

“DOES IT ALIGN WITH GOD?”

Every year has challenges and each of us has different difficulties we must deal with on a seemingly regular basis from time to time. But, wow! Who could have predicted 2020? For us, Dan was in the hospital for two weeks in January, one week in February, and almost a whole week in March. Then came the pandemic with all the closures and cancellations and the continuous changing in restrictions, guidelines, and requirements seem to have been here FOREVER now. It is summer and half the year is over! Now we are living amidst protests and riots and a call for radical change in our law enforcement and judicial system. I don't know about you, but I'm not sure how much more I can take. There's so much uncertainty about so much including how school and sports programs will function in returning to classes, etc. I'm holding on to the one joy we have as a family that we hope to celebrate in 2020 with the wedding of our son, Zach to his fiancée Jessica. Their going through changes as they embark on a new life transition to owning a home and setting up a household together. Some, in our congregation, are transitioning in other ways, like moving out of their home to live elsewhere. No matter who we are or how old we are, most of us have sacrificed and given up something in these tumultuous days. We're living in the grief of disappointments caught in a cycle of perpetual change. I talked about that some last month, so I won't dwell on it in this issue.

So, how can we move forward in this time of change and letting go? Just keep moving in faith one step at a time. What could God be doing in all of this? I think God is calling us back to him. I think God wants us to seek him for truth and to seek him in his Word. I think God is giving the people of this country an opportunity to look deeper within. If only we could see the sinfulness in our hearts because even now, much of it remains hidden. While not all are lost and separated from God, many still live apart from total surrender. We sinners who are saved by grace are not exempt. We are not completely holy and sinless yet. And all kinds of new terms are floating around out there in the media (our enemy of the day) giving us an opportunity to search for knowledge and understanding, argue & debate, reflect, dialogue, etc. We will support or oppose the ideas presented to us. It all depends on what worldview we choose to adopt. I pray that we can learn to look at things from a biblical worldview, a godly perspective to the degree it is possible.

How do you determine what is true in order to respond in godly fashion?

ANSWER: READ THE BIBLE!!! DIG DEEP INTO HIS WORD AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST!!!

Please test the ideas coming from our current cultural society. Question these ideas and view them in the light of Scripture. Do the ideas so often promoted align with God's design, his promise, and his plan for humanity? Most likely they will not because the world hated Christ and evil still roams the earth seeking to destroy us.

Allow me to be specific for a moment. Racism. Is the concept of race biblical? No, tribes perhaps and division of languages, but there is no definition of skin color. That is a totally manmade concoction. We are ALL part of ONE race, the human race. Does the Bible condone inequality of slaves even when slavery existed? Or, are not all ONE in Christ Jesus. ***“There is no Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female.”*** And, as I have said before, our identity and all these labels we feel the need to name that would categorize us or divide us into groups or clans is NOT of God. Our identity and our sense of belonging are not to be found in our skin color, our sexuality, our size and shape, abilities or disabilities, or anything else but our heritage as a child of God in the body of Christ. The only matter God has ever been concerned with regarding humanity is our character and our obedient faith to trust him. Relationship is at the very core of God. Our salvation for eternal life is not based on works but on faith alone that Christ died for our sins on the cross, **including the sins of society throughout the generations.** Justice has been served. Reparations have been made. It’s time to forgive and not perpetuate prejudices or injustice of any sort. And through the God of three persons, we will be made holy and presentable to God through Jesus on the Day of Judgment. Do not align with the principles of injustice toward anyone. We’ve all been broken because of experiences with other wounded people. Love God and through that relationship, God will help you to forgive and love all, including your enemies and those with whom you disagree. He is able. No one said that continually surrendering all of your life and heart would be easy or unintentional. God continues to expose our sins and correct us as he examines our hearts. But, with the help of Jesus, the burdens we carry can be made lighter when laid upon him. Turn, walk with him, and let him free your heart to love even the most unlovable. Unity is found when we all come together in Christ Jesus; when every knee will bow and every tongue confesses that Jesus IS Lord! Don’t try to be God or let others convince you that they are God and know what is best of have all the answers, myself included. Seek the all-powerful, all-knowing God of scripture.

Love & Peace in Jesus’ Name,

~Pastor Carolyn

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.

July - Wash Clothes & Bars of Soap

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

Sept - Toothpaste and tooth brushes

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 no later than the 20th 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 Nov, and Dec.** There will be no community meal in July due to the Logan County Fair. The next community meal date is **Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM.**

Education Team

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:

July 8th

Oct. 7th

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.

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

Facebook Page: Middleburg United Methodist Church

Facebook Group: Middleburg Ohio UMC

Church Office Email: mumcoffice@embarqmail.com

Pastor's Email: 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 Nov. and Dec. There will be no community meal in July due to the fair.**
- ⇒ **New Landscaping team**
- ⇒ **Logan County Fair gate**
- ⇒ **Worship Leaders**
- ⇒ **VBS Volunteers**

New Path Pregnancy Center Update.

