

The Messenger Newsletter

August 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



The church property with the pavilion site prepped and ready for digging the holes for posts *this week* (or as soon as weather permits). The 2x4s shown are used as reference points for laying out the building. God answers prayers!



Regular Sunday Services

Communion is generally the 1st
Sunday of the month
(check the calendar)

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 will 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.



VBS "Hero Central" Science Experiment

To view more pictures of the pavilion site, our church garden, or Vacation Bible School, 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

*"My House
Shall Be Called
A House of Prayer"
Matt. 21:13*

Continuing our Journey in Prayer

Pray without ceasing, I Thess. 5:17, instructions for all of us. To help us follow Jesus' lead, we can make praying a priority.

"What may seem like a quiet, unnoticed ministry of silent prayer may soon become an adventure that will change you forever. Prayer is (one of) the most important and most exciting ministr(ies) of the church. It is our means of touching the heart of God and inviting Him to move among us. We will experience the mysterious privilege of partnering with God as He works His redemptive will in the lives of people to change, save, heal and set free." - Terry Teykl

To follow in Jesus's way, our church is reaching out to each other to pray individually and to join in prayer, confident that God hears and answers our prayers. We need only to watch and listen for His answers.

After thought and prayer, those that would like to be in a core group that helps our prayer ministry move forward, we welcome you to come to the Prayer Room in the church on **Sunday, August 27th, after church** for a brief meeting to choose the date and time to continue our prayer ministry. (Continued on page 2)



Pastor's Note

Wendy and I have been with you for over a year now. We have appreciated the warm welcome and getting to know our Church family. We truly are here for you in every way. In the highs and lows of life that are just part of being a Church family together. As a Church you have stepped up as we have gotten back on track moving God's vision ahead with the land/pavilion projects. We look forward to seeing God use His Church and the Land for His glory. I really want to encourage you in prayer! We have seen God working in lives, especially with those in health battles. Prayers have been answered with healing and help God has provided. Let us remain faithful, continue to lift up those needing prayer. As Paul prayed for the Ephesians (3:14-21) ¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Blessed and praying,

Pastor Erv

P.S. If you can help with physical projects (Pavilion etc...) sign up so we can work together for the Glory of God.

(Continued from page 1) *"Because God is the living God, He can hear; because He is a loving god, He will hear; because He is our covenant God, He has bound Himself to hear"*

--Charles Spurgeon

For information or to sign up, contact Sandy Hunter at (440) 632-5431, (440) 812-0025, or at shunter001@windstream.net. There is also a sign up sheet in the Social Hall by the calendar.

Creative Prayer Ideas

Specifically ask the Lord to give you a regular prayer time. Start with a realistic goal.

Go to the hospital waiting room, walk down a street, or sit on a park bench and pray for the people you see there.

Start a notebook with written reflections of your prayer moments.

Ask a prayer partner to pray with you at a set time each week for a set amount of time.

Read a daily devotional guide such as *The Upper Room*, *Oswald Chambers' My Utmost For His Highest*, *Max Lucado's Grace for the Moment II* or *Sarah Young's Jesus is Calling*.

Write down prayer requests and keep a record of answers.

Find a special prayer place for your time with God.

Choose a prayer model you find helpful such as the one in Dick Eastman's *The Hour that Changes the World*.

Put the names of church leaders in the Prayer Room.

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.



Getting to Know You.... Ike And Carole Clark

Ike and Carole Clark are long-standing members of Middlefield United Methodist Church, having joined this congregation in the early 1960's. You will see them in worship on a regular basis from sometime in April through sometime in October, as they live up here during the "warmer" weather and fly down to Florida to live during our colder seasons. Their family consists of one son, Douglas, who is married to Delores and lives in Middlefield; and one daughter, Debbie, who lives in Atwater. They also have a grandson, Casey; a granddaughter, Serena; and a great-granddaughter, Madison.

