

Live in Peace in the Lord Forever

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.—1 John 4:16-18 (NIV)

I can't imagine living life without my faith in God. I am completely awed as I think of the ways that God is present as Creator (Father) God, Jesus (the Son, Immanuel), and his Holy Spirit. God so transcends our lives as he interacts with his creation, which he loves.

Because we are human, Jesus has said that our earthly life here in this world will be filled with strife, even and especially, for believers in him. Because of our likeness to Christ, we will face similar persecution from others in the world. We will know rejection, loneliness, suffering, pain, despair, isolation, humiliation and embarrassment, any many other things.

BUT...we will also know joy in God's provision to care for us. No matter what we face in life, God is there providing exactly what we need from moment to moment.

As I reflect on the past couple of weeks and my father's illness and passing from us, I see the blessings that God has provided in this moment of our lives—for my family as well as for myself. We have become reconnected to relatives we've not seen for some time, with old friends and neighbors, and we've experienced the love of many as people like all of you poured out your love on us. You and people like you, have served us as the hands and feet and with the heart of Jesus. Not only do we have the peace of knowing Dad is with Jesus, but we have the peace that comes from the comfort we've been given. Angels have cared for us in our grief. We know the love that comes from God as you have shared it with us.

It's that way for everyone. They say that we've all either just been through some major life challenge, or we're in one now, or we're about to go through one again. This is the pattern of life here on earth. It's not an easy venture, but with God everything is better. God provides exactly what we need when we need it, often through others, but always he is with us. He traveled with Abraham. He led Moses and the Israelites in the desert. He was with Daniel in the lion's den. He was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. And, he was with Paul in prison. He used that time with Paul to begin a new prison ministry where Paul could spread the gospel to those there who needed to hear it.

God knows what we need, when we need it, and he works through his creation to make sure we receive it. The key is in walking **with him**. As long as we abide in him, he will abide in us and we never have to worry about being outside his will for his will is at work in us when he is in us. Did you get that? WE LIVE IN CONSTANT ASSURANCE (CONFIDENCE) OF BEING IN HIS WILL WHEN WE REMAIN IN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. What greater blessing is there than to live in the joy of the Lord, in his abiding presence within you? Know and trust that his power is living in you. Seek him and don't let anything come between you and him. He will always love you! ☺

In Thanksgiving & Love of God,

~Pastor Carolyn

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Soon you will be receiving an informational letter in the mail regarding what is happening in our denomination worldwide and where we stand, as a congregation, with regard to a potential split. I just want to alert you to the important forthcoming letter and give you time to formulate any questions you have after reading the letter.

In other news...there has been some restructuring at the district level. We are located in the Capitol Area North District (Columbus area). Rev. Linda Middelburg has served as our most recent District Superintendent. Beginning July 1, she will be moving into another full-time assistant role in the Bishop's office and the Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, current Capitol Area South District Superintendent, will additionally begin serving as District Superintendent to our district.

Changes are happening at all levels of the denomination and I do not want those of you on the local level to be shocked or uninformed. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or to clarify as we move forward into the future. Thank you. ~Pastor Carolyn

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HIS HOLY PLACE

"Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him."

Hebrews 10:22 NLT

If you grew up in a particular kind of church, you may have heard (or still hear!) the term sanctuary describing an actual part of your church building. The Old Testament often refers to the sanctuary as the place where God's holy presence would manifest. But when Christ came, He spoke of another kind of holy place - not one we'd find outside ourselves, but one that we could discover within. He has promised to make His home right here in our hearts (Ephesians 3:17). No open and closing time to worry about, no visiting hours, no need to clean up or dress up to show up in that sacred place. It belongs to us, it's made pure by Him, and we carry it wherever we go. All we are asked to do is to enter as we are. And the more often we return to His Spirit inside, the more peace we will have as we navigate the world outside. Church buildings are a blessing; what a gift to have a place to come together and praise His name. But it's good to remember that we also each have a way to be present with Him in our own sacred place - any moment of the day.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8 ESV

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:29 NKJV

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5 NIV

Submitted by Peg Hill

YOUTH PAGE.

YOUTH58

This group had a fun filled day out on March 20th. We started with a session of Holy Yoga at Homegrown Yoga in Bellefontaine. Next, our plan was to help with the clean up of the Feed 5,000 Ministry. However, when we arrived, they were already done! They had so many volunteers that everything was already cleaned up. So we gave a group prayer to God, thanking Him for the many hands that helped, and asking a blessing upon all those that received that day. Then we hit a playground, played some touch football, and finished our day at TP Lanes with bowling and pizza.

At our recent gatherings, we have studied the resurrection of Christ, Doubting Thomas, serving others and the topic of faith. This group also packed bags for our Backpack Program during one of their meeting times in April.

Upcoming Events...

May 4, outing to Get Air trampoline park,

May 23, gathering 6:30-8:00

Kids Club!

During last month, these kids studied the many ways God loves us. We learned that God is with us not only when we are sad, but also on the happy, bright, sunshiny days. His love is ever with us, and we can shine His love to others. The kids decorated hearts with various materials as examples that God loves us through many situations - through rough times, on bumpy roads, on smiley days, etc.

At the end of April we traveled to Blank Canvas Studio for a painting session. Each child painted a tie-dye themed piece, which took patience, endurance, and creativity. They all turned out great! We also had time at a playground and enjoyed a snack during this after-school outing.

Upcoming Events...

