & Sharon Hempy	8/2/1981
Kiel & Megan Henry	8/5
Sherl & Betty Crowder	8/10
Greg & Becky Sater	8/15
Tony and Laura Sclesky	8/17



## JULY—Administrative Council Highlights: *(Please note the ways you can help.)*

The Administrative Church Council met on July 9, 2020 and addressed the following business of the church:

Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial reports were reviewed and accepted as presented.

**Finance**—Fund balances were reviewed and allocation for transferring money from General Fund to Trustee Fund for parking lot expenses was approved. Mark Baird reported that the audit is complete. Gerry Lininger reported additional donations from memorial funds in memory of Tom Spain were used toward the purchase of media equipment. **Thank you!!!**

**Pastor's Report**—Pastor Carolyn updated the Council with information regarding the use of our church as a possible meeting site for Narcotics Anonymous. She met with the director of Logan Co./Champaign Co. Board of Mental Health and some Logan Co. court officials regarding services for helping those struggling with addiction or mental health conditions. Several of their suggestions were shared with Council and it was moved and seconded for our church to enter into a contracted agreement for meetings possibly on Fridays from 12-4 PM. Other steps and opportunities to expand our outreach were discussed and will be better defined in future meetings as we get the geographical plotting of our congregants completed and review it with our goals for the future.

**Worship**—Pastor Carolyn reported on current sanitary measures, social distancing and worship concerns. We will allow and encourage the use of the side doors as exits from the sanctuary to the parking lot following worship. We have adjusted how we receive Holy Communion in light of the concerns regarding the virus. It seems to be working well. In addition, the team suggested the use of colored wristbands to indicate our level of interaction/contact with one another. (Red-social distancing; Yellow-cautious, not touching; Green-open for hugs and high fives). We encourage the use of wristbands and the masks that are available and optional. We have considered outdoor or drive-in services as well as additional indoor services (which when surveyed, had only a single request), but feel that these are not prudent options at this time due to the summer heat and uncertainty of the weather from week to week. The online option is there for those who do not wish to attend in person in the sanctuary. Team is considering an outdoor service at the park sometime in September. Media Team is working to address the technical problems with our screens and online worship feed.

**Outreach**—Dave Hardman reported that \$14,995 was pledged to Faith Promise missions. We thank everyone for their continued support and for a successful Faith Promise Sunday.

**Youth Ministry/Education Team**—Heather Hawley reported the team is meeting via email to continue discussion regarding Vacation Bible School. The plans and schedules are being revised. The theme is built around the stories in the Sanctus Real song "Confidence." Details will be announced soon and sign-up sheets are in the narthex for volunteers to help.

**Backpack Ministry**—No report.

**Ladies Circle**—No report.

**Staff/Pastor-Parish (SPRC)**—Rob Drumm reported the Committee will be meeting with paid staff for annual review. Discussion has taken place regarding the staffing of the nursery and cleaning/sorting of toys.

**Trustees**—Seth Allen reported that the Trustees are taking the necessary preparations for a church workday following worship sometime in August or September. There are several items in need of cleaning, painting, repair or disposal, specifically benches and sheds outside. There are also several maintenance needs at the parsonage to address. **We need able bodies to paint, stain, build/rebuild as well as those with organizational skills!**

**Fellowship Team**—No report.

**Old business:** Logan Co. Fair gate July 12-17 and **Hardin Co. Fair gates September 10<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to Dana Henry for organizing and overseeing workers!

**Please help with these church fundraisers.**

**New business:** None.

Prayer concerns were shared and meeting adjourned with prayer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** feel free to speak with the Chairperson of Administrative Council or the Pastor.

**\*PASTOR CAROLYN WILL BE ON VACATION JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>-AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>**

Please contact Rev. Kathy Reiff (937-243-6965) with any pastoral needs or emergencies.

Please send all prayer requests to the church office 937-666-2844. Thank you.

**RURAL KING CHURCH WEEK—Supporting Christian Organizations**

Beginning August 2nd through August 15th, Rural King will host 'Church Week'. Through this program, customers can support their local Christian churches, schools, and radio stations. Middleburg UMC is registered so that you can donate back to us by uploading your receipts. Rural King will donate 10% of each valid Rural King receipt's total after sales tax to the registered organization chosen by the customer. All receipts must be uploaded at [www.ruralking.com/churchweek](http://www.ruralking.com/churchweek) by September 1, 2020. Again....only purchases from August 2, 2020—August 15, 2020 are eligible. If you need help uploading, please call or drop off at the church office.

