

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Middleburg United Methodist Church
Editor: Nichole Batten

January/February 2021
Issue 1

Dear MUMC,
Happy New Year!

Good news, 2020 is behind us and soon to be only a memory! Before each of us, lies a fork in the road...an opportunity to affect what the next year of our life will be like. I encourage you to look forward with a new sense of Advent Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. Take time to evaluate the successes and failures of 2020 and use them like textbooks from which to glean wisdom for the future. For the sake of the Good News of Jesus Christ this year, dare to dream a little bigger and serve a little harder. For the sake of the ones you call family, choose to laugh a little longer and hold each a little closer. You get one chance at this year, don't waste it dwelling on the past. The wisdom of God encourages us and reveals our responsibility. As the Apostle Paul states it, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil.3:13,14).

As your Pastor, I am confident that the Lord has good things in store for you this year. May these words serve as a reminder to you of the high calling that rests on you as a child of God and the wonderful privilege you have to make the most of the upcoming year.

I leave you with a prayer that I have framed on my desk:

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

In His Love,

Pastor Brian Sanderson



What in the world is WESLEY BROTHERHOOD??!!??

Well, I'm glad you asked. It is the new name for the rebranded Methodist Men of the Florida Conference and thus, the Middleburg United Methodist Men. This will take time and you may hear both names used for a while. Your MWB leadership team is kicking off the new year with the continuation of **33 The Series AUTHENTIC MANHOOD**.

The rotation for new classes in January will be as follows:

- Design, Tommy Wilder 874-1756, Wednesdays starting 1/13/2021, 7-8 pm
- Story, Craig Van Gundy 838-9414, Mondays starting 1/11/2021, 7-8 pm
- Traps, Ray Ashcraft 860-6162, Mondays starting 1/11/2021, 7-8 pm
- Work – TBD,
- Marriage, James Cooper 310-2808, Thursdays starting 1/14/2021, 7-8 pm
- Fatherhood, Phil Jacobs 309-4318, Tuesdays starting 1/12/2021, 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.)



If I were to take a poll as to how you would rate 2020, I can only imagine the response to such a question. It has been a difficult year for all of us in so many ways. I'm sure I would get some great answers. We can usually find "the silver lining in any given situation" but it sure was a struggle.

The Middleburg UMW ladies started the year, as we usually do, planning for the new year. Well, that plan didn't last long. By the time we got to March, the bottom fell out. It meant cancelling the March Church Wide Birthday Party and our annual yard sale. We rescheduled the yard sale twice to no avail. We also found it necessary to completely close down Joy Club. As the year continued to collapse, we had to cancel our monthly meetings.

On Saturday, December 12 from 9am to 3pm we distributed the toys to the Food Bridge children. Many thanks for the outpouring of toys and funds to make this a success. Unfortunately, we could not reach as many as we usually do because of the current situation. Those who came were so thankful. Many thanks to Kathy Gross as she had to make the difficult decision on how to handle the giving of the toys safely. Kathy works very hard to make this mission a success. Job well done Kathy...SALUTE!

We have now resumed our monthly meetings and will post our new schedule soon. We continue to have faith in the coming months of the new year that we will once again have some kind of normal.

We continue to meet in the portable the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. All women of the church are welcome to join with us.

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In Christ;

Judy McNee, President

I Am the Way, the Truth and the...

On the day I am writing this, it is a gray, cold, and a rainy mess outside. After a haircut and a few errands, I was glad to hurry home to put on a sweatshirt and light some candles. I pulled frozen ham out of the freezer in anticipation of my sister's visit, plugged in the Christmas tree and just sat in quiet contemplation.

Yes, thank you Lord for much-needed rain, gas in my car, money in the bank, warm clothing, meat in my freezer, food to feed my family, and electricity to light up my pretty Christmas tree. I am so grateful for those things that I often, *often* take for granted because I live in America, the land of so much.

So, I'll just focus on the candle. In the dim room, the patient wick is slowly giving up its life as the flame consumes it. This is a Yankee candle so it smells deliciously of balsam and pine. I'm reminded of the Scriptures citing aromatic sacrifices as being pleasing to God and I'm wishing I could light 1000 of these and arrow the scent heavenward as a thank you to Him. Frankincense is a harvested resin, unassumingly lumpy and dull yellow until burnt, and in the time of Christ a very costly acquisition. The scent of burning frankincense is earthly and woodsy and is said to alleviate stress and anxiety, purify the air, and lift emotions so that focus on worship can be enhanced. I've never smelled it but if it is something that God enjoys, then I can relate and appreciate the scent arising from my candle. I can lift my thoughts heavenward especially when I zoom in on the flame. I think of stars, which appear small to me thousands of miles away, like little holes in Heaven's fabric where light is peeping through to reassure us. I can see a small lamp burning in the stable of Bethlehem, an awe-inspiring pillar of fire standing guard over a band of Israelites in the desert, a hobo fire in a trash can on an inner city street, a menorah with spindly candles in a Jewish family's home. The light of Christ is in each of these. His life-giving light is in my candle as well. John records Him as saying: "I am the light of the world." I can so associate Him with that.

