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## A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

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**Psalm 46:1** *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

The world may look like a troubled mess right now. It is, but it always has been in different places and in all generations. Do not let yourself get discouraged! Remember that our Lord will sustain you through anything—personal problems, national distress, world unrest, financial ruin,...even death. God is always with us, willing and able to carry the burdens that strike us in life's struggles.

As you feel yourself getting weighed down, call on Jesus. Give all your cares to him as 1 Peter 5:7 reminds us. Let him carry the bulk of the load and as you do, learn from him. Seek him for direction and guidance. Trust him to care for you in every way and for the needs of your family, those closest to you. And, don't get so discouraged that you lack desire to please the Lord above all. Serve him with gladness, in a spirit of gratitude, and with goodness and kindness, showing great mercy for others.

DON'T GIVE UP! Don't give up on God! Sometimes, when we think we're walking on the straight and narrow path, we believe we're taking the most direct route to God and our destination. At times we may take a detour following our own course. But, **sometimes**, it's God's will for us to go the roundabout way, for that is where we will experience him more. *Sometimes* when we're wandering in the wilderness, looking for his direction...that's when he reveals himself to us and we meet him in new ways. That's when and how we learn to truly trust him.

We must be willing to “stay the course” if this is the path God has established for us right now in this moment. So, cling to him and don't let go. He doesn't let go of us. He doesn't quit on us. He never stops believing in us. So, don't stop believing and trusting in him for he is always good and so are his ways. Amen.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE...We find ourselves in a world of disconnect in many ways as we've dealt with the pandemic. I am asking each of you to consider sharing about yourselves with one another in the congregation through this newsletter medium. We want to start a “Getting to Know You” section in our newsletter where we share information about our hobbies and interests, work and school experiences, family, etc. This should help others get to know us, particularly the newer faces sitting among the crowd. Our secretary, Judy, has put together a creative questionnaire (included in this newsletter). We ask that you take a few moments to complete it and return it to us so that we can include it in future newsletters and get to know one another better. Please help US help YOU to connect with new and old friends!

With Love & Encouragement, ~ *Pastor Carolyn*

# DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

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

The Administrative Church Council met on August 12, 2021 and addressed the following business of the church:

- Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial reports were reviewed and approved as corrected.
- **Finance**—Mark Baird reported that the 2020 Fund Balance Report has been filed in the conference/district office. Some balances were reviewed and reported.
- **Pastor's Report**—Pastor Carolyn presented her monthly report regarding the use of her time for pastoral care calls & visits, worship service & sermon preparation, and other administrative ministry tasks. She reported that there is continual movement forward in preparation for the launch of the new Global Methodist Church whether the Protocol for Separation passes or not in 2022. A big part of programming emphasis in the new Wesleyan rebirth movement will be a move away from the Sunday school format toward the type of accountability small groups for discipleship that Wesley used as part of the original Methodist movement—class and band meetings. Pastor Carolyn anticipates training discipleship group leaders beginning in January of 2022.

## **Pastor Carolyn will take vacation from September 14<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**

- **Worship Report**—Pastor Carolyn announced some upcoming special events for worship.
  - **September 12<sup>th</sup> we will honor our local first responders who service our area and those from within our congregation. Invitations will be sent to Allen Twp. Fire Dept., the Logan Co. Sheriff Deputies, Med Flight, and the Zane Twp. Trustees. We are asking them to dress in uniform and bring any vehicles to church that day.**
  - **Jeremy Liles will be here to share in worship on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.**Some discussion was also held with Council members regarding the time of worship. There is **no plan to change** the time of our services presently.
- **Outreach**—Dave Hardman shared feedback and discussion regarding the Middleburg Picnic at the Community Park. Consensus was that it was a success and a wise decision to move it to the park. In the future, we should reduce the hours and have the food available **while** the games and activities are happening. The Prayer Walk was important to the success of the event and opening communication between the church and community.
- **Media**—No report.
- **Youth Ministry/Education Team**—Pastor Carolyn reported for Mary Henry. Youth 58 toured the Doors of EnCOURAGEMENT in Bellefontaine and will resume meeting regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the evening. Mary will communicate and coordinate with parents of Kids Club to organize their gatherings. There has also been some light discussion regarding One80 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter gatherings. If there is interest, we may offer four of these this fall.  
**Youth Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

We are working on finding curriculum and materials for use with our children and youth, and will assess our space for teaching as the two adult Sunday school classes are going well and will continue to meet.

- **Backpack Ministry**—No report. Pastor Carolyn will talk with Patty Curtis so that communication with the school is taking place as we prepare for the new school year.
- **Ladies Circle**—Cindy Drumm reported they are preparing the August Community Meal and will resume their meetings beginning in September.
- The **Staff/Pastor-Parish (SPRC)**—Rob Drumm reported there is no business to report.
- **Fellowship**—Patti Livingston reported there is no new business. They will be meeting to plan for a Fall Festival at the church.
- **Trustees**—Seth Allen updated Council on maintenance and property needs and planned repairs. We are waiting for new windows to be installed in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen later this summer or early fall now. A new HVAC dual unit was recently replaced and a wall mount has been ordered for the AED unit. The shed will be repaired as previously planned. The contract for trash pickup will be changing as paperwork gets completed. Several other building and maintenance matters (smaller projects) were shared and addressed. The committee will review a quote recently received for additional security cameras. The trustees also approved the purchase of a new washer for the parsonage.
- **Old business:** Proceeds were received from working the Logan Co. Fair gate and sign-ups are in the narthex for Hardin Co. Fair Gate. Peg Hill also placed Emmaus Walk cards there for anyone interested in attending an upcoming Walk. Both of these need to be promoted.
- **New business:** There will be NO Finance or Ad Council meetings in September due to scheduling conflicts. Judy inquired about boxed up machines taking up space in the offices. We will have someone go through them and then any remaining items will be given to Mountain Mission.
- 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.

