

# The Middleburg MESSENGER

June & July 2019

Events and Information from Middleburg United Methodist Church

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## TIME MARCHES ON

I know that summer doesn't officially arrive on the calendar for a couple of more weeks, but for me, June-August is "summertime." This newsletter is a combined June/July issue with as much information on summer happenings as we have knowledge of now at the end of May. Please read through the newsletter to be informed and to share information. **PLEASE INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN TO REGISTER FOR OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 24-27 FROM 9:30 AM TO 12 NOON AND WE ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN SUMMER CHURCH CAMP. Information on both activities is included inside this issue of The Messenger.**

Also, please note the information regarding helping at the **Logan Co. Fair Gate, July 7-13.** This is a fantastic (and rather simple) fundraiser for the church. Working the gate is easy, but it takes several workers to volunteer time. **WE NEED SERVANTS WILLING TO STEP UP AND HELP! PLEASE SIGN-UP!** You can sit if you can't stand for a long time and it's a great way to see people you know or to be a beacon brightening someone's day with your smile!

Your delegates and I are also preparing for the upcoming West Ohio Annual Church Conference at Lakeside, **June 2-6.** Your Lay Member to Annual Conference is Linda Fisher. Peg Hill is our Certified Lay Minister representative. District At-Large delegates from Middleburg UMC are: Tom Reynolds and Dan Christman, and Audrey Christman is a Youth delegate. Please keep us in your prayers, as it is sure to be a very contentious time as we elect delegates to the 2020 General Conference. PLEASE, speak to your delegates and representatives (or me) if you have questions and concerns regarding Middleburg UMC and the position of our leadership regarding the denominational crisis. I know that some things are unclear and the theological jargon can be overwhelming or confusing sometimes. What it boils down to right now, is that our position regarding same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay clergy remains the same; the church's traditional stance. However, the progressive side (including some bishops) says they will not accept that. And, rather than leave the denomination, they will stay and continue in defiance OR the denominational leaders will work on a plan for amicable separation by the time of the 2020 General Conference. There are many articles published on the Internet and in social media from all sides of the debate if you would like to know more.

Lastly, on **July 1<sup>st</sup>** we will celebrate our one-year anniversary with me as your pastor!!! Happy Anniversary dear friends!!! I cannot tell you how thrilled Dan and I are to be here serving alongside such wonderful people!! We sincerely love it here and we love all of you!! You have been so kind and understanding as we have made the transition, especially with Audrey finishing

school back at Elgin and our need to support her in her senior year. You have extended grace and have patiently allowed me to “be myself.” We thank you for your love! Though I will soon no longer be able to plead ignorance in not knowing how you have done things in the past, I’m sure I’ve forgotten several things already, too. Still, I’ve also learned that you are congregation willing to try new things and a very grace-filled faith community. I appreciate your support for me this summer as I am dealing with graduation, college orientation, a daughter’s wedding, and preparation for double-hip replacement surgeries. I expect to be a better, more mobile version of me with a renewed spirit and more energy come fall and I look forward to our future together with great anticipation!

In His Grace and Service,  
~Pastor Carolyn

### **Your Mind, God's Thoughts**

***Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.***  
- Colossians 3:10

***In Word*** When we're born again, we're spiritually renewed. The Bible makes that clear. We're a new creation - the old has passed away and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). What does that mean for our bodies? Though they'll die, they'll be resurrected. What does that mean for our hearts? Though they were hard and resistant to God, they are now soft and inclined toward Him. What does that mean for our minds? Paul tells us here. We are given a new knowledge.

This new knowledge isn't just a change of opinion. It's an invasion of truth into our once-deceived souls. Now we have a radically new perspective, a vital understanding of who God is and how His Son has saved us, and a new means of making decisions. We also have a kindred wisdom with our Creator, an ability to think His thoughts and live His life. We're in a holy process of becoming like Him.

Isn't that amazing? While many cults and false philosophies make us gods unto ourselves, Jesus makes us humans with God's mind. It's a foundational principle of Christianity: We who were fallen and dead are now inhabited by One who is risen and alive.

Does that mean that our thinking will never err? That we will never disagree? That our logic will be infallible? Obviously not. But it does mean that, to the degree we submit our thinking to Christ, we can have His mind. We can be led and guided, renewed and transformed, crafted ever increasingly into the divine image.

