



The Middleburg MESSENGER

Dec, 2019

Events/ Information: Middleburg United Methodist Church

THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God. While we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.”—Titus 3:11-13 (NLT)

Welcome to Advent! We move from Thanksgiving right into the season of preparation before celebrating the arrival of Christ. Many of us are trimming the tree, decorating, shopping, and making plans for our upcoming holiday pageants and gatherings. This is indeed the time of preparation. There are packages to wrap, cookies and treats to bake, lights to see, and all kinds of family traditions to experience in the coming weeks.

But, I want to invite you into a different kind of preparation. In all our busyness it's easy to lose track of the real reason behind this season. This is the time to prepare our hearts to again receive the greatest gift of love possible—the gift of grace that comes through Jesus Christ. God gives us life and freedom in the sacrifice of the Son. And it's available to us 24/7, not just at Christmastime. We celebrate Jesus' birth, but we also want to prepare our hearts for his return.

So, I ask you...are you ready? Is your heart right with God so that when Christ returns, you will be counted among the faithful? Read the scripture passage above. Salvation (eternal life) is for ALL people. We are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures (repent and follow God). Notice that the world we live in is evil (no longer good). But we are here for a time, just passing through. While we are here we are to interact (or “live”) in this world exerting wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God. These are the qualities or characteristics we are to exhibit in the world; what others should see in us and how we live.

Will you use this time to prepare your heart to concentrate on living this way? It's not just about doing good deeds. Are you ready to receive wisdom, righteousness, and demonstrate your devotion to God? Don't make ungodly decisions or choose to act on impure thoughts. Rid your hearts of that vile corruption and selfish motives and live like a believer whose life has been redeemed by the sacrificial blood of Jesus on the cross. Remember who paid the price so you could live. Let him in and let him reign as Lord over your life—as your God and King. Thank God for sending the Savior to relieve the world and all humanity of the sin that saturates our hearts and minds. Focus on your love for Him and His redeeming love and presence with us. Then keep that commitment all year round. Holy Spirit reign down upon your church and fill us with your love and peace! Amen.

Have a blessed Advent & Christmas & don't forget to join us on Christmas Eve with services at 7 PM and 10 PM.

In Christ's Love & Peace,

~Pastor Carolyn

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

The Administrative Church Council met on November 14th, 2019 and addressed the following business of the church:

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

Finance—Discussion on internal controls dealing with procedures for approval of purchases and review of reimbursements was held in addition to apportionment considerations. Policies and procedures will be written down, clarified, and communicated in the coming months.

Outreach— Dave Hardman reported that we have supported 5 missionaries, Union Station, and other ministries in recent months. Proceeds from the Hardin County fair gate have been received for the Christmas outreach to families in the community. And \$500 was given to UMCOR for disaster relief, money which came back to Logan Co. in the form of flood relief.

Education—Mary Henry reported good attendance numbers for Sunday school classes and that there have been 6-8 students attending Youth 58 (grades 5-8). They have been talking about how darkness becomes light when you have Jesus and enjoyed some laser tag. Youth Leader, Heather O'Donnell reported on other youth activities. Kids' Club (grades K-4) has had 6-8 students attending. They shopped for Operation Christmas Child and made cards for the residents at Green Hills. One80 Youth have had 13-30 students participating in 5th Quarter, which will continue during basketball season. Jeremy Liles performed and shared his testimony at one event. They also made cards for Green Hills' residents, delivered encouraging yard signs and are discussing fundraisers. Heather has also been networking and building connections with Ben Logan School and area churches.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Carolyn reported 10 home visits since her return. She provided and update on preparation for **Charge Conference to be held at Marysville First UMC on December 4th at 7:00 PM**. Membership rolls were reviewed and new breakthrough goals for 2020 were set. Other Charge Conference matters will be presented for approval on Dec. 4th.

