The Messenger Newsletter March 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

Scrumptious Potluck Lunch

Keep the date open to join us for our monthly Potluck Lunch which is Sunday, March 19^{th.} after the Worship Service. This month our kitchen staff will be providing hot dogs with all the fixings and beverages. Please bring your very favorite side dishes and desserts to share. This is a wonderful time of sharing good food and great friendships. Hope to see you there! Please sign-up on the clipboard in the Social Hall with how many are coming and what you think you might bring.

NOTE: There will NOT be a Potluck Lunch in April because of the Easter Holiday.

Regular Sunday Services

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the Month

The 411 "Fresh Encounter: Experiencing **God's Power for** Spiritual Awakening" (See article on page 4.) 8:45 am

Worship Celebration 10:00 am

(Deep Blue for children meets during the Worship Celebration)

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.

<u>Save the Dates</u>

Ash Wednesday The Ash Wednesday Service is on March 1st, 2017 at 7 pm Prayer room will open at 6:30 am for imposition of Ashes.

WR District Lay Servant Training March 10th, 6:30 to 9 pm, and March 11, 8am to 5pm (See article on pg. 4)

> **The Blood Mobile** Scheduled to be here on March 14th, 2017 From 1 to 6pm

Spring Forward Set your clocks forward 1 hour March 12th!

> W.R. District U.M.W Spring Gathering **Saturday, March 25th, 10 am.** Registration due March 17th (See article on page 6.)

God Shares a Meal This month's God Shares a Meal will be Friday, March 31st, 2017, 4-6:30 pm.

Soles4Souls

The last day to bring all sizes of shoes, boots, sandals, etc to the church is Sunday, April 2nd; count them, 469 pairs collected already!

UMW PRIME RIB DINNER

To benefit the Land Fund, this dinner will be held on April 29th, 2017. (See article on page 3.)

<u>*HII Daughters Tea*</u> All daughters are welcome **Saturday**, May 13th, 2017, 10 am to Noon. Entertainment will be "Divine Inspirations". More details to come. We hope you will join us, we always have fun!



Middlefield Ministry Campus

First United Methodist Church's Free Family Movie Night Friday, March 17th

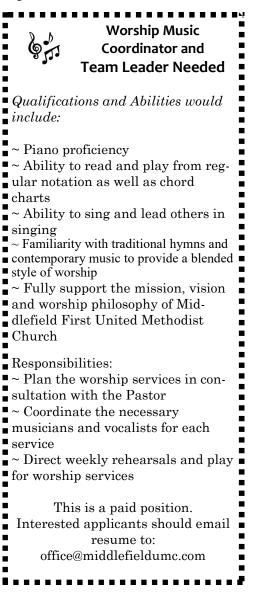
Doors open at 6:30 pm Movie starts at 6:45 pm (running time 1 hr. 47 min.)

All are invited to come (CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT) and enjoy a 2016 entertaining movie about a lonely, orphaned young girl that meets a very large man and the two become friends as he takes her on adventures throughout his world. They both learn to count on each other, and in the process, she learns to trust again and dream of a family of her own.

This is a heart-felt movie for all ages! We will have popcorn, beverages, and fun! With our licensing agreement, we can't name the movie in this newsletter but just stop by the church or call us at 440-632-0480 for all the details.

We hope to see you there, and bring your friends, too! If you have questions or would like to help, contact the church office. Also RSVPs are much appreciated. Look for a sign up sheet (attending/ helping) in the Social Hall starting in March. Hope you enjoy the show!

You can find out more about us and the newsletter at: www.middlefieldumc.com or check us out on Facebook, **First United Methodist Church** of Middlefield



MEMBERSHIP CLASS ...to be offered soon. Contact Pastor Erv or sign up on the clipboard in the Social Hall if you are interested.

THE MESSENGER STAFF

Co--Editors—Betsy Anderson Jackie Kawalec Advisor—Pastor Erv Urschitz Production—Jackie Kawalec Staff Writer—Gilberta Town

The Messenger Newsletter is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church of Middlefield, PO Box 207, 14999 South State Avenue, Middlefield, Ohio. 440-632-480, office@middlefieldumc.com

Send your contributions for The Messenger Newsletter to jackiekawalec@outlook.com in place of a hard copy. Please submit by Monday, March 20^{th} .

Pastor's Letter

Jesus commands us – "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Disciples are called to make disciples.