***In Deed*** Are you aware of God's goal for your thought life? It's perhaps the most challenging battleground for a Christian. We all too easily give in to depression, negativity, deception, misconceptions, and all sorts of false perspectives. God changes that, if we'll let Him. He wants us to think like Him. You don't have to convince Him to do so - He loves to. Shed the old and embrace the new. Be conformed to His image daily in your mind.

--Submitted by Peg Hill

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### **The Upper Room**

Feel free to take the daily devotional *The Upper Room*. These devotionals are free and is a great way to help us focus on him daily. May/June devotional booklets are available in the Narthex.

### Fair Gate Time

Once again our church is managing the Logan County fair gate. This is a fundraiser for our church. It takes many smiles & hands to make it a success. Please consider volunteering. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Dana is requesting people to be in charge of opening the gate each day so she does not have to get there that early AND stay all day. A volunteer will also need from opening until about 6:00 pm on **Tuesday**, Dana will be away on a trip. The Dates for the Logan County are **July 7-13**.

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### Vacation Bible School

Please save empty toilet paper rolls & paper towel rolls for our crafts. Registration forms are available in the narthex, or on our website. Please fill out the registration forms so we can get an accurate count to aid in planning.

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### Church Camp

This summer we are encouraging our youth to attend Church Camp. Our church would like to help support this by paying \$50 towards camp for anyone ages 5-18. We are blessed to have many camps nearby! There is some information in the Narthex, or you may choose a Christian camp spot on your own. The church will write a \$50 check payable to the camp. You are responsible for any additional fees. Contact Mary Henry or the church office for further details. Check it out, and plan. It will be fun! Registration for most camps began May 1.

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### Reaching out over the Internet

- We have a church page with a private church group. We would love to invite all our friends to join. The more you "like" our posts and "share" the information, the more followers we pick up and the wider our influence is for God in the world.
- 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 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.**

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**Community Meal-----** The summer community meals will be Thursday, June 20 and July 18. Look for information & sign up sheets in the narthex. The menu in June Taco Bar, sides, and desserts.

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### Sunday School ---- There is no Sunday School for children during the summer.

**Adults -----**This group is beginning to study the book titled: *God I've Got a Question* by James Merritt. Classes meet in the fellowship hall. **Classes start at 10:45 AM.** Facilitator: Seth Allen

**-----Sermon Discussion with Pastor** is an additional Sunday school option is available. Pastor Carolyn leads a class for anyone interested in discussing, debriefing, and asking questions regarding the sermon topic each week. This is an opportunity for more interaction, life application, and follow-up to the weekly messages. This group meets in the Library. Feel free to continue to meet on the Sundays Pastor is on vacation.

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### Ladies Circle

The Ladies Circle, along with the Trustees, organized a church clean-up day on **Sat. May 18**. There are no meetings over the summer. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM.**

**Backpack Program----** Thank you all who helped with the backpack program. Please continue to pray for this ministry. If you would like to get involved the next school year, please notify the office.

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**Kids Club -** Kids Club is for children ages K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. We enjoyed learning about Bible stories and having fun! We held our annual Middleburg picnic on May 15. We look forward to the fun activities God has planned for us in August. Kids Club will be on summer break. Stay tuned for new dates and activities!

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### Cancer Support Group

“Journey” Christian Cancer Support Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at Quest Community Church in West Liberty. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Kensey

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**New Path Pregnancy Resource Centers Baby Bottle Campaign-----**The Center is a locally organized and funded ministry, which offers life-affirming education to women and families. The New Path Pregnancy Resource Centers, Christian, pro-life support centers, will hold its annual - Baby Bottle Campaign between **Mother’s Day, May 12<sup>th</sup> and Father’s Day, June 16<sup>th</sup>**. They are asking that you **“Spare Some Change to Help Spare a Life”**. Please pick up the baby bottle on **Sunday, May 12**. Fill it up with any spare change and bring it back on **Father’s Day**. All proceeds will benefit New Path Pregnancy Center.

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### Vacation Bible School

Grab your camera. Wild encounters are coming! Start up the all-terrain vehicle – we’re headed on a wild adventure! With camera in hand, kids at MUMC VBS will encounter elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles. As they gather snapshots of exotic animals, they will examine snapshots of Jesus in the Bible. Participants will experience opportunities to respond to the gospel through every encounter, filling this summer’s *In the Wild* VBS with moments to go from bewildered to believing!

