

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Middleburg United Methodist Church
Editor: Nichole Batten

March/April 2021
Issue 2

Dear Friends and Fellow Disciples,

February is almost a memory and our New Year flows on. Time truly waits for no man. We are living in a day and age where we are challenged on many fronts. There is the continuing effect of the world-wide pandemic, ongoing political turmoil and a new focus on just what is justice in this country. Praise be to the God of grace.

Since our last newsletter we have experienced much together as a family of faith. We have journeyed through the season of epiphany and are now into Lent. Many have worked tirelessly on fundraisers and we have seen success in these endeavors (thank you all.) Our committees have been actively at work to make this Church all God wants her to be. We celebrated the lives of Lesley Mable and Polly Criss and we baptized baby Elijah Mensa-Westmoreland. Please continue to pray for these people.

In the month of March, we will have a mid-week worship service on the 10th at noon to connect with our Lenten experience. In April, we experience the season of Easter and will welcome Jews For Jesus, Friday of Holy Week, for an inspiring presentation. There is also a presentation from the Children's Home in the making. I also have two weddings from outside of the congregation.

Back to Easter. The Bible never says celebrate Easter on one specific day. Instead, it encourages disciples to live Easter's good news of new life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ every day. The greatest way we can do that is to do what the first disciples did. They gave testimony to how they saw the Lord.

Jesus appeared in all kinds of places — in locked rooms, along the road, in the midst of fear and doubt, injustice and despair, to people who longed for meaning, purpose, wholeness and faith, and certainly in the joys of being found, healings, people being feed, the discovery of God's way and will.

Where do you see Jesus? How are you experiencing new life in this Easter season? The good news of Easter tells us that wherever we look, regardless of what day it is, Jesus is there, waiting to be seen, waiting for our eyes to open and see new life and new possibilities.

May we all be truly awakened to the Spirit of Easter. Let us use all of the tools at our disposal-- Our devotionals, the Spiritual disciplines: fasting, prayer, silence, solitude, and Bible study to fully embrace what God wants to teach us and where God wants to lead us.

In His Love,

Pastor Brian Sanderson

HE IS RISEN
the Lord is risen indeed

HOMEcoming 198

May 2, 2021

Wait! We skipped last year! You mean we are going to actually have our historic Homecoming this year?

Answer: Yes, we are optimistically planning on it!

But how, with social distancing and masking and all that stuff??

Answer: The same way we do when we hold services in the Sanctuary...with careful planning and prudence. However, we will hold a single service at 10:00 in the FLC with lots of room to spread out.

YAY! Uh Oh, what about the dinner?

Answer: Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our delicious potluck dinner this year, nor can we have the Pie Contest. (*Sigh...*) However, we are going to try to have everything else as wonderful as possible.

What about children?

Answer: At this time we are not planning on giving away any children. However, if you bring some, we will have the Davis Chapel open with activities for them, and the nursery will be open for the little ones. 😊

Very clever. What about Historic Church tours?

Answer: Yes, we are planning on tours of our newly refurbished Historic Church and Museum Room.

Is there a speaker?

Answer: Yes! Tina Roach from First UMC Macclenny, who was to be our speaker last year, agreed to come again this year to bring the message.

So, I guess I'd better put it on the calendar and invite friends & family who have moved away?

Answer: That's right! **HOMEcoming 2021 IS OUR 198TH CELEBRATION.** It will be at **10:00 a.m. in the FLC on May 2, 2021**, and we're looking forward to a record crowd. See you there!



Wesley Brotherhood

There is a new cycle of classes starting March 3rd.

- Tommy Wilder 874-1756, Wednesdays, 7-8 pm
- Craig Van Gundy 838-9414, Mondays, 7-8 pm
- Ray Ashcraft 860-6162, Mondays, 7-8 pm
- James Cooper 310-2808, Thursdays, 7-8 pm
- Phil Jacobs 309-4318, Tuesdays, 7-8 pm



For your convenience, classes will be offered via internet/ zoom. If you are interested in learning how to be a better man, please consider joining one of these classes and work your way through the series. Call the leader to order your book and sign up.

Your MWB Leadership Team
(Even through COVID, we still are working for you.)



As we move along into spring, we are hopefully looking forward to some kind of normalcy.

On Saturday, March 13th, the NE District will be hosting a one day Spiritual Enrichment Experience (S.E.E.) UMW Spring event right here at Middleburg UMC. We look forward to being such a big part of this event. Check in is 8:30 a.m., event will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

The next "event" we need to attack is our Yard Sale which is scheduled for May 15th from 8-3 in the FLC. We postponed it last year because of Covid-19 and need to "hit the ground running" to get it done this year. It takes a lot to pull this off and we always appreciate added help from our church family. Also, we are not able to accept any more donations at this time.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Middleburg UMW meet in the Portable the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. All woman of the church are welcome.

