



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Middleburg United Methodist Church  
Editor: Nichole Batten

January/February 2020  
Issue 7

Dear Church family,

Happy New Year! Another Christmas has come and gone. Hopefully, yours was spent well. As you contemplate the New Year before you, I would like to offer some Biblical insights that can help you reach your fullest potential in the New Year and, more importantly, each day.

Here it comes---the buzzword, "*RESOLUTION*." Think with me, if you will, of the number of times you have made a New Year's resolution . . . Now turn your thoughts to the number of times you have completed one . . . All too often we passionately begin projects, diets, books, Bible reading programs, etc. etc. only to quit, rarely completing that which we originally set out to do.

The problem isn't the goals we set, but our failure to follow through with our intentions and promises. This has been a dilemma for God's people down through the ages. In II Corinthians 8:11, we read Paul admonishing the believers with these words: "Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means." Jesus, in another passage, seems to give us a key as to how we can more effectively perform what we begin. In the parable of the talents recorded in Matthew chapter 25, the master praises two of his servants with the following statements: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things..." (v.21).

Perhaps the secret to success for you this year is to focus on just one or two attainable goals at a time. Being faithful to complete a few things brings about the encouragement and discipline necessary to move on to more things.

Let me leave you with this word of hope from Philippians 1:6: "...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Your efforts matter, but this is also about being. So may you BE all God created you to be. God is at work in you. You are not alone. God is with us.

May Immanuel bless you each step into the New Year,

*Pastor Brian Sanderson*

January 1<sup>st</sup> marked the start of my 13<sup>th</sup> year organizing the MUMC Wednesday night meals. I have really enjoyed this experience and have learned a lot about cooking for large groups. I would like to thank all those who have helped along the way. Although there are many names involved in this process, I would like to mention a few that stand out.

Glenda Harmon: Taking care of the second Wednesday meals and giving me a break. She has her own team of assistants (Sharon Frisbee and Cynthia Stone) that are there every month.

Barbara Wilkie: Handling the first Wednesday meals for many years. Barbara also has a group of helpers (most notably Regina Clayton) on the nights she cooks.

Don Weeks: Don started helping in the scullery when I started these meals and is always ready to jump in to help wherever needed.

Len Nordgren: Nothing is too small or too large for Len to tackle, even when sick. A Godsend in the scullery and doing whatever is needed to keep me on track.

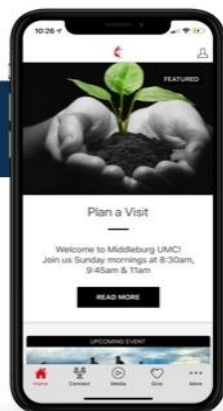
Elle Nordgren: Where would I have been without these two? With Elle setting up the utensils, napkins and place mats, serving and cleaning after the meal, and all the other things she does to keep this kitchen running.

Mike Bragg: Mike took a little break while taking care of some family business, and helping others who needed assistance, but he has started back. Mike is a buzz saw in the kitchen.

All the other names, too numerous to mention, that take the time to help clear the tables after the meal, put things away, help dry dishes, and all the other chores that need to be done after a meal.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my wife Karen. Without her help and support, there are several nights you folks would have been better off finding somewhere else to eat. Not saying the meal was terrible, but edible would be a compliment.

I am thinking of having a "Senior" Prom at our church, sometime in the spring. In my mind, I see this as a coat and tie affair for the men and a dress or gown affair for the ladies. It would be for the seniors of the church, and include a dinner, games, music, and dancing like in the "good old days" and whatever else comes to mind. Let me or Karen know what you think of this idea. Also, a "Sock Hop" or a "Sweetheart Banquet" tickles my fancy.



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## Being Faithful

The word *faithful* is one that can easily roll off our lips in a variety of situations. You can probably sit there and come up with 4 examples of “being faithful” right now in your own life: being faithful to a diet, being faithful to a resolution to stop smoking, faithfulness to a timely regimen of prescription medicines, faithfulness to a spouse or significant other, et cetera.