## **MISC. NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to Christine and the family of Thomas (Tommie) Spain for their additional contribution in designating memorial gifts given to our church in his honor toward the expense of new technology equipment that has enabled us to live stream our worship services online. We appreciate your generosity in remembering us. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you.

**Thank you to our Media Team for all their hard work and hours invested in recent months to help to get our worship services online. A special thank you to Alicia Eleyet for putting our videos together and to Heather Hawley and Christie Barns for the slideshows. Thank you to the guys behind the scenes (Chris Hardman and Tom Reynolds), too, who have been working on the sound and technical equipment issues. We appreciate every one of you!!**

### **Reminder from Finance Team...**

We are still receiving designated gifts toward the parking lot resurfacing that was necessary last year. If you are willing and able to designate a gift, beyond your regular giving, we would appreciate you considering this project. Thank you!

### **A NOTE FROM TRUSTEES**

For the protection of the congregation during worship services, we've added some new security protocol and will be locking the interior doors of the church entrance about 15 minutes after worship begins on Sundays. If you arrive after that to find the doors locked, please call the number posted outside and someone will let you in. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE**

VBS will be held one day only on August 20th from 9:00—11:30 a.m. and is open to children going in to grades K to 5. To register go to [www.middleburgumc.com](http://www.middleburgumc.com) or call 937-666-2844.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! MORE INFO COMING...**

Please plan to help us work the Hardin Co. Fair Gates on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. This is a great fundraiser for our church and we would appreciate all the help we can possibly get. Thank you as you prayerfully consider serving!



## Let's Talk About It!

With racial tension being a headline story these days, what can we do to talk with our kids about it? How do we discuss something that most of our children don't witness regularly but must be aware of? Rev. F. Willis Johnson shares some guidance in his book *Holding Up Your Corner: Talking About Race in Your Community* (Abingdon Press, Dec. 2016). He uses the Book of Esther as an example for how we can best address racism.

Take a look at Chapter 4 in the Book of Esther. The entire Jewish community is in a perilous place. People fear for their lives. Leaders are in disagreement and disarray. Finally, one leader, Mordecai, tells another, Esther, **this is not the time to quibble, be quiet, or quit**. "Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family" (Esther 4:14 CEB). Before we consider what to do, it's helpful to know what not to do.

He moves on to explain how we can use Mordecai's advice in today's world. **Let's not quibble**. Here we talk with our children about the fact the racism exists in many forms and has taken place all over the world and even in our own community. Spend time looking together at definitions and examples. It's not about whose life matters or a slogan or a protest, with our kids it's about ALL lives mattering.

**Let's not be quiet**. With this topic in the forefront of our world right now we can't afford to be quiet about it. Esther tried to solve her people's problems by quietly scurrying around until Mordecai challenged her to step out of her comfort zone and do something about it. Even a conversation with your child about race relations can be daunting but this is not a time to be quiet. Their perspective might be refreshing for you as well.

Finally, as in Esther, **we must not quit!** If all people are made in God's image they must be treated as such. Ask your child what they see, what they have experienced and what they think could correct the wrongs in our world. Get them thinking about it now. Rev. Willis says it this way:

"For a moment like this" translates as now. We can't sit around in our ashes, thinking the time to act has passed, or not yet arrived. It is not a singular time. It is always, every time. Anne Frank wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." So, the pressure is off! We no longer need to find the right time. It is always now.

Take this advice and **talk about it** with your children and those around you and strive to share the love of Christ.

(submitted by Heather Hawley)

### Thank you's received from:

*Noritta Roush* -Thank you 'youth' very much. Your hard work helping clean out my basement was greatly appreciated. Let it never be said that the young people today do not think of others, but "Oh Yes They Do!" May God bless each of you every day and keep on doing for others.

*Rachel Sue Mears* —To all, Thank you all for the wonderful cards and gifts! I'm very excited to attend Bluffton.



Please review the calendar below for meeting times and times of worship. Contact the committee leader if you have any questions if your committee is meeting on a certain date. We are working on having some meetings via zoom, and streaming the services online. We will send out one call with instructions and cancellations as they are decided.

# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 8:00 AM Ladies Breakfast @ Der Dutchman  6:00 PM Trustees	5  7:00 Praise Team	6	7	8
9	10	11	12  7:00 Praise Team	13  6:30 PM Finance  7:00 PM Ad Council	14	15
16	17	18	19  7:00 Praise Team	20	21	22
23	24	25	26  7:00 Praise Team	27  9—11:30 VBS  6:00 Community Meal  7:00 Outreach	28	29
30	31					