Jesus sent us, his followers, into the world to make disciples. Yes, it may be challenging. Yet passing faith in Christ to others and the next generation is vitally important. It may be easy to fool ourselves and be comfortable with the way we live out our faith. Jesus told us to put His word into practice. We can't really pick the texts in scripture we appreciate and are comfortable with and say as followers of Christ we have it down and we are good. In our culture currently there is much division, anxiety, deception, turmoil (just turn on the news) and sin we are called to challenge. As salt and light as Jesus called us, let us be a community of unity, peace, truth, grace and mercy that lives up to God's high standard. Many are seeking an authentic faith that encourages others in love. Love that is seen in action as God is honored and those around us realize that God is the source and His followers are mere vessels of His great love. I encourage you to pray for those near you who need God's saving love in their lives. Ask God to show you how to share His love with them and others, and let His love flow.

Let's Go and Make Disciples!

Pastor Erv

Prayer room beside the elevator is available whenever the Church is open. Please stop in and let us lift one another up to the Lord.

The Messenger Staff welcomes contributions to the newsletter in forms of informational articles, creative writers, reporters, and distribution. If you have a desire to serve in church communication, please let us know.

The Life and Times of Pastor Crv Urschitz Part 2

"G-O-O-D M-O-R-N-I-N-G-!" This is the enthusiastic greeting from Pastor Erv each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock as he begins leading us in our Worship Service.

As we get to know our pastor and the story of his life better, you may remember from our last issue that he was born the youngest of eight siblings on February 20, 1960, and was brought home to his family's 118acre farm in Bellville, Ohio, where he grew up.

And now, to continue our story, we join young Pastor Erv as he is just entering into his teen years.

Pastor Erv reports that God had been speaking to him for several years. He began attending church at the age of 12 and accepted Christ at the age of 14.

The 1982 recession caused his employer to cut his hours, so he started attending The Ohio State University, Mansfield Branch, for the next three years. At that time he had to decide on a major, and so, he then transferred to Mount Vernon Nazarene College in 1985, from which he graduated in 1988 with a communications degree and a pre-seminary minor. (At this time he felt called to the ministry, which he declared began as a faith journey. ("God opened the doors, and I went through them.") He entered Ashland Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1992 with a Master of Divinity and Pastoral Counseling designation He was ordained as a deacon in 1993 and as an elder in 1997.

While in seminary he was involved in a singles ministry with a group of young adults, where he met now First Lady Wendy at a prayer meeting in the Mansfield area. Realizing that they had truly met their soulmates, they were married on August 25th, 1990, with Wendy, being fully aware that he would be entering the ministry and subsequently supporting him with her faithfulness and involvement in this dedicated life style. His first appointment happened in 1991 as an associate pastor at Wooster United Methodist Church, where they served for three years. Wendy's college degree was in Electronical Engineering Technology, qualifying her to serve as a Radar and Communications Technician under the auspices of the Federal Aviation Administration. (As Pastor Erv says, Wendy and son Caleb are the high-level math experts-Erv, not so much!) (To be concluded as part 3 in the April issue of the Messenger Newsletter.)

CHURCH HAPPENINGS



Come shop at the new and improved Thrift Shop! We are in the process of revamping and improving your shopping experience by adding more shelves and racks. Volunteers are needed to help us accomplish our goal. Please call **Nancy Cline** at **632-9053** for more information.

As usually, 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!

The Food Pantry is open on:



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

The Food Pantry also closes when the Cardinal School District closes for bad weather. If there is a need and our pantry is closed, you may call 211 for the nearest open Food Pantry.

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, please continue to save empty laundry detergent bottles for us.

<u>PRIME RIB DINNER</u>

hosted by UMW For the benefit of our Land Fund, in order to help pay down the principle, our United Methodist Women are graciously preparing, for our enjoyment, an evening of elegance on April 29th at 5:30 pm. Our church Social Hall will be turned into a formal dining room with table clothes. flowers, and wait staff. For our dining pleasure, the dinner will be served to us with a menu including perfectly prepared Prime Rib by Mitch, smashed potatoes with a butter sauce, wonderfully seasoned grilled mixed vegetables, fresh, crusty Italian bread with butter and a dessert fitting enough to end a beautiful meal: Angel Food Cake with strawberries and whipped cream. But the evening doesn't For after-dinner enjoyment end there! there will also be a Silent Auction that will surely help in our quest to benefit the Land fund.

