

The Messenger Newsletter

September 2017



First United Methodist Church of Middlefield
PO Box 207, 14999 South State Avenue, Middlefield, Ohio 44062
440-632-0480 office@middlefieldumc.com

Our Mission: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World

Our Vision Statement: (How we will make disciples of Jesus Christ)
As we all unite together to do ministry for Christ, we will focus this way:
Going into our community with unconditional love,
intentionally offering Christ to everyone.

Rev. Erwin "Erv" Urschitz
(H) (440)632-0463 (C) (330)354-5500



Prayer Ministry

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks; for this is the
will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thess. 5:16-18 NKJV

The Prayer Ministry in Middlefield UMC is underway with a core group of men and women who gathered for a meeting held to pray for God's healing, guidance, wisdom and blessings and to share what can be accomplished when we pray to our God who answers prayers.

Those who answered the call to pray during the Sunday Worship Celebrations each have signed up to pray. If you also feel called to sign up for a Sunday, you are welcome to, either on the sign-up sheet on the front table in the sanctuary or on the one in the Prayer Room. Every other month would be appreciated and you can pick the date(s) that you would prefer.

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, September 24th** after the service to collectively keep this ministry bathed in prayer and to welcome anyone that would like to join us.

If you want to know more, contact Sandy Hunter at (440) 632-5431, (440) 812-0025, or by emailing shunter001@windstream.net.



Regular Sunday Services

**The 411
8:45 am
Christian Believer
Worship Celebration
10:00 am**

All are welcome to a time of snacks and fellowship after the Worship Celebration in the Social Hall.

Parents, your children will begin in the Sanctuary with you and then go together to the LOWER LEVEL for DEEP BLUE for their own worship, offering, teaching, and experiential time AFTER the Children's Message. Please pick up your child(ren) in the LOWER LEVEL within 10 minutes after the Worship Service is over.

Save the Dates

(Dates in Sept. unless specified)

Wed, 13th at 6:30 pm - UMW Meeting

Sun, 17th at 11 am - Youth Group
Youth/Parent Meeting during the
Potluck Lunch (Article on page 3)

Fri, 22nd at 6 pm - Family Movie Night
(Article on page 3)

Sun, 24th at 6-8 pm - Youth Kick-Off
(Article on page 6)

Fri, 29th, 4 - 6:30 pm - God Shares a
Meal (Article on page 4)

Sun. Oct. 1st - Youth District Hayride

Sat, Nov 4th - Benefit Dinner/Auction
(See article on page 3)

Growth Groups

(All in the Olds Room downstairs)

Sundays, 8:45 am The 411
Christian Believer
By J. Elsworth Kalas

Have you ever sung a hymn or recited a creed and asked, "Why do we say that?" Discover the church's answers that grow out of human life and Christian experience as you study church history and doctrine. *Christian Believer* is a study focused on classical teachings of the Christian faith through the use of words, symbols and hymns.

Tuesdays, 9am "Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer"
By Max Lucado

1st and 3rd Tuesday Morning of each month, starting October 3rd. Contact Julie Clark for more info at (330) 730-1526

Tuesdays, 7 pm "Network"
By Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins,
and Bill Hybels

Discover your spiritual gifts,
personal style, and
God-given passion for serving in the
Body of Christ

Wednesdays, 10 am "Network"
(See above)



How the Pavilion Was Started

The concept of a pavilion came soon after clearing and cleaning up the property in 2012. Early on, as we were having a Dedication Ceremony, picnics, a hot dog roast, and planned other services, we were setting up multiple tents for each. These tents were subject to damage due to weather conditions. Similarly, parking was an issue when we held events in the Spring and Fall. We again were at the mercy of the weather as the grassy parking could get wet and soft, preventing parking at all.

For many events we had great weather; *however*, our biggest event was a Sunday Morning Worship Service when a storm took down part of a 50 x 80 ft. tent. Many men and women of our congregation, community, and other churches spent a lot of time erecting the tent once again in time for a small Monday Evening Service the next day.