Backpack Ministry—Pastor Carolyn reported that we began the year packing 10 backpacks, but it has dropped to an average of 7 backpacks/week. They are packed on Fridays with the help of students from Key Club and One80 along with adult supervision. 4 students received coupons for the purchase of a book from the Book Fair as incentive for returning the backpack each week. In addition to other monetary donations, we have received food assistance through a grant program called "Generosity Feeds" in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Belle Center.

Ladies Circle—Cindy Drumm reported that the group prepared the meal for King’s Daughters gathering in October and then the Noodle –N- Dumpling Dinner in November. Both were successes and everyone did a great job in both instances. Kudos ladies!

Staff/Pastor-Parish (SPRC)—Rob Drumm reported the committee is scheduled to meet Nov. 21st to prepare for Charge Conference and to discuss other personnel matters that have come to his attention.

Trustees—No report presented.

Old business: None

New business: Pastor Carolyn led discussion regarding the future of the denomination, the position of the church and conversations that need to happen with the local congregation in 2020 as events unfold. You will hear more about this in the coming months as we attempt to keep you as informed of proposed legislation and decisions that follow.

Prayer concerns were shared and meeting adjourned with prayer.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **JANUARY 9TH AT 7:00 PM** (Finance will meet at 6:30 PM) An executive decision has been made to meet **MONTHLY in 2020** in order to cover our business in a more timely and more thorough fashion. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY & MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!! Thank you!!

Groups to Light the Advent Candles

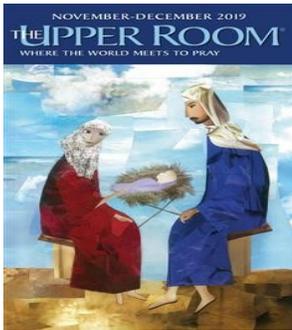
We are looking for family or groups of friends to light the Advent candles. The reading will be a scripture, and a short explanation of what each candle represents, lighting of the Advent candle, and a prayer. There is a sign– up sheet in the Narthex. Groups can consist of families or friends. Dates needed are for **Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24 at 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM.**



Announcing... There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for individuals interested in serving on a newly formed Fellowship Team. This ministry team will be responsible for planning quarterly fellowship events and coordinating help with congregational celebrations such as Easter breakfast, Graduations, Mother's Day/ Father's Day ideas, etc. **You DO NOT have to be a member of the church to get involved.** All are welcome to participate. s ministry
Easter bre
' welcome

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 by the 20th 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.

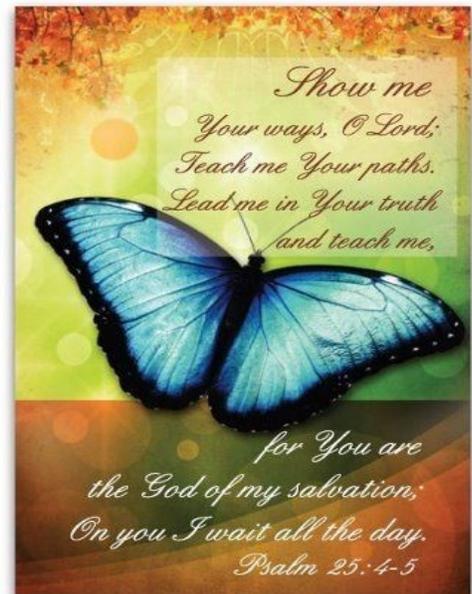
Also a special Advent Devotional – *A Calendar of Devotions* is also available.

A New Sunday School Class

Bible- Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth

A new class has started for those who struggle with reading the Bible and understanding what God is trying to say to them through His Word. If you want to know how to study the Bible effectively, share in fellowship and be inspired, then please join us in the Library following worship. Please bring your Bible, a journal book or paper notebook and a pen, Let's see where God takes us on a journey though His word.

Sincerely,
Sally Stierhoff



Community Meal—The next community meal will be **Dec. 19, 2019**. The menu will be Beef/Chicken & Noodles, Green beans and Apple Dumplings.

Please sign-up in the narthex to help serve, set-up or clean– up.

