

## ***PLEASE READ—OFFERING YOURSELF***

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As we prepare to close out another year and say goodbye to 2019 and hello to a new unknown future in 2020, I find myself reflecting and dreaming of the vision I believe God will lead us into in the coming years. God's vision always includes his people in the work of helping his kingdom to be fully realized here on earth, for ALL to profess Jesus as Lord and Savior of the world. Often, in our hearts (or in theory), we want to see this, but do we always want to make the sacrifices that will help us to have eternal impact? Our follow-through, our implementation is often lacking. We place importance on too many of the comforts of this earthly life rather than the eternal unknown. Hmm...what are we really saying when we do that? That MY comfort and MY desires are more important than serving the Lord and others? Ouch! That truth reveals that we aren't humbling ourselves before God and trusting him for the future we can't see—whether it's a few days from now or centuries from now. Exercising our faith builds muscles of trust in God. God knows what each of us needs as well as what we desire. He knows our struggles to be fully devoted to him. But here's the good news...he also gives us his Spirit to dwell in us to help us. You've heard the saying... "Life is a journey, not a destination." Well folks, it IS about the journey with God toward our eternal destination. To me, both are of importance. And the destination is dependent on the companionship of Christ on the journey.

**Inside this issue you will find information for 2020.** Those who agreed to serve in leadership roles, please note your name on the appropriate committee or team. We expect your dedication to fully participate in the role you have been called to and agreed to serve. Groups that meet monthly are as follows:

**Trustees meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6 PM**

**Ladies Circle meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 PM**

**Finance Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM**

**Administrative Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM**

**Outreach and SPRC meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM (following the community meal at 6 PM)**

Other committees or teams will meet periodically throughout the year as needed

There are times when some meetings are cancelled for the month, but you should have these blocked out on your calendar if you are serving on any of these groups. Please note that Ad Council consists of largely of committee chairpersons. I look forward to serving alongside all of you in the coming new year. Now, let us look a step further beyond the life of the church to our daily call to wholly offer ourselves to God's service.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.—Romans 12:1 (NIV)*

### ***What does it mean to offer oneself completely to God?***

There is no part of your life that is kept from God. You allow His Word and his truths to **permeate every aspect of your life**—of your mind, body, and spirit. You don't compartmentalize who you are on Sundays from who you are at work, at home, or at play.

God isn't just a Sunday thing and your daily walk and learning doesn't just take place in Sunday morning worship. It's MORE than that.

Prayer is a constant, posturing yourself humbly before God and confessing your need for him. Consulting him in every decision you make from the big to the small.

Maybe I've shared this before, but I do not understand how people can compartmentalize their lives, limiting God's power in their lives by putting Jesus in a box and only allowing him to affect certain parts of your life. **I confess that one of my greatest frustrations is that I cannot understand how people choose to accept worldly values that are in direct opposition to God's Word.** How can you follow God but adhere to such ungodly values? I do not understand political division among so-called Christians (yes, I said "so-called" Christians) because God's children rebel against the Father Creator's Word and intention for humankind. I do not understand those who say they are Christian yet do not value the sanctity of life and support abortion. I do not understand those who support same-sex marriage in the church. In the world, perhaps, (it can become civil law) but **NOT** in the church, (not church law). God's marriage covenant is reserved for a man and a woman. Case closed. Scripture cannot be twisted and distorted to say anything else. Now I know that may sound harsh and unchristian to some, but not if you adhere to the instruction God has provided to us. You not if you dive deep into the study of Scripture in history and context.

***I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree together, so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be united in mind and conviction.—1 Corinthians 1:10***

In 2020, the church leadership will begin conducting some round table discussions regarding the future of our local congregation in regard to the denomination's future over this debate over homosexuality marriage and leadership (specifically ordination) in the church. Dates and times for these discussions have not yet been established, but we will make every attempt to keep you informed of the various sessions as plans unfold. I will try to continue to include information from the global-wide denominational news. More and more will be in the news as we approach General Conference 2020 in May in Minneapolis. History will likely be made in an attempt for the denomination to separate/split into two or three different theological sects under an "umbrella" of Methodism over this issue. So, we, as a local congregation will need to decide where we are going to land when this debate is all over. We can't know the future for certain, but we can forecast the options and be prepared when the time comes. A vote of the membership will likely be taken following the General Conference. Only members of the church will have a vote, but all constituents (attenders) can have voice. You can find information on each sect by researching the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA-traditional), Mainstream UMC (claims to be 'in the middle' on the issue), and the UMC Next (progressive). Please understand that the leadership of the church endorses the traditional stance regarding homosexuality, same-sex marriage, and ordination and last month agreed to join and support the WCA.