Ladies Circle will have a meeting on  
Tuesday, September 7 at 7 p.m.  
All ladies of the church are invited to attend.  
If there are any questions, contact Cindy Drumm.

***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

**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.**

**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)

**Church Office Phone:** (937) 666-2844      **Parsonage Phone:** (937) 666-0003

**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. 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.

# Hello, September!

## September Birthdays

Ben Nicholas	9/6
Kyle VanDyke	9/6
Sara Kienitz	9/8
JoAnn Wagner	9/14
Polly VanDyke	9/15
Pam Kienitz	9/16
Paul Hardman	9/19
Josh Hardman	9/21
Dave VanDyke	9/21
Dana Henry	9/24
Marlen Roose	9/24
Carlie Glunt	9/26
Tina Burrey	9/29

## September Anniversaries

Don & Mary Jaunzemis	9/1
Paul & Linda Smith	9/6
Dave & Patti Levingston	9/14
Dave & Polly VanDyke	9/14
Scott & Andrea Swisher	9/23

*Please check your family's mailbox at the church! The church directory has been updated with new attendees as well as changes in phone numbers and email addresses. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up your mail, please let the Pastor/office know....Thanks!*



We have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit for use at the church. It is located in the coffee bar area and will be mounted outside the door to the coffee area should the need arise for one.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

*We will be collecting the following items for Operation Christmas Child for our boxes this year.*

**August:** School supplies: markers, crayons, pencils, scissors, tablets, colored pencils, erasers, and pencil sharpeners.

**September:** Bars of Soap and Washcloths

**October:** Small Toys (no military or war related)

**November:** Money for Shipping



*Thank you for your generosity as you support this mission outreach.*



Pastor Carolyn will be on vacation  
from September 14th-28th.

Please contact Rev. Ed Beale from the 11th-18th (937-935-6790)  
or Rev. Kathy Reiff from the 19th-28th (937-243-6965)  
for any pastoral care emergencies.

Please review the calendar below for meeting times. Contact the committee leader if you have any questions if your committee is meeting on a certain date. We will send out one call with instructions and cancellations as they are decided.

# September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7 Ladies Breakfast 8 am Trustees 6 pm Ladies Circle 7 pm	8 Kid's Club 6:30 - 7:30 pm Praise Team 7 pm	9 <b>Hardin County Fair Gate</b>	10 5 <sup>th</sup> qtr After FB game	11
12  1 <sup>st</sup> Responders Worship  Children's SS resumes  Youth58 6:30 - 8 pm	13	14	15  Praise Team 7 pm	16  Community Meal 6 pm  Outreach 7 pm	17	18
<b>.....Pastor Carolyn on Vacation.....</b>						
19	20	21  Fellowship Team 7 pm	22  Kid's Club 6:30 - 7:30 pm  Praise Team 7 pm	23	24  5 <sup>th</sup> qtr After FB game	25
<b>.....Pastor Carolyn on Vacation.....</b>						
26  Youth58 6:30 - 8 pm	27	28	29  Worship Planning 6:30 pm	30  Lay Leadership Meeting 7 pm		
<b>.....Pastor Carolyn on Vacation.....</b>						

## THE VALUE OF OUR ADVERSITIES

My brethren, count it all JOY when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4 NKJ

*ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TROUBLES?* Anytime God allows trials in your life, He has a purpose for them. We often won't know His specific aim at the time; nevertheless, we should squeeze out every possible ounce of spiritual growth instead of falling into despair and discouragement. With a shift in perspective, the trial that looks as if it might destroy you could become an instrument of blessing.

The most natural response to adversity is to plead with the Lord to remove it. If that doesn't work, we might be tempted to look for our own way out or blame whoever caused the problem. But no matter where the affliction originates, by the time it reaches you, it's been shaped according to the Father's good purposes. The question is, Will you cooperate with Him or resist? When you let adversity do its work in you, it becomes an opportunity for growth.

Although we can't see all the specifics of God's plan, we know His goal is to use our hardship for good. So we are wise to let it mature us in the meantime. Even though the experience is painful, rest in the Father's comforting arms, and trust that it's all for a greater purpose.

*Submitted by Peg Hill*

### ***HELP US GET TO KNOW***

### ***ONE ANOTHER BETTER***

***PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE NEW TO THE CONGREGATION CAN GET TO KNOW THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND AWHILE AND VICE VERSA. LET US HAVE SOME FUN SHARING ABOUT OURSELVES SO THAT WE CAN ALL FEEL BETTER CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER AS WE PRAY AND SERVE TOGETHER.***

***RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PUT IT IN THE SECRETARY'S MAILBOX OR, SCAN AND EMAIL IT TO: [MUMCOffice@embarqmail.com](mailto:MUMCOffice@embarqmail.com)***



## Get to Know Me Questions

1. Are you Married? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Spouse name?\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have children? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ How Many? \_\_\_\_\_  
Names? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have grandchildren? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ How Many? \_\_\_\_\_  
Names? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long have you attended Middleburg UMC? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you most enjoy about attending services here? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Where did you grow up? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What school(s) did you attend? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is a favorite childhood memory? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What do you do in your free time? (such as hobbies?) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. If you could have an endless supply of any food, what food would you pick?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Where are/were you employed? How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What is your favorite Praise Song/Hymn? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What is your favorite Bible verse? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What would be your dream vacation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What special thing would you like people to know about you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to use the back of the form as needed*

