

## THE BODY OF CHRIST (LOVE) IN ACTION

*<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. <sup>4</sup> Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, <sup>5</sup> for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. **Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)***

### LOVE IN ACTION

I just have to celebrate the work that I see God doing through so many of you, servants of the Lord! This is what some people don't understand about the rural church and community life here. We're still largely neighbors caring for neighbors. We share one another's burdens because we are involved in the lives of those around us. We're there to help when needs arise even in the messiest of situations.

I am so proud of how you launch into prayer and action when someone hurts or needs assistance. I see the way you drop everything to pray, the way you give when someone needs time or resources. I see the tangible ways you help a friend or neighbor out. Oh, the many of you who simply listen, encourage, and support others through temporary moments of struggle!

I see you walking with people in addiction and recovery. I see you clearing driveways, building ramps and other things. I see you standing by to help the one just released from jail, the one who just had surgery, or the one whose been having cancer treatments for some time. I see the one who brings meat and other food to a family in need of meals. I see the one making clothes for children and adults who are less fortunate or simply as a means of blessing or filling unspoken needs. I see so much goodness and fruit in you that I KNOW the Lord is in you!

We don't necessarily let people know that we belong to Middleburg UM Church when we help, but we sure do see the church, the Body of Christ in action in our community. This is what the church is supposed to be about—how we live as Christ in our daily lives. You are displaying him for He is shining through you as you serve him by caring for others. Please don't ever let your light go out for you are the beacon of hope for those who feel lost and hopeless. And remember, prayer IS action, too. When you pray, you are calling upon and releasing God's powerful intervention into a person's situation.

We may all be imperfect individually, but collectively God is working through you to do AMAZING things! You are or can be the miracle of hope for someone in your path today. I pray you will always know the difference YOU are making in our community and our world. So, don't dwell on the problems, but rejoice in the Good News of Christ who lives in you and me, Jesus, who is FOR the world.

With God's Love & Peace,

~Pastor Carolyn

## HEALING THIS LENT

We're in the season of Lent. Lord, it has felt like we've been in this season of sacrifice for so long as we've journeyed through 2020 and into 2021 enduring the restrictions of this pandemic.

Lent is a time of self-examination and reflection before God as we seek to focus solely on Him these 40 days before Easter. Before we can truly celebrate the glory of the resurrection, we must first experience the suffering of death within our spirit.

***<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23; Mark 8:34)***

This is a time of searching, self-denial, and repentance, a time of special centering and hopefully some solitude where our souls commune with God. This is a time to ponder God's deep affection and love for the human race, a time to focus on the assurance of God's love for YOU, and an opportunity to pour out God's love on others in the traditional giving of alms. It's a season of thanking God again for the merciful gift of Jesus in atonement for our sins, to thank Him for the gift of eternal life through the sacrifice of His Son. And...it's a time of spiritual renewal, a time for returning or being restored to God again and again.

For those who struggle to understand Lent, simply realize that it is a special and personal time of fully displaying our humanness, our weakness to sin, and letting God meet us in the middle of the anxious chaos of our lives. God sees us fully and honestly and knows us intimately in our thoughts, our minds, our motives, and our attitudes. He knows where we want to hide our shame or guilt and he knows where we're trying and how we're failing. He knows why we do the things we do. This is why He has come to our rescue. He knows we can't be holy and pure in thought in our current state. But, with Him, we can reach perfection in the resurrected state. Our earthly bodies made from dust are weak, but our resurrected bodies will be strong in Him. His Spirit will guide us from within and transform or change us if only we surrender these inner ways to Him. He'll guide us on a new way to a new re-created life. Many of us are already on that path. Others will hopefully come alongside us as we make the journey heavenward to our eternal home.

So, whatever you are feeling this year, wherever you are on your journey with the Lord, I pray for you to experience a deeply personal season of Lent with Him, that you might know fully his love for you as you are fully known to Him.