We hope you will join us for this delightful evening that will enrich our lives not just for that evening, but in getting us closer to using our land as a blessing to our community in many more ways in the not-so-distant future,

Tickets will be sold *presale only* for \$25 each. There will be a limited number of tickets available so get yours early. *Contributions of donations for the auction* would be appreciated. Contact Nancy Cline at 632-9053 about donations or questions.



<u>Growth Groups</u>

Sunday 8:45 am The 411 "Fresh Encounter: Experiencing God's Power for Spiritual Awakening Chapter 1, March 5th (Come as you can)

Monday 6:30 pm Disciple Fast Track

Tuesday 9 am Women's Group, 1st and 3rd Tuesday "The Girl's Still Got It"

7 pm **"He Chose the Nails"** By Max Lucado (During Lent, 5 lessons)

Wednesday 9:30 am Emmaus Group Meeting in the Inner Office (off of the Main Office)

> 10 am **"He Chose the Nails"** By Max Lucado (During Lent, 5 lessons)

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow A



God Shares a Meal Friday, March 31st, 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 and live in Middlefield, you may call for delivery by contacting **the church office at 632-0480**. Donations are accepted. Please consider helping prepare, serve, and/or clean up. Come see the smiles of appreciation and the blessings you will receive as you serve.



Getting to Know You.... Bonnie Fabritius

Sitting among the congregation on a Sunday morning on the north side of the sanctuary about 4 rows back, is a quiet, sweet, redhead named Bonnie Fabritius. Her quiet, sweet husband, Rich, is beside her. Sometimes you'll catch her at the podium, reading the morning Scripture. If you really want to be blessed, you can spend an hour on a Sunday morning, from 8:45-9:45, listening to her quick wit and profound wisdom while she leads the "411", the adult Bible study group, which meets in the Olds Room downstairs.

Bonnie is an amazing woman, a fact which took this writer several years and much careful observation to discover. She goes about her service to the Lord in such a quiet and unassuming manner, you would never guess her gifts and abilities. She personifies humility and grace, to which I am sure, her many friends would attest.

Mrs. Fabritius moved to Middlefield from Euclid, and in 1977 with her husband, Rich, joined the First United Methodist Church of Middlefield. Together they have 4 amazing, I ntelligent, and talented grown daughters: Lisa, Karen, Jenny, and Amy, and one fantastic granddaughter, 9-year-old Grace.

Bonnie's educational background is in biology and medicine, but she has also worked as a realtor, a substitute teacher, and a stay-at-home mom. Here at First United Methodist Church, Bonnie has served as a Vacation Bible School leader, children's Sunday School teacher,(Continued on page 6)



A huge thank you to those who contributed to the pay-to-participate offering for our Cardinal students to participate in this year's musical total of \$994 dollars

and spring sports. A total of \$994 dollars was collected from our congregation over the past several weeks. Due to the generosity of our congregation, Cardinal Alumni, businesses and other contributors, the costs for the musical, baseball softball at the high school are now and fully funded. Money continues to come in for high school and middle school track. When the costs to participate in these spring activities were announced parents and students were very discouraged. Many felt their activity would have to be cancelled because there would not be enough students to even have a team due to the increase in cost to the parents. What a blessing it has been to see the response from so many in our community. Our students and families are so grateful and hopeful for the future.

Would You Like to Help by Serving the Lord With Cookies???

Baked goods and volunteers are needed for a ministry our church is hosting, the East Ohio Conference Western Reserve Servant District/Lav Ministries Training on Friday, March 10th and 11th. On Saturday, there will be a light breakfast that needs *donations of* muffins and volunteers that can be at the church by 7:30 am. Then, for lunch, a meal will be served and the need is for donations of cookies that will be served for dessert. For questions or to volunteer your time or baking skills, please call Nancy Cline at 632-9053.

<u>What is Lay Servant</u> <u>Training?</u>

Our church is hosting the Western Reserve District Lay Servant Training on March $10^{th} \& 11^{th}$. So what exactly is a Lay Servant, and why do they have to be trained?

Lay Servant Ministries (formerly known as Lay Speaking Ministries) of the United Methodist Church has its origins in early Methodism.(Continued on page 6)

We Serve Because of These CORE VALUES:

Lost people matter to God. He wants them found. Prayer is the primary work of God's people. Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true Completing the success. Great will require Commission the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple. Without the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we can accomplish nothing. Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks.