The Land Use Committee decided a pavilion with parking would allow our congregation, other churches, and our community to use the property more often, more conveniently and more consistently.

All of the foundation concrete from the torn down buildings was used as a foundation for the parking area. Ike Clark has spent countless hours in stripping topsoil down to hard clay so we could have a firm foundation under the parking area with a similar site preparation at the pavilion.

Many men and women from our congregation provided labor, equipment, nourishment for workers, prayers, and financial support towards the land and the pavilion. The late Carl Gibbs was one of these exceptional congregation members (continued on page 5, *Pavilion...*)

Pastor's Note

Greetings Church Family,

Our hearts and prayers truly go out to those who recently have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey and those in the path of Hurricane Irma and other storms that could follow. Continue to pray for those facing these difficult natural disasters or as they begin recovery from storms that have passed still leaving them in devastation.

Even as the water subsides we know our prayers and help are needed. We can help immediately by praying and by donating money to United Methodist Committee On Relief. UMCOR uses many volunteers and the local churches in the areas of devastation as a grass roots way of meeting needs in a very efficient way. UMCOR also stays and helps in the rebuild efforts not just while the affected areas are considered a disaster area.

I myself went to D'Iberville Mississippi in the Boluxi area five times with church work teams to help families rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Folks from Middlefield helped in D'Iberville Mississippi three times. I also went to Forked River New Jersey twice with work teams to help rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. Each time we stayed in an UMCOR operated Disaster Response center that helped coordinate disaster recovery along with the long-term rebuilding. The disaster may take hours or days to bring destruction upon the homes of families affected in a community while the recovery and rebuild could take many years.

I am hoping to build a work team with a group of volunteers from Middlefield area that would travel to Texas to help the rebuilding efforts around mid-January, 2018. Let me know if you have an interest in being part of the team. If other teams need to develop the help will be needed long term.

Let us care for those in need, may we continue to offer support in every way that the Love of Christ would be seen in His people.

With hope and prayers,

Pastor Eru

P.S. We can forward any support given to UMCOR Advance #901670



Getting to Know You...

Randy & Cheryl Clark

Introducing Randy and Cheryl Clark of Middlefield, (no relation to Ike and Carole) who have been attending and serving here at Middlefield First UMC for just a few years. They were first introduced to MFUMC by neighbors, Todd & Lawni Ross, who invited them to attend their daughters' music programs under the direction of Katrina King. They have since found a home here among the other good folk of our congregation.

Randy grew up in the Willowick area and works as a Production Manager at Aclara, located in Solon. His parents spend their retirement time traveling the world. Cheryl was raised in Mantua and has two siblings, brother Mario and sister Chrissy, as well as a niece, Francesca. Cheryl was formerly employed as a Regional Director for an apparel company. Now in her spare time she serves such causes as Friends of Womensafe — raising funds to support domestic violence survivors. Randy & Cheryl have a 12-week-old Yorkie puppy named Bella. Next year, on May 28th, they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary!

The couple's lives have been filled with adventure, from floating down the Snake River in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to flying in a hot air balloon over the Grand Tetons. They look forward to more of life's adventures, including retiring and moving south to warmer weather.

Their service to MFUMC has included helping with "God Shares a Meal", painting children's classrooms, painting rooms at the parsonage, weekly Food Pantry deliveries, delivering (continued on pg. 5, Getting to know...)

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

UMW Updates and Coming Events

The next **UMW meeting** will be this **Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30 pm** in the Social Hall. All women are welcome and we would appreciate any ideas you may have to share. Come and join our meetings. If you are a woman and attend a Methodist church, you *are* already a *United Methodist Woman!*

Our church's **Potluck Lunch** is starting up again next **Sunday, September 17th** after the Worship Celebration. The main course to be provided will be Rigatoni, we are asking for salads, garlic breads and desserts. We also would like some help from volunteers for clean-up.