In Christ's Love, Your Pastor

***"There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;***

***There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul."***

***"Just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all."***

***PLEASE SEE SIGN-UPS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.***

⇒ **Worship Leaders**

⇒ **Community Meals**

**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

**March Birthdays**

Gerry Lininger	3/1
MaryBeth Roose	3/1
Pat Wagner	3/3
Nick Hagar	3/6
Josh Mears	3/9
Joe Buffkin	3/14
Kris Ackley	3/15
Sue Godwin	3/18
Cori Levingston	3/22
Seth Allen	3/25
Chris Hardman	3/25
Alan Brown	3/26
Brandi Henry	3/26

**March Anniversaries**

Alan & Carolyn Brown	3/17
Jay & Kristy Ackley	3/18
Brian & Katie Johnson	3/19
Fred & Kathy Deardurff	3/25
Travis & Brandi Henry	3/31



# DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

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

The Administrative Church Council met on February 11, 2021 and addressed the following business of the church:

- Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial reports were reviewed and approved as presented.
- **Finance**—No report other than those approved above.
- **Pastor's Report**—Pastor Carolyn presented her monthly report regarding the use of her time and reminded Council of the Secretary's Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 AM to noon. Council also responded to questions regarding the lack of generational diversity among our community of faith and ways we might expand our reach.

We reviewed the **Winter Weather Policy** in light of our online options now for worship. **Our current policy will remain in place at this time** and can be found in this issue of The Messenger. Any adjustments to this schedule due to travel conditions will be communicated through One Calls, posted on Facebook page, and shared with WPKO radio station.

We have a team of individuals equipped and willing to help congregation and community members get through the process for receiving the Covid vaccine. Please contact Pastor Carolyn or the church office if you need assistance or are willing to help others.

- **Worship Report**—We are planning for a baptism and for new members transferring their memberships at the end of February. Plans are continuing for Scout Sunday on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Plans for Holy Week consist of a skit for Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday service, and Good Friday service (with Rev. Kathy Reiff preaching/leading). Easter morning plans are for a breakfast (Ladies Circle is taking over the planning for this) and worship at 9:30. We'll continue to work with the Education Team in regard to plans for children and an egg hunt.
- **Youth Ministry/Education Team**—Pastor Carolyn read a letter of resignation from Youth Leader Heather Hawley. She will begin to transition out of this role as the SPRC begins a new search to fill this position. **We thank Heather for all her efforts and time devoted to serving our children and youth.** There is no other news to report from Education since the meeting in January as groups continue to meet.
- The **Staff/Pastor-Parish (SPRC) will meet with the Education Team** to discuss the best way to transition as the position is re-opened and new interviews are held for the Youth Leader position. The SPRC also has some other personnel matters to address and will be meeting soon to discuss them.

- **Outreach**—Nothing to report.
- **Backpack Ministry**—We are now packing 17 backpacks each week. The issue of backpacks not being returned has been addressed and many have been returned.
- **Ladies Circle**—Patti Levingston reported in Cindy Drumm's absence. They are planning to once again collect for the Food Pantry during the month of March and will be creating a list similar to the Reverse Advent Calendar for Lent. The food drive will end with a continental breakfast on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Ladies will coordinate the Easter breakfast in April. And May activities will include the Cookie delivery and annual Mother's Day banquet.
- **Trustees**—Seth Allen quickly updated Council on the committee work and maintenance needs of the church. We are still awaiting a quote from Best Door & Window for the replacement of windows in the Fellowship Hall and in the office area and classrooms at the front. The Fellowship Hall floor has been finished and buffed will soon be buffed. Alicia will work on making a video of all our property for insurance coverage, working on it the inside during the winter months and will complete the outside in the spring. We received a quote to clean the air ducts and felt this was beyond the scope of our needs at this time. Discussion continued regarding the sale of the trailer as we gather specifications and an estimated value. We have purchased a sample chair for new chairs in the library. And our men are keeping an eye on a furnace that was fixed but we may be replacing it and some AC units in the spring.
- **Media**—Nothing new to report except that we now have YouTube channel for the church.
- **Fellowship**—Patti Levingston will take over leadership of this team as Mary Jaunzemis tends to her health.
- **Old business:** None.
- **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.