From each of life's misfortunes, large or small, comes a new beginning, an opportunity to renew your faith in the future. As you go about your days, let happiness land where it will, in its own time, and place.

In Christ,

Judy McNee,
President

What are You Happy, Appreciative, and Proud About?

I'm happy we are planning on having Homecoming this year. I know not that many folks "come home" for it, but just the title and the preparation for the event makes me proud. I love having a guest speaker, singing old-time songs, and honoring a few traditions. Homecoming may be a dying event in some churches but Middleburg knows how to revive it, regardless if we're not wearing long hoop skirts and bonnets as we unpack picnic baskets on the ground. It just felt sacrilegious not having it last year, plus, OMGosh – the fabulous dinner that follows the service! No special dishes, no praise-worthy desserts, no Pie Contest, no weary but satisfied feeling after cleaning it all up – it was just a let-down. I hope we can revitalize Homecoming this May in a "new old-fashioned way."

I like the way we noted Ash "Wednesday" this year with a Sunday observation after communion. We knew a dinner on Wednesday night was out of the question and that showing up at 6 in the evening for a brief imposition of ashes probably would not garner a large attendance. As it was, the dignity of having it in the sanctuary at an altar rail was lovely and meaningful. Pastor Brian's gifts of a Lenten calendar and devotional put a little responsibility on our shoulders - a simple read and looking up a Scripture is a small daily task which can give a jump to your day, or to your evening. If you chose to "give up" something for Lent, then, good for you. I hope the denial of a treat, combined with your devotional, is preparing your heart and minds for a momentous Easter Sunday.

I appreciate the way you responded to the Love Notes. A fun fund-raiser, we enjoyed reading everyone's contributions, tried to guess who the anonymous authors were, and hoped to find our name attached to one of them. We'll try it again next Valentine's Day – be thinking! In the meanwhile, support our Lent project as we raise money to purchase a pregnant heifer through Heifer Project International. This has been an organization dear to my heart for many years, not just because it involves farm animals but because it is a way of empowering those who are impoverished by providing them with a means of growing food for their families, improving the soil, earning a livelihood, and building their communities and villages with more than just a "hand-out." A pregnant cow (or goat, sheep, llama, etc.) gives a family an offspring to pass along to a neighbor; wool, fibers, manures, and milk for sustaining life and providing an income are extra benefits. Be prayerfully generous with this project.

I'm proud of our congregation in worship, masked and observing the proper pew spacing. Slowly, I think, the Covid fear is fading as ways of life both new and old are melded into wiser, more precautionary behaviors. We've all known someone touched by this horrific flu, and we all know this will not be the last plague to threaten us. However, we also know, as simplistic as it sounds, that our lives are in God's hands and He alone knows the minutes of our lives, the hairs (or lack of) on our heads, and the hopes in our hearts. The best conversations of your day are with Him, aren't they? You can be un-masked, un-distanced, and un-ashamed of your total dependent need for His guidance and protection.

I guess what I'm trying to say, my dear church family, is *I am happy, appreciative, and proud* of belonging to Middleburg United Methodist Church. Come to worship each Sunday and watch God move as we continue to grow and serve this community. {Also, bring your kids and grandkids because I am loving getting to work with a children's choir again!}

Love you guys,

**Susan

A special thank you to the sponsors that made donations for our online silent auction.

If you do business with any of the sponsors, please thank them in person on behalf of our church.



Gold Sponsor

Cash \$300-Up In kind \$400-Up

Middleburg Martial Arts



Silver Sponsor

Cash \$150 - \$299 In Kind \$201 - \$399

Bono's (MB)

Cheri & Noel Starnes

Nicole's in The Country (MB)

Nothing Bundt Cakes (JAX @ Blanding 295)

Corner Pocket (GCS)

HH Photos

Wild Adventures

Bronze Sponsor

Cash \$50 - \$149 In Kind \$101 - \$200

Alligator Farm

Black Creek Café

Jacksonville Zoo

Marshalls (OP)

Pep Boys (MB)

Vitos Pizzeria(OP)

Avon - Darlene Teel Williams

Clay Co Agricultural Fair

Kingsley Jewelry

North Florida Vending (OP)

Publix

Texas Road House (OP)



Friends of Festival

(Cash up to \$49, In kind Up to \$100)