"Fresh Encounter: Experiencing God's Power for Spiritual Awakening"



This is a 7 week study plus the introduction that was on the last Sunday of February in our **Sunday Morning 411 study**. We begin each week at **8:45 am** in the **Old's Room** downstairs. We will begin the first chapter of our study on **March 5**th.

Revival and renewal are perfect topics for springtime and Lent. Join us as we discover how God refreshes us as individuals, churches, and beyond. The authors of our study (and the famous and much loved "Experiencing God" study) make this personal, while looking at what God's done in the past.

Come as you are able, we welcome you whenever you can join us.

Geauga Men's Koinonia

You are invited to the Geauga Men's Koinonia Wednesdays, at 6 pm at Jim Skinner's Shop, Bradford Neal, Old State Road, just north of Mary Yoder's. Food, fellowship, devotions and fun!

Breakfast

3rd Saturday of the month at 8 am, at Jim Skinner's Shop All men who would like to attend are welcome to join us.

<u>CHURCH HAPPENINGS (Continued from pg 3.):</u>

Hymn Sing at Briar Hill and Briar Cliff Nursing Home

During the **First Wednesday** of each month at **2 pm** there will be a Hymn Sing at **Briar Hill North Side**. During the **Second Wednesday** of the month at **2 pm** there will be a Hymn Sing at **Briar Cliff South Side**. All are welcome to join us and be a blessing as you bless others. For questions or cancellations due to weather, contact **Janet Brazil at 834-4920**.



Come Join Us and Get Fit!

Whether you are in shape or have too much shape. Come join us as we work on getting fit and healthy together. Join us in the Social Hall for

PIYO on Mondays at 9 am and/or for CIZE on Thursdays at 5:30 pm

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

Rag Cutting Changes Meeting Day

The change is that the get-together is moved to the **1st Thursday** instead of the 3rd because of all of the activities in the middle of the month. Ladies, let's get together and do something relaxing. To help the Thrift Shop raise funds for charities, we are getting together on one Thursday evening a month at **6:30 pm** in the **Social Hall**. The purpose is to cut up unusable clothes into rags that can be bought by the bag. We also remove the buttons that are sold by the jar. We have beverages and visit while getting to know each other. Just bring a pair of scissors, or use a pair of ours. For questions, or info, call the office at 632-5753 and ask for **Jackie Williams**.

Mobile Pantry Produce

Free Produce giveaway on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 4 to 6 pm. This month that date is Tuesday, March 28th, 2017. Help is appreciated any time between 3 to 7 pm.

Area Nursing Home 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 1:30 pm with Karlene Pilarczyk

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

These are the times that a leader is there and would very much appreciate any help you can give. Just be there and volunteer! You can also go any time to visit. It is always appreciated. Questions?

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



E-GIVING TWO WAYS

- 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. Please contact Kendra Fashing, Treasurer, for a current budget report.

2017 Leadership Board

Todd Ross—Chairperson todd.ross@newaystamping.com (440) 636-3322

Skip Boehnlein—Lay Leader sbenline@sbcglobal.net (440) 313-2095

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

Cindi Boehnlein-Nurture Specialist cbenline@sbcglobal.net (440) 834-1191

LuAnn Burger—Trustee Specialist (440) 968-3779

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

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

Don Hunter—SPR Specialist donalddhunter@gmail.com 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 the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, which this month is on **Thursday, March 9th, at 7:30 pm**.

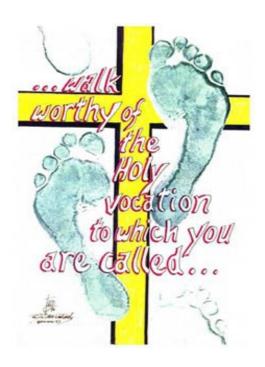
Anyone who would like to see the budget report may contact our Treasurer, Kendra Fashing.



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall softly upon your fields and, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of H.is hand





Lay Servant Ministries (Continued from page 4)....As the Methodist movement spread there were more society (home church) meetings than there were clergy members. John Wesley-founder of Methodism-used lay persons to preach, conduct worship, lead studies, and visit the sick and imprisoned. These early leaders were called exhorters, forerunners of today's lay servants. The three tenets of Lay Servant Ministries are Leading, Caring, and Communication. There are 3 levels of Lay Servants: Local Church Lay Servant, Certified Lay Servant, and Lay Speaker. Each level requires certain courses to be trained & certified, and each level serves in a different way to augment the clergy ministry. In our church, we have several members, including Dennis & LuAnn Burger, Ed Pollari, Rich & Bonnie Fabritius, Cindi Boehnlein, Jeff Gibbs & Jim Anderson who are or have been certified Lay Servants. If this is a ministry you would like to pursue, ask for more information from one of them or go to www.eocumc.com/laity/layservants.html The next training event is in October.