### **Winter Weather Policy**

#### **If there is a Level 1 Snow Emergency –**

Sunday Worship is moved to 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School is cancelled

#### **If there is a Level 2 Snow Emergency –**

ALL church activities are cancelled

Refer to our Facebook page, webpage and WPKO for updates

## **Blessed in Eight Ways**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

### **Ephesians 1:3**

What if your real estate agent's only description of a house she has found for you is this: "You're going to love it! It's got everything you need!" Would you sign on the dotted line based only on that description? Because the agent knows your family's needs and desires, her description of the house is probably accurate. But there's something about knowing the details that gives you assurance that this house really will meet your needs going forward.

The apostle Paul wrote a statement in Ephesians 1 similar to the real estate agent's general description. He wrote that we have been "blessed ... with every spiritual blessing ... in Christ" (verse 3). That covers it, right? What more do we need to know? Thankfully, Paul went on to enumerate eight of those spiritual blessings for our comfort: We are chosen (verse 4), adopted (verse 5), accepted (verse 6), redeemed (verse 7), enlightened (verses 8-9), given an inheritance (verses 11), sealed (verse 13), and secured (verse 14).

Are you blessed [today](#)? Yes, in at least eight different ways—blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

*Every blessing God has for man is in and through Jesus Christ.*

**A. Lindsay Glegg**

*Submitted by Peg Hill*

## **FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

Care for your Neighbors!

Please join the Ladies Circle in a food drive to help support the Caring Neighbors Food Pantry. We will be collecting non-perishable food donations in the narthex for 3 weeks during March. [March 7- March 21](#). All donations will be given to this local food pantry located in North Greenfield, close to Ben Logan schools. This location normally serves 40-50 families each month. They pass out food & toiletries twice a month. They are wonderful people to work with! They have mentioned several times how much they appreciate the donations from our church family. Monetary donations are a great help as well! Please label them "food pantry" and place in the regular offering plate or mail to the church.

### **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 & Thursday 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)

#### **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.**

#### ***FOR THOSE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP DURING THIS TIME...***

PLEASE join us online each Sunday on our Middleburg United Methodist Facebook page. PLEASE stay connected and continue to be involved in fellowship and prayer for the ministry of the church even though you are unable to attend. You are still called to serve in whatever way possible. And we are doing our best to keep you informed through this newsletter and One Calls. PLEASE continue to share your praises and prayer requests with the church office or Pastor Carolyn. She remains available and on call for all your pastoral needs. She is accessible by phone, text, or email, and is willing to visit if so desired.



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**

**The next community meal will feature 'soup' on  
Thursday, March 18 at 6:00 PM.**

### **YOUTH LEADER – JOB OPENING**

Heather Hawley will be transitioning out of her role as Youth Leader. This is a part-time paid position for 8-12 hrs/week. If you are interested or know of anyone qualified for this position, please contact the church office by phone or through our website or Facebook page for more information and to receive a copy of the job description and application. An application and resume must be submitted to be considered for an interview. Thank you.

**Saint Patrick's Day**, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.



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.

# March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup></i>	1	2 8 am Ladies Breakfast  6 pm Trustees  7 pm Bible Study @ parsonage  7 pm Ladies Circle	3   6:30 pm Worship Planning	4	5	6
	7	8	9  6 pm Kids Club  7 pm Bible Study @ parsonage  7:30 Education Team	10  6:30 pm Finance  7 pm Ad Council	11	12
	14 1:30 – 4:30 pm Fellowship Hall in use  6:30 pm Youth58	15	16	17  6 pm Community Meal  7 pm Outreach  7 pm SPRC	18	19
	21 Ladies Circle Continental Breakfast  Fellowship Hall in use afternoon	22	23	24  6 pm Kids Club  7 pm Praise Team	25	26
	28  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29	30	31  6:30 pm Worship Planning		27  <i>Spring begins</i>