Advanced Auto Parts

Buffalo Wild Wings

Crafty Crabs

El Catrin Mexican Grill

G's BBQ

Hair Depot (MB)

Jeanne Owens

Kyodai Hibachi Grill

Marshalls

NAPA(MB)

O'Reilly's (MB)

Russells Feed & Farm (MB)

Sharon Frisbee

Loop (OP)

Wal mart (FI)

BP Station (MB)

Charles & George's Car Wash

Culvers(MB)

Firehouse Subs (MB)

Grumpy's (OP)

Home Depot (OP)

Jefferies Car Wash

La Nopalera (OP)

Metro Diner

O'Charley's, (FI)

Papa Johns (MB)

Sams Club

Stone E Cabin

The Loop (FI)

Whitey's Fish Camp

Brick oven Pizzeria & Gastropub

Chuck E Cheese

Dicks Wings

Fish House and Oyster Bar

Grumpy's (MB)

Huddle House (MB)

Judy Wilson

Luca's Italian

Millers Ale House

Olive Garden

Red Lobster

Auto Zone (MB)

The Granary(OP)

The Pig Bar-B-Q

Winn Dixie (MB)

BLACK CREEK WINTER FESTIVAL

Due to COVID 19 and for the safety of the community and church members we had to scale back on the 9th annual "Black Creek Winter Festival". We did have the traditional chicken dinners as pick up only and we also had a silent auction online. Both were a success. We sold 202 dinners and had 135 items in the silent auction. Our profit for the day was a little over \$5,000.

We are so grateful for our sponsors who generously donated items, gift cards, gift certificates, etc for us to auction. The auction took in over \$3,000. I know all of our sponsors have had a difficult time this year and we are so appreciative of their continued support. I have listed each sponsor so if you go into their place of business please thank them on behalf of our church. If you liked the baked beans, they came from Bono's and the coleslaw came from Nicoles in the Country. We are very appreciative of all who bought tickets for the dinner and those of you who made bids in the auction. You are the ones that made this event successful. Thank you for doing your part.

A special thank you to all the volunteers that gave their time planning, purchasing items for the dinner, setting up the auction and working the day of the event. A special thanks to Jack and Luann Eddington being the team leaders in this event, Barbara Wilkie and her kitchen crew; Len and Elle Nordgren, Regina Clayton, Jim and Suzanne Lyda, Judy McNee, Irene Strickland, Linda Morrison, Jeannie Owen, Phil Jacobs, Michael Reach, and Noah Scoville. Also Sharon Frisbee for picking up donated food, Marie and Warren Livings for getting the donations for the auction, Susan Horn for setting up the online auction, Kathy Gross and Judy Wilson for organizing the auction and getting all the information to Susan to put online, Heather Humphrey for setting up online sales, Nichole for monitoring the online sales, Gayward for securing the BBQ grill, and David Robinson for directing traffic.

Millie J Wilkes



Adult Sunday School

Adult Classes

- 9:45-10:45
 - Crusaders - Meets in Study
 - Open Door - Meets in the Portable
 - Tea Time - Meets in the Choir Room
 - Seekers Young Adults - Meets in the Mongiovi House

New members are welcome in all classes. Visit each if you would like. Remember - "There is a chair waiting for you".



Youth News

Confirmation Class

Confirmation is coming up in May. Please contact Harry if you have any questions or would like your youth to be apart of it.

Harry's cell number is (386) 916-9415

New email address is: mumcyouth@middleburgumc.org

Agape- Harry Benedict

In other "Youth News" our very own Strawberry Watts was recognized as Clay County Sheriff's First Student in the Spotlight for the month of February. Just a few reasons she was chosen was because she's an excellent student, and volunteers at our Food Bridge as well as the Civic Association and Middleburg Museum.



Prayer List

Scott Ashcraft, Rheta Barber, Dennis Barker, Joyce Brantley, Crystal Brooks, Jane Bullen, Meagan Campbell, Lib Creech, Helen Crotts, David, Church, Danika Davis, Gary Driver, Jeff Driver, Blake Eckert, Rick Fife, Krickett Foschaar, Tony Fox, Carol & Richard Fouraker, Eileen Free, Rick Futch, Lee Goodnight, Rev. Ann Godbold, Yvonne Gordon-Owens, Teresa Gross, Annette Hagler, LA & Maxine Hardee, Tom Howard, Ken Huff, Darlene King, Paul Lee, Yvonne Lempke, Lippincott Babies, Ernie Lord, Jim Lundy, Bob & Pat Lucas, Bob & Rose Lynch, Debbie McDonald, Gordon McDonald, Linda Monroe, Ellen Moore, Curt Morrison, Linda Morrison, James O'Donnell, Ray Overly, Sam Payne, Doug Pope, Bill Roberts, Tina Rodgers, Kate Sasso, Robin Scherzer, George Scoble, Dan Smith, Nora Smith, Randall Smith, Joan Spencer, Allan Spencer, Nicholas Spencer, Priscilla Spencer, Jennie Warner, Gracie Washington, Watts Family, Richard Wehrman, Millie Wilkes, Ann Woodard, Trinity Woodley, Sylvia Wooters, Robin Zagora & Family, Robert Zimmerman