A new sign-up sheet will be in the Social Hall for after-service coffee hour volunteers. This includes setting up for and cleaning up after the social hour.

We will be participating in **Soles4Souls** (collecting slightly used shoes for third world countries) again. Last year our church donated a good portion of the 800 pairs of shoes collected by Nancy Cline's grandson as a project with his Trail Life Troop.

The **UMW Christmas Program** and Brunch is scheduled for **Saturday, December 16th, 2017**. Invited for our entertainment is the **Devine Inspirations** since we enjoyed them so much in the spring. More details to follow.

E-GIVING TWO WAYS: Online Giving: You set up and manage your own secure account through a link on our website, www.middlefieldumc.com, or consider working with your personal bank to set up an automatic payment to the church for your regular giving.

Your electronic contributions are recorded on your own personal giving statement that is prepared as requested and provided for each year-end.



*Come Join the Fun:
Benefit Dinner,
Silent Auction
and Live Auction!*

The First United Methodist Church of Middlefield has purchased and cleared 15 acres of land north of Mary Yoder's Restaurant on Route 608 for the purpose of expanding its mission and ministries to the Middlefield community. The Food Pantry and Thrift Shop are in need of more space with classrooms, public meeting spaces, a banquet facility with commercial kitchen, a prayer/exercise walking path, athletic fields, additional community parking across from the high school, and more. We are almost done working on Phase 2 of our plan to build a pavilion, which will be made available for church and community activities.

The church will host the **Second Annual Benefit Dinner, Silent Auction and Live Auction** on **Saturday, November 4th, 2017, at the Huntsburg Community Center**, to accelerate the completion of the land pay-off. Doors will open at 5:30 pm for the silent auction and appetizers. Dinner will be served at 6:15 pm with bidding for the silent auction ending at 7:15 pm when the live auction begins.

Benefit Dinner tickets are \$35 each. Seating is limited. Your donation qualifies for a tax deduction, and receipts will be given for tax purposes. If you can donate silent auction items or you would like to purchase tickets, please phone or e-mail Pastor Erv @ (330) 354-5500 or 440-632-0463, or email office@middlefieldumc.com.



Family Movie Night...

...returns to MiddlefieldUMC on **Friday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm**. All are welcome to come and enjoy our movie, feel free to bring family, friends and neighbors. The movie we are showing is about an airline pilot faced with a dire situation and handles it like the professional that he is. A must see! An amazing list of actors and a well-written script based on a true story set in New York City (on the Hudson to be exact!)
1:01 hr. Rated PG 2016



As always, popcorn and beverages are provided at no charge. Come and join us as we watch a much loved movie with family and friends. Good times!
Call the church at (440) 632-0480 for questions, more details, or for more information.

Come Join Us and Get Fit!

If you are in shape, or have too much shape, come join us as we work on getting fit and healthy together.

PiYo Mondays at 9 am PiYo

What to bring:

1. A yoga mat (there will be limited ones available to borrow and try out the class)
2. Hand towel and water bottle
3. You should wear comfortable clothing and exercise shoes

You will find more information on our Facebook page: First United Methodist Church of Middlefield and on our website:

www.middlefieldumc.com

C H U R C H H A P P E N I N G S 2

The Food Pantry is open on:

Monday from
11 am to 12:30 pm
Tuesday from
6 pm to 7 pm
Wednesday from
3 pm to 4 pm
Thursday from
3:30 pm to 5 pm
Friday from
10 am to 11:30 am
Saturday from
9:30 am to 11 am

Donations are accepted in the carts in the Social Hall and also inside of the back door entrance **any time the church is open**. Please **DO NOT** leave anything outside of the church entrances!

Also see the related article:

Wanted: Sample Ladies below.

Mobile Pantry Produce

Free Produce giveaway is on the **4th Tuesday** of each month from **4 to 6 pm**. Help is always appreciated anytime between **3 to 7 pm**.