Getting to Know You...(Continued from page 4) United Methodist Women's president and missions chairperson, as well as being on the renewal team and teaching several Bible studies. As we mentioned earlier, she currently leads the Sunday morning adult Bible study group, the "411." The group has just started a new study and welcomes all to join them at 8:45 in the Olds Room.

Bonnie says that she has been greatly influenced in her faith journey by the Renewal Team and by the late, prayer warrior, Carl Gibbs. She has observed God's Spirit moving in our church by the awakening and renewed use of spiritual gifts, such as teaching, mercy, hospitality, and giving. She would love to see God lead First United Methodist Church of Middlefield into renewal and revival to further His kingdom on earth.

This article is the third in our series Getting to Know You.



Spring Gathering For Making Connections With Other UMW

Join us in making connections at the Western Reserve District United Methodist Women Spring Gathering with leadership development. Connect as we gather to consider the church and poverty, then stay to make some new connections through a time of sharing and learning as women organized for missions. Connect with God, with others and with United Methodist women!

This event takes place on Saturday, March 25th, 2017 at: Plymouth United Methodist Church 970 Plymouth Brick Road West Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 440-998-0260

> Registration takes place at 9:30 am and the program starts at 10 am.

Preregistration is due by March, 17, 2017. A sign-up sheet is on a clipboard in the Social Hall by the calendar. The cost is \$6 per person to cover the cost of lunch, information/ forms.

As a service, donations of food and clothing will be collected for the Plymouth UMC food and clothing ministries.

Questions? Call Barbara at 330-506-9017 or email Barbara at bgws12@icloud.com MARCH

March 2017

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			I Early Ashing 6:30 am Growth Group 10 a NAMI Peer Group 7pm Service 7pm 8:30 pm AA	2 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am Cize 5:30 pm Rag Cutting 6:30 pm AA 7 pm	3 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	4 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
5 8:45 The 411 10 Worship 1:45pm Worship at Bur- ton Health Care	6 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9am 6:30 pm Disciple	7 Women's Bible Study 9-10:30 Growth Group 7 pm	8 Immunization Clinic 8 -12 Growth Group 10a 1:30 pm Hymn Sing Briar Hill 7p NAMI Peer Group 8:30 p AA	9 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am Cize 5:30 pm AA 7 pm Leadership Mtg 7:30pm	10 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon Lay Servant Training 4-10 pm	11 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon Lay Servant Training 8-4 pm
	13 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9am 6:30 pm Disciple	14 Red Cross Bloodmobile 1-6p Growth Group 7 pm	<i>I5</i> Immunization Clinic 8-12 <i>Emmaus 9:30</i> Growth Group 10a <i>NAMI 7pm</i> 8:30 pm AA	<i>I6</i> TS Sorting 7:30 a Immunization Clinic 2-6pm Food del. 10 am Cize 5:30 pm AA 7 pm	17 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon Family Movie Night 6:30 Doors Open 6:45 Movie Starts	18 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon
	20 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9am 6:30 pm Disciple	21 Women's Bible Study 9-10:30 Growth Group 7 pm	22 Emmaus 9:30 <i>Growth Group 10 a</i> NAMI Peer Group 7pm 8:30 pm AA	23 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am Cize 5:30 pm AA 7 pm	24 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon	25 Thrift Shop Open 9 am-Noon District Compass Group Mtg 10a—12 p
	27 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am PiYo 9am 6:30 pm Disciple	28 Mobile Pantry Produce 4-6 Growth Group 7 pm	29 Emmaus 9:30 <i>Growth Group 10 a</i> NAMI Peer Group 7pm 8:30 pm AA	30 Thrift Shop Sorting 7:30 am Cize 5:30 pm AA 7 pm	<i>31</i> 4—6:30 God Shares a Meal	

Happy Birthday!

First United Methodist Church of Middlefield 14999 S State Ave PO Box 207 Middlefield, Ohio 44062