Website: 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

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

Birthdays -

Andrea Swisher	7/3
Sharon Hempy	7/6
Kyle Ackley	7/8
Emily Carter	7/12
Mark Baird	7/18
Becky Sater	7/21
Kathy Deardurff	7/22
Trevor Sclesky	7/22
Patty Curtis	7/23
Carlin Curtis	7/25
Eric Hardin	7/29
Jasper Henry	7/30
Sally Stierhoff	7/30
Laura Sclesky	7/31

Anniversaries -

Bob & Sue Godwin	7/1/1966
Mike & Kathy Funderburgh	7/2/2015
Mike & Vicki Henry	7/10/1993
Jim & Pat Craig	7/11/1970
Dave & Ruthie Hardman	7/19/1969
Doug & Dana Henry	7/27/1979
Joe & Joy Buffkin	7/28/1978



JUNE—Administrative Council Highlights: *(Look for the ways you can help.)*

The Administrative Church Council met on June 11, 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. Gerry Lininger reported the amount of memorial funds used toward the purchase of media equipment. Gifts came from the families of Ellen Organ, Alberta Craig, Don Roush, and Nancy Hardin. **Thank you to these families!!!**

Some discussion regarding the use of the church debit card was shared and Mark Baird reported that the church audit is almost complete. Also, there has been no activity on apportionments at this time.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Carolyn reported the use of her time during the COVID pandemic. She shared the results and the reasoning behind the recent worship survey regarding a second service during the summer months and reported that there would be NO additional services offered.

Pastor led the Council leadership in discussion regarding their responses to the following two questions: (responses are included for you)

WHAT PROBLEM NEEDS SOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY?

- * Lack of compassion for those with addiction issues
- * Creating a more cohesive community
- * Drug & alcohol addictions and suicides among young people
- * More community spirit

WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART?

- * Any kind of animal neglect or cruelty
- * People in need—many types of needs, from physical to emotional, relational & everything in between
- * The invisible children who have been living in fear during this COVID shutdown
- * Lack of commitment of parents to have kids attend Bible school

How might we address these problems and what can we commit to do to help people? How will we build relationships with them?

One recommendation was to offer our church building as a site for NA/AA/Al-Anon groups to meet. Pastor Carolyn is pursuing conversations with county boards and courts. After some discussion, we realized that we need to define “our community” in order to build better relationships in new ways, especially since social restrictions are still in place. We will begin to “map” our congregation and review demographics, etc. while continuing to promote our church and advertise our events through social media.

Outreach—Dave Hardman reported on the preparations for Faith Promise Sunday presentations in worship, the pledge cards are available, and support for missions continues.

The church has really been able to be a blessing to those in need around the world through the extraordinary generosity of the congregation as we once again exceed pledge amounts.

THANK YOU!!!

Youth Ministry/Education Team—Heather Hawley reported we will have a modified Youth Sunday on June 21st with youth leading in worship. The children's moment and WOW are both back up and going. And VBS will be held August 17-20 from 9:30-11:30 AM. The theme is built around the stories in the Sanctus Real song "Confidence." Planning will begin soon and sign-up sheets are in the narthex for volunteers to help.

Backpack Ministry—Pastor Carolyn reported in the absence of Patty Curtis. Gift cards for City Sweets were incentives rewarded to students at the end of the year. There are some items left over that are packed up for next year. Planning for next school year will begin once plans for returning to school in the fall are known. **Thanks to all who helped this year!**

Ladies Circle—No report.

Staff/Pastor-Parish (SPRC)—No report received. There is a meeting scheduled for next week (June 18th).

Trustees—No official report. Pastor Carolyn gave an overview of the items discussed at the last meeting mostly in regard to scheduling repairs and maintenance around the church, specifically the sheds. Also discussed were repair of the pothole at the entrance to church parking lot, security cameras, and parsonage repairs/deck staining. A workday will be scheduled before fall and landscape needs will be addressed then as well. We are continuing to pursue the purchase of a defibrillator and training for church leaders and servants.

Fellowship Team—No report received. Thank you to the team for the organizing the celebration for our graduates and preparing for our Parents' Day breakfast—June 21st from 8:30-9:15 AM before worship!

Old business: Discussion related to the Logan Co. Fair Gate—We WILL be staffing the fair gate this year (as usual) from July 12-17. Dana Henry will have sign up sheets out in a few weeks. [*NOTE: At the time of this meeting, Dana had not heard from Hardin Co. Fair regarding a date in September to staff their fair gates. She has since received the contract and more information will be shared as the time draws near.] **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.