Wanted: Sample Ladies

The organizer of our Food Pantry is looking for anyone who likes cooking and sharing recipes.

Help those that receive produce at our church learn and experience other healthier ways of eating and feeding their families. By sharing and preparing samples of your favorite recipes using foods available in the Food Pantry here in the church or at home, you can then share it by giving out samples and recipes.

This is a pilot program, with hopes of having a rewarding time in sharing what you have learned with others.

Fruits and vegetables arrive every Tuesday to our church, sign on for one time or several, you choose. Anyone interested in preparing and serving samples during our pantry hours, please contact Ann Szasz at (440) 281-1309

God Shares a Meal

Friday, September 29th, 2017
4 pm to 6:30 pm

In the Social Hall of our church, a meal is served at no cost for anyone in our community who would like to attend. We are handicap accessible. Also, if you are homebound, you may call for delivery. Donations are accepted but not necessary.

Menu

Kielbasa Sandwich
Sauerkraut
Smashed Potatoes
Chocolate/Chocolate Chip Pudding
Beverages



~Unusable to Usable~

There is a need for two large barrels of unusable clothing to be cut into rags to be sold to local businesses to benefit the Thrift Shop and 3 ways of doing it.

One way is to make an appointment to come into the Thrift Shop and visit while you help cut the unusable clothing. The second way is to stop into the Thrift Shop anytime it's open and take a bag of unusable clothing home to be cut there and brought back. The third way is to have a bag of unusable clothing delivered to you to be cut up and picked up again.

For delivery, contact Shirley Siracki at (440) 632-1904

For directions on how to cut the unusable clothing into rags, contact Jackie Williams at (440) 632-5753.

The Prayer Room beside the elevator is available whenever the church is open. Please stop in and let us lift each other up to the Lord.

The Thrift Shop

As much as people love shopping at the Thrift Shop, there are times when the shop needs people to also serve by helping. We need a scheduler, someone to schedule the volunteers to work on Fridays and Saturdays between the hours of 9am to noon. If you would like to fill this position, or serve on a regular basis, or serve by being a substitute during open hours, call Shirley Siracki at (440) 632-1904.

We are open for regular hours to shop on

Friday and Saturday
9:00 am to Noon.

Donations are accepted and sorted
Mondays & Thursdays
7:30 to 8:30 am

Please **do not** leave anything outside of the church entrances!

Our Church is Host to and for Our Community

Alcoholics Anonymous:
Wednesdays at 8:30 pm
Thursdays at 7 pm

Immunization Clinic
2nd & 3rd Wednesdays
at 8 am–12 pm
3rd Thursdays at 2–6 pm

NAMI Geauga
Wednesdays at 7 pm

Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesdays at 6 pm

Blood Mobile
Tuesday, 12th at 1-6pm

Mammovan
Wednesday, 20th 8:15 am-4:30 pm

(continued from page 2, *Pavilion....*) giving of his time, talents, and financial support. Carl was a great advocate of the land and the pavilion. He would be proud of the accomplishments on the land we have achieved as a community.

The Land Project has been a blessing to our church family, the community and to God. Thanks go out to the many people who have contributed so much in so many ways. Continue to pray for the completion of this pavilion to the glory of God!

To view more pictures of the pavilion site, and others, check us out on our Facebook page at

**First United Methodist Church
of Middlefield,**

also keep your eyes on our Webpage as we continue to renovate at
www.middlefieldumc.com

WALK TO EMMAUS GROUP MEETING

Women who have been on an **Emmaus** walk are welcome to join us at the **Middlefield United Methodist Church's Emmaus 4th day meetings on Wednesday mornings at 9 am.**

Join us as we keep each other accountable in service, study and discipleship. Bring your Worship Booklet for Pilgrims with you. For information or questions, contact one of the ladies listed below.