Put it under the umbrella of CHURCH. The obvious one is: being faithful to God. Now how about to: devotion time, prayer, tithing, attendance, joining a Bible study, volunteering to clean the cemetery, helping with the Food Bridge or clothing Boutique, or to speaking about your faith to a stranger at the gas pump or check out line?

Let's go to WORSHIP. Here's where you can get comfortably private in your faith. Your own prayer habits are, after all, your business. If your daily prayer life consists of blessing before a meal, at least there is that. If you are ashamed of your vocal quality in congregational singing but love belting it out to the car radio, there is that. Put on a Christian radio station or CD and let 'er rip. If you can't remember all the words to the Apostle's Creed but know every lyric to every song Johnny Cash (or whoever) wrote, there is that.

See what I'm saying? There are layers to being faithful: surface, deep dirt, or fathomless. It's one of those *choices* God gave you in creation. You pick. We can talk until we're blue in the face about commitment, dedication, salvation, and eternal life; but until the faithfulness in each area of your life takes on a new meaning, it's all just surface. [Hey, I'm a Christian, I go to church some, I put \$20 in the offering plate when I have extra. What do you mean: “deep dirt?” Ok, so I am considering that Monday Night Bible Study. I have Thursday mornings free, so I'll show up at the Budington to give, not receive. Bet no one would mind if I weeded that flowerbed on my own time. My yard sale was successful, so I'll tithe my profit in addition to my regular offering. When I make soup, I always overdo so the monthly Soup Kitchen luncheon might use my extra.]

And then there is fathomless faith - a little harder until you cultivate it (over a lifetime, not overnight). It's like faith that is as natural to you as breathing, that hardly even stops for consideration. You put yourself in the hands of Jesus and ask for Him to use you wherever needed. You listen to the urging of the Holy Spirit and try your best to be obedient. You are humble, reverent, and joyful before God the Father, awed by His consideration of *you*, that He gave His Son to save *you*, that *you* are important to Him. And all He asks in return is your faithfulness. So – you pick.

I have faith I will see you in Worship this Sunday!

\*\*Susan



# Youth News

Happy New Year! It's a new year full of new blessings and we are grateful for it. This year we look forward to learning about the early formation of the church through a study in Acts. This follows our Fall study of the Gospel according to Matthew, and our Advent season study. The youth are beginning to grasp the significance of the Gospel message. Through Acts, they will discover how the early church used this Gospel message in their walk, and how we can apply it to our daily walk with Christ today. This will also be a great preparation for confirmation this year!

Confirmation lessons will begin Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. It is open to 6<sup>th</sup> graders also, who will soon be graduating into junior high school and into our youth group. This gives us the opportunity to meet new youth early and teach them all about The Methodist Church with our other junior high youth that they will be familiar with. If you know a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who will be graduating into our youth group this year, let us know! Contact Harry to confirm your interest in confirmation classes beginning March 25<sup>th</sup>.

God Bless- Harry Benedict



It's a new year here at Middleburg UMC!

Now that Christmas is over, we can rest for a little bit, but my mind is already getting ready for VBS-The Knights of North Castle! Thank you for the Christmas tree donations. If there is anyone else that has some to donate, please do! If, by chance, you would let us borrow one let me know and I will be sure to get it back to you



Wednesday night KidMin classes start back on January 8<sup>th</sup>! See you there!



# United Methodist Women

It is hard to believe that 2019 is nearly gone. However, we look forward to the new year and once again another great year. The year 2019 was very good to the UMW as we were able to complete our agenda, except for the Ice Cream Social. I promise you that will not happen this year. We have so much fun at our churchwide events and it is a time we can all be together. Our first event will be the "churchwide Birthday Party" on March 29th in the FLC at 6:00pm.