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, Lawrence (Willie) Summers, Tim Sutton, Chris Teagle, Paul C. Trotman, Buzzy Updegraff, Jason & Jackie Warren, Daniel West, and Matthew West

To plan & to provide any & all on-site Children's Ministry programs for our children ages 3-6th grade, adult volunteers as well as the prayers of our congregation are desperately needed to fulfill this very important ministry. We must adhere to the Child & Youth Protection Policy which requires specific adult to children ratios. The children need **YOU** to be a part of that equation for they are truly thirsty to hear God's word & to see God's word put into action with offerings such as Sunday School, Methodist Kids Fellowship, Wednesday Night KidMin, & Vacation Bible School. Are **YOU** hearing God's word asking **YOU** to witness & to act on His behalf for the sake of His children? Please contact Misty DiGiovanni at MUMCKidMin@MiddleburgUMC.org

***Nursery Care**

*With advanced notice, care for infants & children to age 3 will be provided during Worship Services & Sunday School from 830am-12pm. Nursery Attendant: Marie Livings - (904) 282-4025

Children's Sunday School 9:45 - 11am

Sunday School is available for children 3 years of age to 6th grade. Children initially meet in the FLC Gymnasium for a music session with Mrs. Susan Hendry & then go to their designated classroom with their teachers for a lesson & activities. Face masks must be worn by the children.

*3 Yr. Olds - Kindergarten Teacher: Diane Wilder

*Grades 1st - 3rd Teacher: Nancy Long

*Grades 4th - 6th Teacher: Misty DiGiovanni



Sunday Methodist Kids Fellowship ("MKF") 11am - 12pm

Children 3 years of age through 6th grade will currently meet in the FLC Gymnasium for a combined Spirit-filled enriching lesson with indoor &/or outdoor activities provided weather permitting. Face masks must be worn by the children.

Wednesday Night KidMin 6 - 730pm

A weekly Wednesday Night KidMin program for children ages 3 - 6th grade is being planned however adult volunteers are necessary! Please contact Misty DiGiovanni at MUMCKidMin@MiddleburgUMC.org

God's Children Need to See & Hear From YOU!!!

Not ready yet or able to attend on-site weekly worship service or children's ministry programs but you ARE ready to serve & connect with others? Please pray & consider enriching our KidMin video lessons by sharing YOUR God-given special gifts, talents, testimonies, & interests such as reading/storytelling of Bible-based topics, teaching arts & craft projects, sharing favorite recipes with cooking demonstrations, etc.

Easter Sunday, April 4th

Children's Sunday School Choir Easter Performance

On Easter Sunday during the 11am Worship Service, our Children's Sunday School Choir will be singing praises about Our Risen Lord!!!

MKF Easter Egg Hunt

After their choir performance for the congregation during the 11am Worship Service, children will gather for an Easter lesson & then have an Easter Egg Hunt.

Vacation Bible School

Adult volunteers are necessary to provide Vacation Bible School this summer! Please contact Misty DiGiovanni at MUMCKidMin@MiddleburgUMC.org



March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba - 5 pm	5	6
7	8 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm	Finance Meeting	Youth & Children	11 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	12	13 UWM District Meeting
14	15 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	16	17 Youth & Children Purple Gang	18 UMW – 6:30 Food Bridge Trustees 6 pm Cub Scouts/Zumba	19	20
21	22 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	23	24 Youth & Children	25 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	26	27
28 Palm Sunday	29 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	30	31 Youth & Children			
31						

Weekly Events:

BIBLE STUDIES/ CLASSES

Sunday: Various morning Sunday School Classes

Monday: 9 am Prayer Mtg - Budington
Bible Study - 6 pm - Portable

Wednesday: Seekers Young Adult - 6 pm

UWM: Various meeting throughout the week

N.A. Meetings Tues. - 7:30 pm - Mongiovi House

PURPLE GANG: Every 3RD **Wednesday** - Lunch- 11:30

Wednesday Nights – Youth: 6:00 pm - Location Varies

Thursdays: Cub Scouts - FLC- 6:30 -8 pm
Zumba - 5 pm - \$4


FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

Thursday Drive Thru Distribution - 7:30-11:30am

BOUTIQUE - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 9 - 12 pm



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Jews 4 Jesus 12 pm 	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter	Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm		Youth & Children Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts UMW - 6:30 Zumba - 5 pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Finance Meeting	Youth & Children Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts Trustees 6 pm Zumba		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study		Purple Gang Youth & Children Bible Study	Cub Scouts Food Bridge Zumba		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study			Cub Scouts Food Bridge Zumba		

Weekly Events:

BIBLE STUDIES/ CLASSES

Sunday: Various morning Sunday
School Classes—9:45 am

Monday: 9 am Prayer Mtg - Sanctuary
Bible Study - 6 pm - Portable

Wednesday: Seekers Young Adult - 6 pm

UMM: Various meeting throughout the week.

N.A. Meetings Tues. - 7:30 pm - Mongiovi House

PURPLE GANG: Every 3RD Wednesday - Lunch-
11:30

**Wednesday Nights— Youth: 6:00 pm - Location
Varies**

Thursdays: Cub Scouts - FLC- 6:30 -8 pm,
Zumba - 5 pm - \$4

FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

Thursday Drive Thru Distribution -
7:30-11:30am

BOUTIQUE - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 9 -
12 pm

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Andy Wilder | 16 Lynne Summers |
| 3 Trevor Warren,
Lindley Wilder | 19 Mckenli Gerds,
22 Kathleen Glaze |
| 4 William DeMeritt,
Maxine Hardee,
Devon Hill,
Heather Marsteller | 24 Jessi Starnes Huntley,
Kegan Rapin,
Joshua Scoville |
| 7 Faye Taylor | 27 Scott McLendon,
Kay Rissmiller |
| 10 David Brasher,
Sandy Hamilton | 29 Marilyn Dmytryk,
Betsy (Hendry) Sommers,
Jennifer Morningstar,
Del Moon,
Angelee Smith |
| 12 Bruce Behrens,
Julie Boyette,
Peyton Martin | 31 Deb Goulding,
Beth (Pope) Amos |



Anniversaries

- 1 Joe & Julie Boyette
- 9 E.W. & Eileen Free
- 11 David & Cynthia Thies
- 12 Charlie & Millie Thompson
- 14 Roger & Mary Murphy
- 17 Johnny & Kailee Carihfield
- 20 Ray & Dianne Ashcraft
- 21 Wayne & Mary Pharis
- 24 Tracy & Michael Scoville
- 29 Christina & Jason Smith
- 31 James & Kathleen Glaze



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Garet Howard,
Yvonne Gordon-Owens | 16 Trevor Raney |
| 3 Ed Elster | 17 Sonja Birkholz,
Gerry Witt |
| 6 Jonathan Pope | 18 Millie Thompson,
Thomas Gerds |
| 7 Henry Rauch | 21 Joe Boyette,
Brenda VanGundy,
Millie Wilkes |
| 8 Wanda Green,
Sandy Mee | 23 April Morris,
Jonathan Whiteside
John Lynch |
| 9 Jeff Nordgren,
Michael Nordgren | 25 Meagan Sherard
Madison Tidwell |
| 10 Melissa (Gibson) Steiner,
Warren Livings | 26 Donald Weeks
Krystopher Sheehan |
| 12 Taylor Sherard | 27 Fran Dickson |
| 13 Joyce Brantley,
Joni DeBusk | 28 Bailey Webster |
| 14 Katie DeMeritt,
Misty DiGiovanni,
Tracy Scoville | 29 Robert Seymour
Steve Warren |
| 15 Gena Faulkner,
Willie Summers | |

Anniversaries

- 4 John & Krickett Foschaar
- 8 Barry & Lisa Elmore
- 13 Devon & Lynda Hill
- 15 Don & Brenda Weeks
Jody & Denise Rogers
- 16 Cameron & Magi Trotman
- 24 David & Carolyn Graham
- 25 Rev. Bryan & Jeanie Simpson
- 26 Harry & Gena Faulkner
Marcus & Sharon Frisbee



Middleburg United Methodist Church

3925 Main Street
Middleburg, FL 32068

Rev. Brian Sanderson, Sr. Pastor

(850) 673-7309

Church Office:

(904) 282-5589

E-mail

middleburgunited@bellsouth.net

Office Closed: April 2nd
For Good Friday

Middleburg United Methodist Church

3925 Main Street
Middleburg, FL 32068

PLACE
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To: 779-77



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Go in Peace and Love