I wish we didn't have to spend time in these discussions for there are far greater things for us to involve ourselves in regarding the mission of the church. At the same time, we cannot allow false doctrine to invade the teachings of the church. Please understand that most of us on this side of the debate understand that none of us are perfect, that we all are sinners who fall short of the glory of God. All are welcome in the church as we journey closer to God and God transforms us. We are not against people, only the lifestyle. The real issue is in the **endorsement or approval** of a lifestyle and practice that God condemns as sin and considers outside his will for his people. The church is to stand COUNTER to culture, not to accept this lifestyle as truth or that God created some this way, unless you want that to mean we were born with wrong affections (called the sinful nature). In the church and in scripture we refer to this human tendency as, "sinful, fleshly desires." Not every "feeling" we have is necessarily from God just because we feel or experience it inside ourselves at a given time. Satan tempts us with his lies. (Ex.-I used to feel totally worthless for not being perfect and I still struggle with that thought; that feeling of not being good enough to have worth. However, God's truths tell me differently. I have great worth as a child of God in whom my Father takes delight. When I focus on the truth of his Word, he can transform my life from those lies I have believed. He frees me from the feelings of self-condemnation, though I am a work in progress.)

Acting upon homosexual desires is sinful the same as acting in greed, self-righteousness, pride, anger, bitterness, jealousy, envy, and unforgiveness, just to name a few common temptations. I am not saying that anyone is superior to anyone else, but that we all stand in need of a Savior. But, saying that homosexuality is permissible among God's people will not make it any more of an acceptable practice when it comes to God's judgment upon us. We will eventually be held accountable for our behavior. If not held accountable to one another, we are always held accountable to God. And, our position will affect how God blesses us because he stands with the righteous and blesses those who are obedient to his teaching and leading. And I hope that people on all sides of the issue will participate in our discussions. Please continue to lift our denomination and our nation in your prayers as we battle the attacks of principalities and powers in an unseen world. You know that I often say that we weak Christians give Satan and his angels too much power when we should be living in the victory of Christ who has overcome the world!

Christ is with us!

~Pastor Carolyn

## **2020 Administrative Committees**

Administrative Council  
Dana Henry, Ad Council Chair  
KimberLee Kinney, Lay Leader  
Mark Baird, Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Rob Drumm, SPRC Chair  
Mark Baird, Finance Chair  
Brian Johnson, Trustees Chair (TBD in Jan)  
Beth Marshall, Treasurer  
Gerry Lininger, Financial Secretary  
Cindy Drum, Ladies Circle President  
Dave Hardman, Outreach Team Leader  
TBD, Education Team Leader  
Patty Curtis, Secretary  
Carolyn Christman, Pastor  
Heather Hawley, Youth Leader

### **Finance Committee**

Mark Baird, Finance Chair  
Dana Henry, Ad Council Chair  
Gerry Lininger, Financial Secretary  
Beth Marshall, Treasurer  
KimberLee Kinney, Lay Leader  
(Mark Baird), Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Rob Drumm, SPRC Chair  
Brian Johnson, Trustees Chair (TBD in Jan)  
Carolyn Christman, Pastor

### **Board of Trustees**

Brian Johnson (2020), Chair (TBD in Jan.)  
Seth Allen (2021), Vice-Chair  
Cindy Drumm (2021), Sec.  
Frank Chismar (2020)  
Mary Jaunzemis (2020)  
Mike Funderburgh (2020)  
Alicia Eleyet (2022)  
Kevin Henry (2022)

### **Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee**

Pastor Carolyn Christman, Chair  
KimberLee Kinney, Lay Leader  
Don Jaunzemis (2020)  
Kevin Henry (2021)  
Noritta Roush (2021)  
Ernie Parks (2021)  
Peg Hill (2022)  
Karen Reiff (2022)

### **Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)**

Rob Drumm (2021), Chair  
Mark Baird, Annual Conference Lay Member  
KimberLee Kinney, Lay Leader  
Ginger Shellenberger (2020)  
Linda Smith (2021)  
Peg Hill (2021)  
Mary Henry (2022)  
Christie Barns (2022)

## **2020 Ministry Teams**

### **Outreach Team**

Dave Hardman, Leader  
Cindy Deardurff  
Laura Sclesky  
Noritta Roush  
Patty Levingston  
Richard Johnson  
Dan Christman