MISC. NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to the family members of Ellen Organ, Alberta Craig, Nancy Hardin, and Don Roush for designating memorial gifts given to our church in honor of these loved ones for the purchase of new technology equipment that has enabled us to live stream our worship services online. We appreciate the generosity of the donors and these families that remembered us as they honored their loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with 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

It's that time of year and planning will begin soon for VBS. It will be held August 17-20 from 9:30-11:30 AM each day. The theme is based on the stories from the Sanctus Real song "Confidence." Please sign up in the narthex to serve as a volunteer and to help with planning. Thank you, servants of the Lord, for inspiring children in the name of Jesus!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! MORE INFO COMING...

Please plan to help us work the Logan Co. Fair gate again this year, **July 12-17** and the Hardin Co. Fair Gates in September. More information will be coming, but these are some great fundraisers for our church and we would appreciate all the help we can possibly get. Thank you as you prayerfully consider serving!

ANOTHER SHOUT OUT TO OUR OUTREACH TEAM ON OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONS AND THE FAITH TESTIMONIES SHARED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH. AND WOW! WE GIVE ALL THANKS AND GLORY TO GOD FOR THE EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY OF YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE IN THIS CONGREGATION! THROUGH YOU, WE ARE ABLE TO BLESS OTHERS THROUGH THIS IMPORTANT OUTREACH OF THE CHURCH! BLESSINGS TO ALL!

WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWERS WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN...TURN TO GOD & HIS WORD

FEELING SORROW—JOHN 14
FRIENDS FAIL YOU—PSALM 27
DESIRE TO BE FRUITFUL—JOHN 15
NEED COURAGE—JOSHUA 1
FEELING DEPRESSED—PSALM 27
NEED PEACE & REST—MATT. 11:25-30
WHEN IN DANGER—PSALM 91
PEOPLE ARE UNKIND—JOHN 15
NO MONEY—PSALM 37
FEEL DOWN & OUT—ROMANS 8:31
NEED ASSURANCE—ROMANS 8:1-30
DISCOURAGED AT WORK—PSALM 126
FAITH NEEDS STIRRING—HEBREWS 11
GOD SEEMS DISTANT—PSALM 139
GROWING BITTER & CRITICAL—1 COR. 13
RELATIONSHIP ADVICE—ROMANS 12
HOPELESSNESS—PSALM 126
LONELINESS—PSALM 23
NEED REASSURANCE—PSALM 145:18
NEED SECURITY—PSALM 121:3
FEELING UNLOVED—JOHN 3:16
NOT BEING GENEROUS—1 JOHN 3:17
WEARINESS—GALATIANS 6:9
EVIL DESIRES—2 TIMOTHY 2:22
SUFFERING—PSALM 22:24
FEAR OF HARM—PROVERBS 1:33
SPIRITUAL ORPHAN—ROMANS 8:15
LIVING IN DARKNESS—JOHN 12:46
FEAR OF DEATH—1 COR. 15:55

FEELING JEALOUS—PSALM 37:7
FEELING PRIDEFUL—PROVERBS 22:4
UNFORGIVING—MATTHEW 6:14
FEELING SHAME—ISAIAH 54:4
FEELING NEEDY—PSALM 107:41
HUNGER—JOHN 6:35
FEELING ANGRY—EPHESIANS 4:26
DOUBT OF SALVATION—JOHN 6:47
FEELING UNFORGIVEN—1 JOHN 2:12
SPIRITUAL HOMELESSNESS—PSALM 32:7
FEELING DOWNCAST—PSALM 42:11
THIRST—JOHN 4:14
FEELING WORRIED—MATT. 6:19-34
SINFULNESS—PSALM 51
NARROW OR SELFISH PRAYERS—PSALM 67
FINANCIAL WORRIES—MARK 10:17-31
PREPARING FOR TRAVEL—PSALM 121
GOD SEEMS TOO SMALL—PSALM 90
FEELING FEARFUL—PSALM 34:7
FEELING UNABLE—PHILIPPIANS 4:13
LYING—COLOSSIANS 3:9-10
FACING TRIALS—JAMES 1:2-4
POVERTY—PHILIPPIANS 4:19
PERSECUTED FOR CHRIST—MATT. 5:11-12
UNCONFESSED SIN—1 JOHN 1:9
TIMIDITY—2 TIMOTHY 1:7
QUICK TEMPER—JAMES 1:19-20
BRAGGING—MATTHEW 6:1-4
OPPRESSED BY ENEMIES—HEBREWS 13:6

Old Farmer's Prayer

A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast. "Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour." The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable. Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN!

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.

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 PM Worship Planning	2	3	4
5	6	7 8:00 AM Ladies Breakfast @ Der Dutchman 6:00 PM Trustees	8 6:00 PM Education Meeting 7:00 Praise Team	9 6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM Ad Council	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
]-----LOGAN COUNTY FAIR GATE-----[
19	20	21	22 7:00 Praise Team	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 6:30 PM Worship Planning	30	31	