(Continued on pg. 4 Getting to Know)



Our Garden is Growing...

"...But God gave the increase." I Cor. 3:6. As you can see, there is room for anyone who would like to plant fall vegetables to do so if planted in the next few weeks. Plenty of sun, fresh air and healthy results. Stop by and check it out!

Missions

Area Nursing Homes' Visitation Ministries

**Monthly Worship at
Burton Health Care on the first
Sunday (at 2 pm)
with Vinnie Hodgkinson**

**Monthly Worship
at Pleasant Hills
on the fifth Sunday
at 1:30 pm
with Karlene Pilarczyk**

**Monthly Hymn Sing
At Briar Hill
on the second Wednesday
at 1:30 pm
with Karlene Pilarczyk**

These are the times when a leader is there and would very much appreciate any help you can give. Just be there and volunteer! Help is always appreciated. Questions?

Contact **Karlene at**
440-632-5661 or e-mail
david0011@windstream.net.



Briar Hill and Briar Cliff Nursing Home Hymn Sing

During the **first Wednesday, at 2pm** there will be a Hymn Sing at **Briar Hill North Side**. During the **second Wednesday, at 2 pm** there will be a Hymn Sing at **Briar Cliff South Side**. Contact is **Janet Brazil at (440)834-4920**.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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!

The Thrift Shop (Volunteer Scheduler Needed)

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, serve on a regular basis, or serve by being a substitute during open hours, call Shirley Siracki at 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!

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**.

OUR CHURCH IS HOST for Our COMMUNITY

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

Immunization Clinic
2nd & 3rd Wednesdays at 8-12 pm
3rd Thursday at 2-6 pm

NAMI Geauga
Wednesdays at 7 pm

Overeaters Anonymous:
Tuesdays at 6 pm

God Shares a Meal

**Friday, August 25th, 2017
4 pm to 6:30 pm**

In the Social Hall of our church, a free meal is served for everyone 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. Starting again in Sept, we will be showing a popular family movie following the dinner.

E-GIVING TWO WAYS

1. Online Giving: You set up and manage your own secure account through a link on our website, www.middlefieldumc.com
2. 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.

(Continued from pg. 2, Getting to...)

During their working years, Ike owned and operated an excavating and construction company. Carole kept the books for Gordon Clark Excavating and Construction, and after their children were out of school, became secretary to the principal at Cardinal High School. She also had a part-time job as tax administrator for the Village of Middlefield.

The couple's greatest adventures in life, to this point, have included: Ike becoming Superintendent of the Village of Middlefield at the age of 21; and then starting his own company, Gordon Clark Excavating & Construction Co., often taking on jobs other contractors walked away from. That work ethic enabled him to keep repeat customers for as long as 30 years—all while owning 3 companies at one time! Carole cites her greatest adventure as the time they opened their home to a high school girl in need of a home.

(This writer understands what an adventure that can be!)

Ike and Carole have served our church in many ways for many years! Ike served as a Trustee for over 20 years, many of which were served as Chairman. During his time as a Trustee, the Shafer House and house on Orchard Avenue were purchased to be used as parsonages; the elevator was built; and the parking lot was enlarged and paved. Carole taught Sunday School; served on Pastor/Parish Relations Committee; served on the Parsonage Committee; and as President of the Women's Society (now United Methodist Women), in which capacity she chaired many large dinners and wedding receptions.

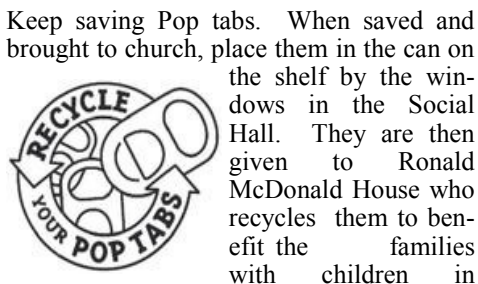
The Clarks still take part in the activities of the church when they are up North. You'll see them at many functions outside of worship, including attending Board meetings and helping with the Land development projects. Ike still enjoys digging in the dirt!