We continue to support several local missions through our fundraising efforts. We will have our 7th Annual Yard Sale in the spring and continue to collect items all year. If items are left in the office, please state they are for the UMW yard sale. Also, I can be reached at 904 505-7891 and will be happy to meet at the church and items can be put in storage.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of the UMW ladies who work so hard throughout the year and our congregation.

I look forward to once again leading this unit as their President for 2020. Our meetings are held the second Thursday in the Portable at 6:30pm and are open to all ladies of the church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In Christ  
Judy McNee



Morris, our church cat,  
would like to say  
"Happy New Year" to  
everyone!

## JOY Club Fall Schedule

Sponsored by our UMW  
The first Tuesday of the month  
All are invited

Lunch at 11:30 p.m. with program to follow

Jan. 7th - Healthy Living For Your Brain & Body

Feb. 4th - Lunch and Learn with Dignity with Tony Sten

Mar. 2nd - Justin Frisbee will speak about Stroke Awareness

Apr. 7th - Gary Monson will speak as John Wesley

## New Exciting Opportunities for Men!

Men – are you looking for a way to energize your walk with Christ, and tap into the camaraderie and creativity of other men in the Church? Then please read, below, about the exciting learning opportunities being offered!

The Middleburg United Methodist Men (MUMM) are starting to meet once again and will be having their first meeting the second Saturday evening in January (1/11/2020). There will be a FREE BBQ dinner: pork sandwiches with all the trimmings. The meeting will start at 5 PM and will adjourn NLT 7 PM.

This is the new and improved MUMM! All men are invited, church members or non-members.

There is a new leadership team of men, here at MUMC, whose shared ministry is to help men and further develop their relationship with God. We have some exciting plans for the Methodist Men in 2020!

We will be offering the following:



Each man will have the opportunity to sign up for any of the following courses:




(You will also have the opportunity to take the other five courses, which will be offered later on in the year.)

We look forward to seeing you at the January meeting. If you have any questions, please ask one of us.

Your MUMM's leadership team: Phil Jacobs (904-309-4318), Ray Ashcraft (904-860-6162), Tommy Wilder (904-874-1756), Bob Milam (904-200-6432), Roger Murphy (904-248-9053), James Cooper (904-310-2808), and Craig Van Gundy (904-838-9414)



 <h1>January 2020</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2	3	4 THE KITCHEN - 11 am Bread Basket
5	6 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm	7 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters Joy Club - 11:30	8 Bible Study Youth Kid Min Starts Up	9 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	10	11 Bread Basket <b>UMM 1st Meeting 5-7 pm</b>
12 <b>Cookie Crunchers 2-4 pm</b>	13 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	14 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters <b>Finance Meeting</b>	15 Youth & Children Bible Study <b>Purple Gang</b>	16 <b>UMW – 6:30</b> Food Bridge Zumba	17	18 Bread Basket
19	20 	21 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters	22 Bible Study Youth & Children	23 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba <b>Trustees 6 pm</b>	24	25 Bread Basket FLC Reserved 12-3
26	27 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	28 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters	29 Bible Study Youth & Children	30	31	

## Weekly Events:

**BIBLE STUDIES/ CLASSES**

**Monday** 9am Prayer Mtg Sanctuary  
Bell Choir - 3:30 pm - Study  
Bible Study– 6 pm - Portable

**Tue** -6pm Budington bldg.  
Young Adult-6:30 pm - Study  
Crafters 6 pm - Portable

**Wednesday**- 9 am in the Portable

**N.A. Meetings Tues.** - 8 pm - Mongiovi House  
**PURPLE GANG** - EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> **Wednesday** For Lunch.  
**Wednesday Nights** – Dinner 5:30-6 pm  
Youth 6:00 pm - FLC Rm. 212  
**Thursdays** - Cub Scouts - FLC 6-8 pm  
**Choir Practice** - Wednesday - 6:30, Sunday - 9:45 am

**FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY**  
Thursdays Open worship 8:30-9:30am  
Distribution 9:30-11:30am  
**BOUQUET**  
Thursdays 9:30-11:30am  
Saturdays 9-11am  
**BREAD BASKET** – Saturdays 9-11am  
**THE KITCHEN:** 1st Saturday of month  
11am Weigle Sr Center



# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 THE KITCHEN - 11 am Bread Basket
2	3 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm	4 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters <b>Joy Club - 11:30</b>	5 Youth & Children Bible Study	6 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	7	8 Bread Basket <b>Emmaus Team Meeting</b> <b>FLC 8- 4 pm</b>
9 <b>Cookie Crunchers</b> <b>2-4 pm</b>	10 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	11 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters <b>Finance Meeting</b>	12 Bible Study Youth & Children Bible Study	13 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba <b>UMW - 6:30</b>	14 <b>Black Creek Festival Setup</b>	15 <b>Black Creek Festival</b> Bread Basket
16	17 	18	19 <b>Purple Gang</b> Youth & Children Bible Study	20 Cub Scouts Zumba Food Bridge <b>Trustees 6 pm</b>	21	22 Bread Basket <b>Emmaus Team Meeting</b> <b>FLC 8- 4 pm</b>
23	24 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	25 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters	26 Bible Study Youth & Children	27 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	28	29 Bread Basket

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### FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

Thursdays Open worship 8:30-9:30 am  
Distribution 9:30-11:30 am

### BOUTIQUE

Thursdays 9:30-11:30 am  
Saturdays 9-11 am

**BREAD BASKET** – Saturdays 9-11 am

**THE KITCHEN:** 1st Saturday of month  
11am Weigle Sr Center





## Birthdays

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Clara Bragg<br>Diane Geiger<br>Pastor Brian Sanderson                | 20 Richard Wehrman  |
| 2 Barbara Wilkie   | 21 Blake Eckert<br>Hope Smith   |
| 3 Amy Ellenburg  | 23 Gayward Hendry<br>Abbie McCumber   |
| 4 Mike Gibson  | 24 David Graham,<br>Bea Orcino<br>Andy & Paul Jacobs                          |
| 6 John Lippencott<br>Ryanne Sivalski                                   | Sonny McCartney<br>TJ Woodard   |
| 7 Diane Wilder, David<br>Shepard, George Criss                         | 25 Scott Maman,<br>Judy Wilson  |
| 8 Carol Fouraker,<br>Brianna Smith                                     | 26 Emilie Caraway<br>Jean Hall<br>Bonnie Martens<br>Diane Stacho              |
| 10 Barbara Brewer<br>Peggy Haddle                                      | 27 Samantha Zertuche  |
| 11 Luann Eddington   | 28 Missy Criswell,<br>Herman Dyal<br>Mary Beth Cassady                        |
| 12 Jennie Warner   | 31 Elaine Driver,<br>Bobbie Jo McAfee,<br>Cynthia Thies<br>Phyllis Wickersham |
| 14 Roni Orcino<br>Issac Reynolds<br>Josh Thornton<br>Michael Whiteside |   |
| 17 Erika Lippencott<br>Cheri Starnes                                   |   |
| 18 Kim Crist   |   |
| 19 Montana Beneduce<br>Joanne Grubbs                                   |   |

## Anniversaries

- 1 Jody & David Robertson  
Crystal & Steve Warren
- 11 Rose & Bob Lynch
- 12 Joanne & John Grubbs
- 18 Barbara and Roy Wilkie



## Birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Reed Howard                                       | 19 Tom Summers                              |
| 3 John Dickerson, Sr.                               | 20 Alissa Hansen<br>Tim Saltsman            |
| 4 Noah Scoville                                     | 21 Jayne Mani                               |
| 7 Cameron Trotman                                   | 23 Maxine Schmalried                        |
| 8 Jeff Cochuyt                                      | 24 Larry Weisbrodt                          |
| 9 Sharon Frisbee<br>Amanda Jacobs<br>Jesse Scoville | 25 Dee Loudon<br>Sandy Trueblood            |
| 11 Gabi Lawrence                                    | 26 Jason Smith<br>Justin Smith              |
| 12 Brayden Noland                                   | 27 Keith Henry<br>Bill Stokes<br>John Klein |
| 13 Joyce McKinney<br>Jean Sharp                     | 28 Tom Howard                               |
| 14 Danielle Terrell                                 |   |
| 15 Jo Gnnann  |   |
| 16 Linda Morrison,<br>Suzanne Lyda                  |   |
| 17 John Morningstar<br>Penelope Smith               |   |

## Anniversaries

- 1 Mike & Deb Goulding
- 13 Debbie & Bernie Van Matre
- 14 Lynn and Don Fullerton  
Trish and Mike Gibson  
Jim & Carol Jordan
- 29 Jim & Dee Loudon  
Stephanie & Roger Merring

## Prayer Roll

Scott Ashcraft, Rheta Barber, Bruce Behrens, Diane Betz, Joyce Brantley, Ben Brown, Crystal Brooks, Jane Bullen, Jim Bullen, Gloria Bullock, George Cassidy, Debbie Chase, Debra Cleeland, Mary Jo Connor, Peter Cooper, Polly Criss, Helen Crotts, Danika Davis, Douglas Dickerson, Gary Driver, Anna Echelberg, Blake Eckert, Eileen Elster, Rick Fife, Krickett Foschaar, Tony Fox, Carol & Richard Fouraker, Wanda Green, Larry Grisweld, Annette Hagler, LA & Maxine Hardee, Evelyn Harlow, Andrew Hutchison, Kristine Koppel, Ron Kroll, Paul Lee, Jim Lundy, Bob & Pat Lucas, Bob & Rose Lynch, BeBe Mathis, Debbie McDonald, Beth & Gordon McDonald, Linda Monroe, Curt & Linda Morrison, Pat Mueller, Nordgren Family, Julia O'Sullivan, Kevin Ossenfort, Abel Overly, Ray Overly, Sam Payne, Mary Pharis, Betty Pinkney, Doug Pope, Marianne Previty, Henry Rauch, Jean Richards, Bill Roberts, Tina Rodgers, Robin Scherzer, George Scoble, Dan Smith, Nora Smith, Don Soos, Joan Spencer, Allan Spencer, Nicholas Spencer, Priscilla Spencer, Marlene Stevens, Callen Turner, Jennie Warner, Gracie Washington, Richard Wehrman, Walter Whiteside, Ann Woodard, Robin Zagora & Family

### Servicemen & Women:

Drew Baker, John Behrens, John Brantley, SGT Philip Buchanan, Jerry Dingman, Benjamin Harlowe, Ben Humphrey, Joseph Jankord, Howard Kalick, Caleb Kovach, Lola Lewis, Jarrod Linion, Matt Lippencott, Pete Matisoo, Kayla McClendon, Michael McLeod, Dustin Morrison, Brad Muller, Paul Noland, Vince Preston, Matt Ritter, Sarah Robinson, Alexander Rumrill, Josh Sansoucy, Breena Schmoll, Bret Shockley, Tim Sutton, Chris Teagle, Paul C. Trotman, Buzzy Updegraff, Jason & Jackie Warren, Daniel West, and Matthew West,

**Middleburg United Methodist Church**

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**Rev. Brian Sanderson, Sr. Pastor**

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middleburgunited@bellsouth.net

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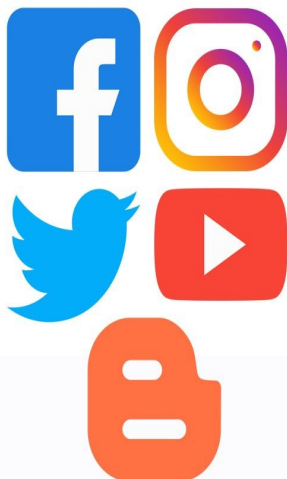
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