### **Ladies Circle**

Cindy Drum, President  
Patti Levingston, Vice President  
Vicki Henry, Secretary  
Mary Henry, Treasurer  
Dana Henry  
Mary Jaunzemis  
Sally Stierhoff

### **Education Team**

Alicia Eleyet  
Ginger Shellenberger  
Laura Sclesky  
Mary Jaunzemis  
Patty Curtis  
Seth Allen  
Tina Burrey  
Heather Hawley, Youth Leader

### **Worship Planning Team**

Pastor Carolyn Christman, Chair  
Dave Hardman  
Don Hardman  
Peg Hill  
Don Jaunzemis  
KimberLee Kinney  
Beth Marshall  
Noritta Roush  
Linda Smith

### **Backpack Ministry**

Patty Curtis, Leader  
Jim & Pat Craig  
Dana Henry  
Mary Henry  
Patti Mally  
Sadie Shellenberger  
Ginger Shellenberger  
Pastor Carolyn Christman

### **Media Team**

Tom Reynolds  
Chris Hardman  
Dave Hardman  
Doug Henry  
Heather Hawley  
Christie Barns  
Alicia Eleyet

### **Fellowship Team**

Mary Jaunzemis, Leader  
Patti Levingston  
Heather Hawley  
Patti Mally

As we enter a new year, full of possibilities and plans, I hope that many of you share my resolution to grow closer to God and to go deeper into His Word. I appreciate all the opportunities there are to accomplish this, from personal study plans, to Christian radio programming, to the Bible accessible on our phones. One of the most rewarding venues of spiritual growth for me, is the small group studies offered right here at Middleburg UMC. If you are not a regular attendee of one of the pastor-led Bible studies or participant in Sunday School, I encourage you to give it a try in 2020.

Most recently, I've been attending the Sunday School class Sally Stierhoff is leading, teaching us the SOAP method of reading the Bible. Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer can reveal new truths when I ask the Holy Spirit to be with me during my study time. Let me share a taste of this...

S: Acts 3:18 But those things that God foretold by the mouth of all his prophets....he has thus fulfilled & Acts 3:21 ...until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets since the world began.

This is my O: 1) God spoke to humans via his prophets as He does through the work of the Holy Spirit. 2) What He shared was what he *wanted* to share with us; not *all* knowledge (as He warned us in the Garden, *all* knowledge is not good for us to have!) 3) What He shared, He shared for a reason, a purpose i.e., to prepare us (or give us a chance to prepare) and to give us hope! 4) Listen – what God has chosen to tell us is *important*. What God has chosen to tell us is *reliable*. 5) Just as God foretold of Christ's suffering, which did come to pass, God foretells of a Time Of Restoration of All Things!

A: It would behoove me to be familiar with what God has revealed; it's for my own good, to help me prepare myself for the rest of my days here and for eternity. He *wants* me to know these things! "The Time of Restoration of All Things"- how beautiful to be able to know that all things will be restored! Our land, relationships, health, peace, prosperity, rightness with God's plan, walking with Him in a garden! Bureaucracy and corruption will disappear!

P: Oh thank you, Father, for sharing things with your children. Things to guide, protect, warn and inform us. Thank you that your promises are air tight. I can bet my life on them! What reassurance and hope, what peace it gives my soul to be reminded that in Your time, all things will be restored. I don't have to wish and wonder if it will. You have already ordained it. - Restoration already exists! Thank you for reminding me of this truth through this scripture today, so that I may not be disheartened or discouraged by the things of this current world. Amen and amen.

KimberLee Kinney

We enjoyed extra special musical performances from the East Liberty Community Choir with selections from their Cantata and the children & youth program. Thank you all who helped organize special music for our Sunday worship & Christmas Eve services.

The sanctuary looked beautiful with the Christmas decorations and the poinsettias. Thank you all who purchased them.

***Thank you to all of our 2019 Leaders in the church. We thank those of you who served on Administrative Committees and those who led and joined in the work on our Ministry Teams. May 2020 bring new growth as some new ministry teams are launching in hopes of taking us into a new decade of ministry together. We thank all those who assist in worship on a regular basis and serve one another. The sacrifices by all of your time and the sharing of your talents is ALWAYS appreciated if not always acknowledged. Join us as we celebrate these leaders and commission our 2020 Leadership in our services in January!***

**Thank you to everyone for your generosity during the Christmas holiday. Thank you for the cards, the gifts, the goodies, and everything else you have done for us as your pastoral family. You bless us so much!!!**

***--Pastor Carolyn, Dan & Audrey***



Advent Thanks,

Thank you all who stepped up to serve God through lighting the Advent candles, reading scriptures, and praying. We enjoyed having the special music to help the celebrate the Christmas season and Christ birth!