When asked who or what has had the most profound effect on their faith journey, Ike responded with: "Carl Gibbs, Norm Sommers, Ronnie Rennolds, and Don Hunter—they told it like it is!" Carole's special

influence came from "Naomi Pollari, who was a wonderful friend and showed me how to live a Christian life—a wonderful example to follow." Ike and Carole Clark are great examples of life-long servants of the Lord. Just because they are retired from their work occupations, doesn't mean they have retired from church life and service. They still remain active helping Middlefield UMC to move forward in our growth and work for the Kingdom of God. God bless you both as you journey through this life, whether here in Middlefield or in sunny Florida!



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 the families with children in Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, to have a place to stay while their children are receiving treatment.



Summer is not over until you've been to
The Great Geauga County Fair

Thursday, August 31st
through Monday, August 4th

with the talents and abilities of many local neighbors, family and friends

2017 Leadership Board

Todd Ross—*Chairperson*
tlross1@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*
julianne1@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, August 10th at 7pm.**

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

Anyone who would like to get a copy of the minutes from the board meetings will find them in the hanging file outside of the office.

Happy Birthday!

- Dave Thomas
- August Kawalec
- Sarah Miller
- Richard Straw
- Bonnie Fabritius
- Marilyn Atwood
- Melissa Kraus
- Carrie Barcikowski
- David Blackford
- Ed Selby
- Isabel Nicholes
- Marilyn Esenwine
- Betty Phillips
- Julianna Barcikowski
- Janet Poole
- Jay Becker
- Ricky Szasz
- Lu Ann Burger
- Vinnie Hodgkinson
- Jim Freeman
- Skip Boehnlein
- Kim Vystreil
- Fran Frank
- Mattison Miller
- Bev Ferry
- Carol Gappa
- Jim Anderson
- Ron King, Sr.
- Jackie Hetrick
- Ben Fashing
- Fred Wright
- Don McClead
- Sarah (Mayer) Henderson
- Mary Kay Conley
- Ian Reed

Happy Anniversary!

- Ben & Kendra Fashing
- Franz & Diane Hansel
- John & Mary Wallin
- David & Karlene Pilarczyk
- Gene & Claire Ziegler
- Brian & Holly Fritinger

Happy Anniversary! (cont.)

- Mike & Lisa Ludwig
- Paul & Heather Burger
- Doug & Cindy Jahn
- Denis & Tricia Mansfield
- Mike & Karen Cavanagh
- Kyle, Jr. & Casey Smith
- Jeff & Vikki Naples
- Ed & Cindy Peterson
- Rich & Bonnie Fabritius
- Dave & Carol Coggins

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	5 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
			8:30 p AA	AA 7 pm		
6 10 Worship 1:45 pm Worship at Burton Health Care	7 TS Sorting 7:30 a	8	9 Immunization Clinic 8-12 1:30 pm Hymn Sing Briar Hill 7 pm Land Use Mtg 8:30 pm AA	10 TS Sorting 7:30 a AA 7 pm Leadership Mtg 7:00	11 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	12 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
13 10 Worship	14 TS Sorting 7:30 a	15	16 Immunization Clinic 8-12 2pm Hymn Sing at Briar Cliff 8:30 pm AA	17 TS Sorting 7:30 a Immunization Clinic 2-6 pm Food delivery 10 am AA 7 pm	18 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	19 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
20 10 Worship	21 TS Sorting 7:30 a	22 Mobile Pantry Produce 4-6	23 2pm Hymn Sing at Briar Hill 8:30 pm AA	24 TS Sorting 7:30 a AA 7 pm	25 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon 4—6:30 God Shares a Meal	26 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
27 10 Worship	28 TS Sorting 7:30 a	29	30 8:30 pm AA	31 TS Sorting 7:30 a AA 7 pm		

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