Sign-Ups LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

- ⇒ **We need greeters/communion servers/scripture readers for Dec. & Jan.**
- ⇒ **Volunteers for lighting of the Advent candles, reading scriptures, during Christmas Eve Services.**
- ⇒ **Community meal help/serve/clean up for Dec. meal**
- ⇒ **Volunteer to pack backpacks for backpack program**
- ⇒ **New Fellowship team.**



Ladies Circle- Ladies Circle Christmas Paint

Join us **Monday, December 9th** at the church. We will begin at **6:00** with some refreshments, followed by a group painting session. Painting instruction will be led by Betsy Woodruff from Blank Canvas Studio. Each lady will go home with a personally made beautiful 12x12 canvas. **RSVPs must be signed up in the Narthex by Dec 8th please.** Donations will be accepted to help offset the cost of this event. Come have some fun!



Backpack Program---- 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

A Great Big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project! We had 10 kids and 3 adults filling boxes last Sunday! Due to your overwhelming generosity, we were able to fill **155** shoeboxes to be sent around the world. What a tremendous sharing of God's love to children! Please continue to pray for the children receiving the boxes and their families, as well as all the workers sorting and delivering them. Thanks again for support of this ministry. May God richly bless you as you have blessed others. Mary Jaunzemis

MUMC Youth

KIDS CLUB— This group is for Children in grades K-4th. Leader is Heather O'Donnell. It meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM. The December dates are **Dec. 4 and Dec 18.**

Youth 58-Youth 58 meets twice a month on Sunday evenings **6:30-7:45 PM.** This is a casual, fun group for grades 5th-8th. We normally meet at the home of Kevin & Mary Henry. We have a discussion and then have time for a game or project. December Dates are **Dec. 8** **Dec. 22**

Youth One80 5TH QUARTER DATES

MEETING AFTER BLHS HOME BOYS BASKETBALL GAMES

AT FIREHOUSE PIZZA

November 29 **Food!**
December 20 **Faith!**
December 27 **FUN!**
January 17



Birthdays:

Cindy Deardurff	12/2	Katie Johnson	12/16
Pat Craig	12/3	Sarah VanDyke	12/19
Fred Deardurff	12/4	Kathy Reiff	12/20
Kevin Henry	12/7	Tyler Nicholas	12/21
Trent Hammer	12/9	Dave Hardman	12/27
Noritta Roush	12/13	Don Hardman	12/27
Linda Nicholas	12/14	Christie Barns	12/28
		Kristin Knight	12/28

Anniversaries

Dean & Connie Hagar	12/1
Tom & Chris Spain	12/18
Ernie & Jackie Parks	12/19
KimberLee Kinney & Tom Reynolds	12/30

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

Facebook Page: Middleburg United Methodist Church

Facebook Group: Middleburg Ohio UMC

Church Office Email: mumcoffice@embarqmail.com Pastor's Email:

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

AT 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM

Please call Pastor Carolyn, Beth Marshall, or the church office if you would like to share your musical talent during these celebrations.



Special Sunday Worship Performances:

Dec. 15 East Liberty Community Choir will perform selections from their Cantata

Dec. 22 Christmas Program Children & Youth.

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent Sunday Candles- Mary, Kevin, Brock, & Elias	2	3 8:00 AM Ladies Break- fast @ Dur Dutchman	4 6:00 Kids Club Meet- ing Charge Confer-	5 7:00 SPRC	6	7
8 Advent Sunday Church Reserva- tion Last day to sign up for Painting party. East Liberty	9 6:00 PM La- dies Circle Christmas Painting Par- ty	10	11	12	13	14
15 Advent Sunday	16	17	18 6:00 PM Kids Club Meeting	19 6:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Outreach	20 5th Quarter After BLHS Boys Basketball Game Firehouse Pizza & Sub	21
22 Advent Sunday Christmas Program Children & Youth	23	24 Christmas Eve services 7:00 PM 10:00PM	25 Christmas Day	26	27 5th Quarter After BLHS Boys Basketball Game Firehouse Pizza & Sub Zanesfield	28
29	30	31				