May 12, gathering 6:00-7:00,

May 26, Pizza Picnic at Middleburg Park 5:30-7:00

Summer Camp

Summer is almost here! We encourage our youth to attend Church Camp this summer. There are several local options right here in our area, or you may find a camp of your own. Campers can be in grades K-12. Day camps and overnight camps are both offered. The church will pay \$50 towards any child's camp fees. If you are interested, please contact Mary Henry for more details. Spots will be filling up, so sign up for camp soon!

Graduation Sunday will be held on May 23rd. If you have a high school or college graduate in your family to be recognized, please contact the church office at 937-666-2844 as soon as possible to be included in correspondence regarding plans. You will also need to supply a picture and a small biography as to what their future plans are. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Carolyn or Patti Levingston.



Thank you for all of the cards, food, cookies for the funeral dinner, gifts, the throw blanket, and the flowers from our wonderful church family! Thank you for the prayers that have sustained us and comforted all of us during this difficult time in the loss of my father, Ed Benning. He will be missed, but we rejoice that he is with the Lord, and we are grateful for the many years of memories.

Thank you for your love & support,
Pastor Carolyn, Dan, and the Christman/Benning Family

There is not enough "Thank You" that I can say for all the kindness from all of you here at Middleburg UMC for all the cards, gift bags, meals and phone calls, visits from Pastor Carolyn and all the prayers too. God has put special people in this church and may you all be blessed.

.....Noritta Roush

God's Gift of Flowers.....

April showers bring May flowers. I don't know about you, but after a long snowy winter, the thought of flowers makes me so happy.

When those first oh-so-wonderful warm days of spring arrive in the mountains of North Carolina where I live, I want to immediately plant flowers on my deck and in my yard. But I've learned that I must wait until after Mother's Day to avoid the risk of late-spring frosts. It kills me when I see all the colorful blooms at our local hardware stores and nurseries, and I have to be patient.

But now it's almost time to plant. Those vivid bursts of color will bring me joy all summer, especially when hummingbirds and butterflies zoom in for a taste of nectar.

God's fingerprints are on all His amazing creation if we'll just look for them. Flowers are no exception...

Color....Flowers range from vivid reds to soft whites and everything in-between. What could be more beautiful than a sea of bluebonnets, a carpet of multi-hued tulips or miles of sunflowers with all their faces turned upward? They're all a reminder that He's a God of great detail—so why should we ever worry that He doesn't care about the details of our lives when He cared enough to create so many different kinds of flowers?

Sizes and Shapes.....There are small flowers like a pansy and bigger blooms like hydrangeas. There are more rounded shapes like daisies and spiky flowers like a gladioli. Each of them is beautiful in its own way. God feels the same about each of us. We might look in the mirror and think we're ugly, but why should we be so hard on ourselves when the God of the universes looks at us and sees beauty?

Aroma.....Oh my, what could be more awesome than the aroma of a rose or a hyacinth? Or the pleasure of sweet honeysuckle or a bush filled with fragrant lilacs? What about the distinctive scent of a carnation or a lily? Each of them brings us pleasure and they're a great reminder that we bring pleasure to God as well. We're His blooms and He wants us to blossom so we can share the fragrance of Jesus with a world that so needs that.

It's time for May flowers, folks! Enjoy those amazing blossoms and don't forget to look for God's fingerprints as you admire His handiwork.

PLEASE SEE SIGN-UPS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

⇒ **Worship Leaders**

⇒ **Community Meals**

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

May Birthdays

Ginger Shellenberger	5/1
Vicki Henry	5/3
Brook Chismar	5/8
Mya Burrey	5/9
Kylie Johnson	5/9/2012
Frank Chismar	5/12
KimberLee Kinney	5/13
Caitlyn Baird	5/15
Charla Shellenberger	5/15
Kate Shellenberger	5/18
Bill Eleyet	5/20
Jack Nicholas	5/23
Don Jaunzemis	5/24
Mark Stierhoff	5/25

May Anniversaries

Bill & Alicia Eleyet	5/17/2013
Greg & Carolyn Morgan	5/20/1983
Cleon & Gerry Lininger	5/28/1955

Community Meal

The next community meal

Thursday, May 20th at 6:00 PM.



May the angels
protect You..
May sadness
forget You..
May goodness
surround You..
May happiness
be round You..
And
May GOD always
bless You..!!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**
to you !

Mission Giving Report from Outreach.....

At the April Outreach meeting we designated the following:

Union Station	\$400
A Local Family	\$300
UMCH Family Services	\$300
Shine FM	\$300
Revive (Mark Burd)	\$300

The following Missionaries:

The Mailbox Club	\$250
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$250
Eric & Sue Bartels	\$250
Cru – Dave & Shelley Smyth	\$250
OMS International – Mark & Cindy Freer	\$250

2 corinthians 9:7-9

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 8 am Ladies Breakfast 9 am – 2 pm Youth58 outing 6 pm Trustees 7 pm Ladies Circle 7 pm Bible Study	5 7 pm Praise Team	6 7 pm National Day of Prayer Gathering	7	8
9 <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11 7 pm Bible Study	12 6 pm Kids Club @ Church 7 pm Praise Team	13 6:30 pm Finance 7 pm Ad Council	14	15
16	17	18 7 pm Fellowship Team 7 pm Bible Study	19 7 pm Praise Team	20 6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Outreach 7 pm SPRC	21	22
23 6:30 pm Youth58	24	25 7 pm Bible Study	26 5:30 pm Kids Club @ Park 7 pm Praise Team	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>					