In John 14, Jesus talks about His Father's house with many rooms and He is going ahead to prepare them for us. I bet He'll put a scented candle in each one whose light will never burn away and whose aroma will inspire us to worship constantly. I always get part of that verse mixed up: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life..." I want to say "Light" instead of Life because He is that to me, a Grand Illuminator. I'll just mis-quote John and add "the Light of Life" to the sentence.

Brothers and Sisters, in this new year, I hope we all can find our Light and fixate to chase away the gloom and fright from 2020. We weren't meant to walk in fear. Let's step together into the light because our Christ is real, strongly capable, and brilliantly bright. I hope to see you all in worship and be blinded by the light of the Lord shining in your eyes.

How cool would that be?

**Susan



Sunday School

Children's Classes

10:00 - 11:00 (during church services) for children through sixth grade

11:00 - 12:00 Methodist Kids Fellowship for all children through sixth grade

Music and classroom activities will provide additional Spirit-filled enrichment.

*Nursery can be available if we know ahead of time.

We all know how important Sunday is for us and we hope that you will bring your children and grandchildren so they can enjoy the experience too.

Adult Classes

• 9:45-10:45

Crusaders - Meets in Study

Open Door - Meets in the Portable

Tea Time - Meets in the Choir Room



We are looking for someone to teach the 4-6 grade class at 9:45. Miss Brenda is taking some time off. We want to thank her for her service to our kids, our church and church family.

Methodist Kids Fellowship - for children through sixth grade available *for kids whose parents are attending Sunday School or just any children that would like to attend.*

*Music and classroom activities will provide additional Spirit-filled enrichment. Nursery can be available if we know ahead of time.

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

To help our volunteers keep track of attendance since Wendy has retired, please email your attendance for Bible Study, Fourth Day, etc. to the church's email or drop by the church office soon after class is held. Also, please have your announcements for the bulletin in to the office via email by Wednesday at 4 pm if possible or drop by the office. Thank you for your help.

Administrative Council

As the Chair of the Administrative Council, I apologize for not having more meetings during 2020. The Coronavirus crisis had pretty much tied our hands as far as getting together was concerned. I have looked at the 2021 calendar and have come up with a meeting schedule for next year.

- * We will have meetings on the 5th Sundays in January, May, August, and October following service.
- * We will have meetings on the 4th Thursdays in March and July at 7 pm.
- * The meeting in November (if needed) will be on the 5th Tuesday at 7 pm.

We look forward to more of the Congregation taking part in the coming year.

God Loves You All, and So Do I,

Don Weeks

Our church now has an account set up on Amazon Smile (this is the same as shopping on Amazon but sends a small portion of your purchase as a donation to us if you choose Middleburg United Methodist as your charity. Copy and paste link below:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1320369>

Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com
or with AmazonSmile ON in the app
and Amazon donates
amazonsmile



Prayer Roll

Scott Ashcraft, Rheta Barber, Dennis Barker, Diane Betz, Joyce Brantley, Crystal Brooks, Courtney Brunelle, Jane Bullen, Meagan Campbell, Lib Creech, Polly Criss, Helen Crofts, David, Church, Danika Davis, Gary Driver, Jeff Driver, Blake Eckert, Rick Fife, Krickett Foschaar, Tony Fox, Carol & Richard Fouraker, Eileen Free, Rev. Ann Godbold, Yvonne Gordon-Owens, Teresa Gross, Annette Hagler, LA & Maxine Hardee, Tom Howard, Darlene King, Paul Lee, Yvonne Lempke, 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, Henry Rauch, 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, Richard Wehrman, Millie Wilkes, Ann Woodard, Trinity Woodley, Sylvia Wooters, 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, Lawrence (Willie) Summers, Tim Sutton, Chris Teagle, Paul C. Trotman, Buzzy Updegraff, Jason & Jackie Warren, Daniel West, and Matthew West

Amen

Kid Min

Dear Boys & Girls, Parents, Grandparents, & Child Caregivers....

Well, just like everything else right now... the activities & plans for our Kid Ministry in the coming New Year are going to be dependent upon whether or not we will be able to gather together onsite in accordance with restrictions that are intended to keep us all healthy and/or if we will need to do things via social media. No matter what, my hope is that you will participate, have lots of fun, & be able to interact with other boys and girls as we all learn more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit AND that we do what we can to show Christ's love as we serve others through Christ's teachings.