Anyone interested in learning more about the **Walk to Emmaus**, please contact Betsy Anderson at (440)286-1122, Jackie Kawalec at (440) 834-8636, Wendy Urschitz at (440) 632-0463, or Sandy Bitting at (440) 272-5804 to make arrangements to attend an informational meeting.

Plant Swap Club

Even though most of our perennials are almost gone, there is still time to dig up and divide them. Fertilizing is a good idea this time of year, also. Anyone interested, but need advice or info may call Katie Thomas at (440) 632-1019 or Jackie Kawalec at (440) 834-8636. More news coming soon!

Getting to Know...

(Continued from page 2) Christmas presents and baking for various events. You may have noticed them greeting and passing out bulletins at our Worship Celebration a couple of weeks ago.

When asked how they had seen God working around them, Cheryl shared that she recently witnessed a miracle through the power of prayer. The teenage daughter of a family friend was in a near-fatal car accident. The girl lingered for weeks in a coma. Her doctors recommended that the mother withdraw life support. The mother called everyone she knew from California to New York requesting them to pray that night before they would pull life support. The next morning her daughter miraculously woke from her coma! That was a very profound event in all their lives.

The Clarks agree that our nation needs God more than ever before. They believe that our church can be the catalyst for kindness by our own actions which demonstrate kindness to those within our church as well as outside of it. Change begins with us!

Recycle



Keep saving batteries, make our planet a healthier place. When saved and brought to church, place them in the Social Hall in the basket on the shelf by the windows to be recycled.

Keep saving pop tabs. When saved and brought to church, place them in the can on the shelf by the windows in the Social Hall. They are then given to Ronald McDonald House who recycles them to benefit families with a child in the Rainbow Baby and Children's Hospital. This will give them place to stay while their children are receiving treatment.



2017 Leadership Board

Todd Ross—Chairperson
tross1@windstream.net
(440) 636-3322

Kendra Fashing—Treasurer and
Lay Member to Annual Conference
fashing01@gmail.com
(330) 717-3874

Additional Members of the Board

Betsy Anderson—Trustee Specialist
musiclady2003@windstream.net
(440) 286-1122

LuAnn Burger—Trustee Specialist
(440) 968-3779

Kerry Culp—SPR Specialist
kclp68@yahoo.com
(330) 651-0719

Julie Dulka—UMW Representative
julieanne1@windstream.net
(440) 636-5576

Kate Greth—Finance Specialist
k.greth@csuohio.edu
(440) 591-0427

Don Hunter—SPR Specialist
donalddhunter@gmail.com
(440) 632-5431

Aimee McGowan—Missions
Specialist
mclass2009@live.com

Juli Stone—Finance Specialist
jdstone13@windstream.net
(440) 725-0970

All meetings in the church are open meetings. Everyone who would like to attend the board meetings is welcome. Questions may be asked of the above members at the meetings which are generally held in the Pastor's office the 2nd Thursday of the month which this month is on **Thursday, September 14th at 7pm.**

Anyone who would like to get a copy of the budget report may contact our treasurer, Kendra Fashing.



All NEW

Youth Group!!

Middlefield Youth News

Grades 6th to 12th

Sept 2017

Attention all Youth!

Get ready for an AWESOME year at Youth Group!! This year is going to be full of great fun, worship, topics, studies, games, missions and activities.

This is a new and exciting time starting a new group. We need your input, support and prayers. I hope all our parents and youth come to the planning/input meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please contact me with your input and questions.

Kick-Off will be a BLAST with entertainment, fellowship, games, food, give-a-ways and a lot of fun with other Christian youth. Bring your friends to this AMAZING experience. I guarantee you will have a GREAT time. FREE Stuff to the 1st 5 students to register!! I can hardly wait!!

Hope to see all of you there! Take a look at our calendar to see what else is coming up!

Wendy
(330) 354-501



September Events:

Sept. 17th Youth and Parents Meeting - following church - join us at the potluck lunch and planning/input meeting.