**MUMC VBS will be held June 24-27 (9:30-noon)** for children in Grades K-5 (2019-2020 school year) at the church. All are **encouraged to pre-register** using the form found with this newsletter or print one from on the MUMC website at <https://www.middleburgumc.com/bible-studies>. **Tell your friends and neighbors! All are welcome!**

Adults-assistance is still needed to help lead students through the stations of the day, particularly on Thursday (6/27). If you are willing and able to help, even just for one day, please sign up in the narthex or contact Heather at 937-539-6104.

**Let’s ZOOM IN and FOCUS ON JESUS this summer! Come get wild at MUMC VBS!**

“But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:31



## **1<sup>st</sup> Gathering of LIDS**

**Sunday, June 23,  
2019**

**Trinity Lutheran  
Church  
311 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marysville, OH  
43040**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

*Created by  
Rev. Elaine J.  
Sturtz*

Email –  
[eisturtz7@gmail.com](mailto:eisturtz7@gmail.com)

## **Living In The Different Solo**

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**LIDS** is a group for those who feel alone and lonely.

**Purpose:** walk beside those who are alone and lonely  
Develop relationships and social support  
Provide spiritual and emotional support  
Make connections

**Details:** Meet monthly as a large group for support,  
Speakers, fellowship, mission and service  
Grief support available  
Meet in small groups for social time.

Make connections, learn to live in the different together,  
Not be alone and find friendships and support

“The Lord God has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.” Isaiah 61:1

“Have mercy on me because I am lonely and hurting.” Psalm 25:16

**June Anniversaries**

Don & Jill Hardman	6/7	Seth & Korie Slemmons	6/25
Kevin & Mary Henry	6/25	Eric & Nancy Hardin	6/26

**June Birthdays**

Dominic Roose	6/1	Vince Deardurff	6/8	Brady Burrey	6/23
Nolan Roose	6/1	Becky Porter	6/10	Brad Norviel	6/24
Cadman Roose	6/1	Brock Henry	6/10	Carol Baird	6/24
Olivia Chismar	6/2	Sadie Shellenberger	6/10	Kyler Deardurff	6/25
Andrew Knight	6/4	Alex Henry	6/12	Ernie Parks	6/26
Tyler Knight	6/4	Jeny Hammer	6/14	Mike Henry	6/26
Paxton Henry	6/5	Roslyn Underwood	6/16	Mason Hammer	6/28
John Porter	6/7	Connor Hill	6/17		
Addie Barns	6/8	Marla Ramey	6/20		

**July Anniversaries**

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

**July Birthdays**

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

**Church Hours and Contact Information:**

**Pastor Carolyn will be on vacation the following dates for family-related events: May 23-26, June 11-12, & June 20-23.**

**The church office will have emergency contacts for pastoral needs during this time.**

**Rev. Deb Ketcham from Lewistown-Trinity UMC in Indian Lake will cover for the dates May 23-26 and June 20-23. Her contact number is 614-580-2382.**

**Secretary: Patty Curtis** Hours: Tuesday, Thursdays at 12:30-3:30 PM

**Pastor: Carolyn Christman** Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. (Lunch from 12-1:00 PM) & 1:00 -3:00PM

Also available by appointment.

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)

Church Office Phone: (937) 666-2844

Pastor's Email: [cjchrist4u@gmail.com](mailto:cjchrist4u@gmail.com)

Parsonage Phone: (937) 666-0003

Pastor's Cell Phone: (937) 248-8930

**June Calendar**

Sun. 6/02 through 06-06 Annual Conference

Tues. 06/04 6:00 PM Trustee Meeting

Thurs. 06/13 6:30 PM Finance Meeting  
7:00 PM Ad Council Meeting

Sun. 06/16 **Bring back Baby bottle for New Path Pregnancy Bottle Campaign.  
Celebrate Father's Day!**

Thurs. 06/20 6:00 PM Community Meal  
7:00 PM Outreach Meeting  
7:00 PM SPRC Meeting

Mon. – Thurs. 06/24-27 9:30 AM Vacation Bible School *In the Wild.*

Wed. 06/26 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting (tentative)

**July Calendar**

Tues. 07/9 6:00 PM Trustee Meeting

Thurs. 07/18 6:00 PM Community Meal  
7:00 PM Outreach Meeting  
7:00 PM SPRC

Sun. 07/21 4:00 PM 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Dave & Ruthie Hardman

Wed. 07/31 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting (tentative)