### **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!

Sign-Ups LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

- ⇒ **We need greeters/communion servers/scripture readers for Jan./Feb/March**
- ⇒ **Community meal donation and to help/serve/clean up for Jan meal**
- ⇒ **Volunteer to pack backpacks for backpack program**
- ⇒ **New Landscaping team**



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) by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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. If you do not currently read them, try them! Start a new Years resolution to spend more time with God.



**Do you Love getting dirty outside in the dirt?**

**Do you have a talent of arranging plants to make the world a better place?**

Come join our Landscaping team!

This group will be responsible for pulling weeds during the summer months, trimming hedges, watering plants, and planting new plants. There will be a sign up in the narthex. If you have any questions contact Cindy Drum.

**Community Meal**—The next community meal will be **Jan. 16, 2020** The menu will be **Beef/Chicken & Noodles, Green beans and Apple Dumplings.**

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

**Ladies Circle- Ladies Circle Christmas Paint.** The ladies enjoyed their Christmas painting party. They began the night with some refreshments, followed by a group painting session. Painting instruction was led by Betsy Woodruff from Blank Canvas Studio. Each lady went home with a personally made beautiful 12x12 canvas.

**KIDS CLUB**— This group is for Children in grades K-4th. Leader is Heather Hawley It meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM. **and Jan15.**

**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.

**Youth One80** —5th quarter date is Jan 17 after BLHS Boys Basketball game at Firehouse Pizza & Subs in Zanesfield. Join us for Faith, Food, and Fun. Invite your friends!

On December 22, the MUMC youth provided a Poetic Presentation of Christmas. They shared poems entitled *Why Jesus Came* and *Saying Merry Christmas* by Margaret Primrose, *They Say*, by Dolores Steger and *The Colors of Christmas*, by Cora M. Owen. The children provided narration, acted the part of Mary, Joseph, Herod, the wisemen, angels and shepherds. They also created props using their hand prints and by decorating stars. We sang **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** and **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing** and Brock Henry provided a trumpet solo, playing **Away in a Manger**. We ended with a Christmas wish for all!

*Why Jesus Came* by Margaret Primrose -narrated by Celeste Allen

*They Say*, by Dolores Steger-Joseph (Paxton Henry), Mary (Kylie Curtis), Angels (Roslyn, Ryleigh Eyelet), Shepherds (Ryan and Kylie Johnson), Herod (Brock Henry), Wise Man- (Elias Henry & Seth Jaunzemis)

*The Colors of Christmas*, by Cora M. Owen -narrated by Celeste Allen -Star (Macy Ortiz), Silver tree (Carlin Curtis), Scarlet window (Ryleigh), Emerald tree (Piper Slemmons)

*Saying Merry Christmas*, by Margaret Primrose -narrated by Mia Ortiz



**Birthdays:****Anniversaries- none**

Doug Henry	1/2
Kim Allen	1/9
Doris O'Neil	1/9
Connie Hagar	1/10
Celeste Allen	1/11
Greg Sater	1/12
Natalie Drum	1/18
Joe Mears	1/20

**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](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**Pastor's Cell phone** (937) 248-8930**Pastor Carolyn will be on vacation from Dec 26- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.****Please contact Rev. Kathy Reiff at (937) 243-6965 for pastoral emergencies.****For One call prayer request: contact Patty Curtis (814) 440-2410****New Year Brings new Changes :**

I am resigning as church secretary this year. I have changed professional job locations to enjoy more family time. This change is making it difficult to continue my obligations to this church. I enjoyed my time serving God through administrative work. I learned a lot about myself and a lot about others. I believe God is calling me into a new direction. Please pray for me that I listen to him and choose the path he intended for me. The SPRC is working to find a replacement. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please notify the office. Job descriptions and applications are available in the narthex and on our website.



# January 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Pastor Vacation	2 Pastor Vacation	3	4
5	6	7 8:00 Break- fast @Der Dutchman 6:00 PM Trustee Meeting	8 6:00 PM Education Team 7:00 Praise Team	9 6:30 PM Finance Meeting 7:00 PM Ad Council	10	11
12	13	14	15 6:00 Kids club 7:00	16 6:00 Community Meal 7:00 Out-	17 5th Quarter aft Boys Home Basket- ball Game @Firehouse Pizza & subs Zanesfield	18
19	20	21	22 7:00 Praise Team	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 6:30 PM Worship Planning	30	31 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	