Sept. 24th Youth Kick-Off 6-8pm @Middlefield UMC in Fellowship Hall

October Events:

Oct. 1st District Hayride!! Meet at the church at 4:30pm Please dress for the weather and bring old clothes, especially old shoes, for the corn maze. Cost is \$10.00 and includes food, hayride, corn maze, petting zoo, and a pumpkin. Let me know if any youth is in need of financial assistance to attend.

Oct. 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th Youth Group 6-8pm Sunday Evenings at the church.

Look for Events:

SUNDAY's - Youth Group
at 6-8pm
Western Reserve District Events
CCYM East Ohio Events

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	2 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
3 Worship Celebration 10 am Social Hour 11 am Worship at Burton Health Care 1:45 pm	4 LABOR DAY	5 OA 6 pm	6 NAMI 7 PM AA 8:30 pm	7 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am AA 7 pm	8 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	9 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
10 The 411 8:45 Worship Celebration 10 am Social Hour 11 am	11 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9 am Land Use Meeting 7 pm	12 Blood Mobile 1--6 pm OA 6 pm	13 Immunization Clinic 8 am--Noon UMW meeting 6:30 pm NAMI 7 pm AA 8:30 pm	14 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am Leadership Board Meeting 7 pm AA 7 PM	15 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	16 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
17 The 411 8:45 Worship Celebration 10 am Potluck Lunch and Youth Kick off after Worship	18 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9am	19 OA 6 pm	20 Immunization Clinic 8 am--Noon Mammovan 8:15 am-4:30 pm NAMI 7 pm	21 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am Immunization Clinic 2-6 pm Food delivery 10am AA 7 pm	22 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon Family Movie Night 6:30 pm	23 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
24 The 411 8:45a Worship 10 am Social Hour 11a Prayer Ministry Meeting 11am Youth Gr. 6-8pm	25 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9am	26 Mobile Pantry Produce 4-6 OA 6 pm	27 NAMI 7 pm AA 8:30 pm	28 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am AA 7 pm	29 God Shares a Meal 4-6:30 pm	30

Happy Birthday!

2. Cheryl King
3. Donna Muniz
4. Marshall Knowlton
5. Ray Husted
6. Sue Carlson
9. Lee Brilla
Brenda Drabek
Sue Sullivan
10. Betty Zrolka-Garman
Sam Kennell
Betsy Anderson
11. Kyle Herr
12. Pat Fritz

12. Debbie Rupp
13. Payton Lilley
14. Tristyn Burger
15. Garrett Havel
15. J. P. Pilarczyk
15. Terry Warne
15. Owen Park
15. Elizabeth Walsh
16. Owen Brownfield
16. Gene Ziegler
17. Jason Humble
18. Lyndsay (Becker) Thomas
18. Mike Ludwig
19. Dennis Burger

21. Becky Miller
21. Chuck White
24. Simon (Sam) Kennell
24. Debbie Wolff
25. Ken Boardman
27. Krystel Merickel
28. Elin Hissa
28. Dave Hottenstein, Sr.
29. Carol Coggins
4. Jon & Tina Hunter
5. Micah & Jessica Holland
7. Bill & Janet Poole
9. Charlie & Brenda Drabek

Happy Anniversary!

10. Rich & Helen Harrington
10. Randy & Carrie Szasz
11. Mark & Kim Merickel
12. Jim & Joyce Loving
12. Eric & Tammy Phillips
14. Ken & Marcia Nedved
19. Jim & Ruth Skinner
20. Ray & Mondrae Husted
21. Jerry & Kathy Gibbs
25. Steve & Debby Miller
25. Todd & Lawni Ross
27. Billy & Lauren (Thomas)
Burus
29. Rich & Debbie Rupp

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*To receive your Messenger Newsletter by e-mail and view all of our pictures
and news in beautiful color, sign up on the clipboard in the Social Hall!*