Currently, our children's Sunday School is meeting in the Family Life Center classrooms/gymnasium from 945-1045 am and our Methodist Kids Fellowship (MKF) meets in the Family Life Center from 11am-12pm. Our Wednesday Night KidMin class/lesson is held virtually on MUMC YouTube 630pm.

The children are required to wear masks during Sunday School & Methodist Kids Fellowship as well as other onsite programs and events until further notice.

Misty DiGiovanni Children's Ministry Coordinator

MUMCKidMin@MiddleburgUMC.org

Office: (904) 282-5589 Ext 203

Cell: (708) 494-6510



Youth News

Happy New Year! We now enter 2021 with joyful anticipation, knowing that God has great plans for us. Our youth have not only been coming to our gatherings faithfully since the reopening, but they were also integral to the success of our Incredible Christmas event for the children. I could not be prouder of these youth and their willingness to serve in such a difficult season.

Moving forward, we begin 2021 by continuing our journey through the Bible. We spent a large portion of last year digging into Genesis. We discussed creation, God's desire to have communion with us, and in the process learned about many important people and events throughout the book of Genesis. During this process, we have constantly illustrated the connections between these events, and the birth of Christ. The next step, following the chronological progression of events, is to go into the book of Exodus. Later on, in the year, as we come close to summer, it is my hope that we will be able to move forward with the confirmation series that was postponed from last year.

Continue to pray on behalf of our youth here at Middleburg UMC. God's hand is moving in mighty ways. Let us praise His Holy Name. Welcome Him into our lives, our church, and our city. I pray this with you all. Amen, and God Bless.

Agape- Harry Benedict



January 2021

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

Weekly Events:

BIBLE STUDIES/ CLASSES

Sunday: Various morning Sunday School Classes

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

Tuesday: Budington - 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


FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

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

BOUTIQUE - Thursdays 12-3 pm



February 2021

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

Weekly Events:

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Purple Gang: EVERY 3RD Wednesday For Lunch
Wednesday Nights: Youth: 6:00 pm - Location Varies

FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

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

BOUTIQUE - Thursday 12-3 pm



Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Grace Bodway | 17 Deanna Baker |
| Clara Bragg, | 18 Alice Baker |
| Pastor Brian Sanderson | 20 Richard Wehrman |
| 2 Barbara Wilkie | 21 Blake Eckert, |
| 3 Amy Ellenburg | Hope Smith |
| 4 Mike Gibson | 23 Gayward Hendry, |
| 6 John Lippencott, | Abbie McCumber |
| Ryanne Sivalski | 24 David Graham, |
| 7 Diane Wilder, | Bea Orcino, |
| David Shepard, | Andy & Paul Jacobs, |
| George Criss | Sonny McCartney, |
| 8 Carol Fouraker, | TJ Woodard |
| Brianna Smith | 25 Judy Wilson |
| 9 Wayne Tarrant | 26 Emilie Caraway, |
| 10 Barbara Brewer, | Jean Hall, |
| 11 Luann Eddington | Bonnie Martens, |
| 14 Roni Orcino, | Diane Stacho |
| Issac Reynolds, | 27 Samantha Zertuche |
| Josh Thornton, | 28 Missy Criswell, |
| Michael Whiteside | Herman Dyal, |
| 17 James Cooper | Mary Beth Cassady, |
| Erika Lippencott, | 31 Elaine Driver, |
| Cheri Starnes | Cynthia Thies, |
| 18 Kim Crist | Phyllis Wickersham |
| 19 Montana Beneduce, | |
| Joanne Grubb | |

Anniversaries

- 1 Jody & David Robertson,
Crystal & Steve Warren
- 11 Rose & Bob Lynch
- 12 Joanne & John Grubbs,
- 18 Barbara and Roy Wilkie,
Luann & Jack Eddington
- 20 Mary Beth & George Cassady,
Susan & James Sawyer
- 22 Marcia & Jimmy VanBoskerck
- 24 Erica & John Lippencott



Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

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

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

Church Office Closed:

New Years Day (Jan. 1st), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 18th), and Presidents' Day (Feb. 15th)

Middleburg United Methodist Church

3925 Main Street
Middleburg, FL 32068

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HERE

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Text "MIDDLEBURGAPP"

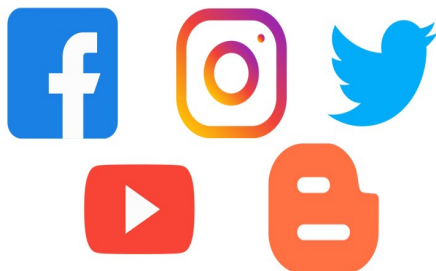
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on Social Media



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Go in Peace and Love

