

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Middleburg United Methodist Church
Editor: Nichole Batten

March/April 2020
Issue 2

Greetings Church Family,

What a start to the New Year! As you read this newsletter, it's almost March and a quarter of the year 2020. More amazing is the amount of ministry we have completed during this span of time!!

As most of you know I took a Sabbatical recently. Yes, I did get to rest some and play some and I am happy to be back. I would rather not spend time on my end of that experience but to look with you into what I saw as I "got back in the saddle" as they say. During this time away, I did peek in on you all via social media and did some picture sharing. It brings me joy to share how proud I am of you all for carrying on the mission of the Church with such commitment and passion. You didn't miss a beat. We have mentored and taught many young people, fed and clothed a good portion of our surrounding counties, and worshipped many times together. With our Food Bridge Church, we have assisted individuals and families with personal matters, plus counseling. We have held Bible studies, fellowship dinners, scouting, Narcotics Anonymous, formed new men's group, and began discipleship groups, our women are meeting and serving together, small groups and leadership meetings have been held. Oh yes, and a huge Festival was held! Wow Church, keep up the Good work! Thank you all for taking our work seriously and actively participating in these various ministries.

Active participation, as discussed in our new member's classes, involves giving your time, talents, and treasure to God's work. So let me ask you to consider how your discipleship measures up. After all, we're in covenant together by virtue of our Baptism and incorporated into Christ's mighty works.

May we celebrate when we should celebrate. May we lament when we should lament. May God continue to richly bless the ministries of Middleburg United Methodist Church—your family.

His Love,

Pastor Brian Sanderson

HOMECOMING 195

MAY 6, 2018

We will be celebrating the 195th anniversary of the founding of Middleburg United Methodist Church on May 3, 2020 with one Worship Service at 10:00 AM.

Tina Roach will bring the special Homecoming message. She has served at the church in Macclenny for 25 years. She is presently serving as lay leader and a member of their choir. She leads adult Sunday School Class and sits on various committees. We welcome Tina and her husband Stephen to our church and to this Homecoming service.

At our Homecoming celebration, we will sing some “good old songs,” hear the Hand Bells ring and enjoy the Chancel Choir. We will honor some special folks who hold the longest membership, our eldest (and wisest) members, and we will recognize those who traveled the longest distance, been married the longest, has the most children/grandchildren/great-grandchildren, can quote at least a 3 line Bible verse, and has the most unusual pet, etc.

There will be a Nursery provided for ages 0-3 and a special program for children to 6th grade in the FLC.

Please bring your favorite dishes to share with out-of-town guests at our Pot Luck Dinner Extravaganza in the Family Life Center following the service.

And don't forget to enter the famous Pie Contest. Winners will be announced at our dinner and 1st place pies auctioned off.

Stroll through our serene cemetery and tour the Historic Church after dinner. Dress in early Florida **period** dress if you like. Enjoy this special day by bringing your whole family and inviting neighbors to come enjoy the work of our Lord at Middleburg UMC.



JOY Club

Spring Schedule

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

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

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

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



Spring Lay Servant Training

Classes will run on Saturday, April 18, 2020 (9 a.m.-5 p.m. and check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.) and Sunday, April 19, 2020 (3-5:30 p.m.) with lunch and snacks provided on Saturday. The classes will be held at Spring Glen UMC located at 6007 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32216. Class sizes are limited to 15 students per class. Cost is \$30 per person. Be sure to register early. **NO walk-in registrations please.** If you want to register by check, please call Pam at the District Office at 904-396-3026 and she will help you get registered.

This training is open to all. If you are seeking to receive certification or re-certification credits you must attend all 10 hours of the training.

We are offering the following class selections (*please note that you must purchase your own book in advance***):

Basic Lay Servant Class with Rev. Steve Painter of Spring Glen UMC

Fresh Expressions: How Laity Lead in a Changing Culture with Rev. Michael Beck, South Atlantic Coordinator Fresh Expressions US (Advanced Lay Servant)

Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders with Ms. Carol Carroll of Memorial UMC, Fernandina Beach (Advanced Lay Servant)

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection with Rev. Jay Therrell, District Superintendent (Advanced Lay Servant)

Public Prayer with Ms. Tina Roach of First UMC, Maccleny (Advanced Lay Servant)

****Please note all registrants are required to purchase their own book. Books will NOT be provided at the start of the training. Please be sure to order your book early so you can read the text prior to class. Books can be purchased at www.cokesbury.com or www.upperroom.org and through other sites such as Amazon.**



Homecoming Dessert Pie Contest

May 3, 2020 9:00 AM Judging



First, Second, and Third Place Ribbons will be presented to winners

in each of these categories:

Berry, Nut, or Fruit Pie

Cream Pie

Winners will be announced during the Homecoming Dinner following the service.

Please deliver your recipe and this form, along with your pie in a protective container, to the Family Life Center before 9:00 AM on Sunday, May 3, 2020.

You may enter more than 1 pie (Each pie needs separate form). You may use store-bought pie shells. You *may not* enter pie purchased already made, assembled, baked, or refrigerated from a store or restaurant. (Shame, shame for that attempt.)

Judges will taste the entries and choose winners. The remainder of the pies will be served as dessert for our Homecoming meal. We will auction off the winning pies. *Any judge seen accepting a bribe will face firing squad of irate losers armed with pies of indiscriminate and unpleasant contents.*

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Type of pie entered _____ Cream _____ Berry, Nut or Fruit



A new year is upon us, and I have a few ideas to try in future meals. The “Sliders” went over well, and I may try some more versions of that sandwich such as a “Pizza Slider,” a “Meatball Slider,” and a “BBQ Chicken Slider.”

As always, we are open to any ideas you may want to see us try out on the table, and please remember to thank those who give of their time and talents to serve and clean up after dinner.

Now on to something that I’m not certain how to word in a “good,” Christian manner. If you have a key to the kitchen (and it seems like anyone, member or not, who can make fog on a mirror does), and you decide to make something to eat for yourself, PLEASE clean up after yourself. It seems that every week, I come into the kitchen and someone’s dishes, cups, or bowls are sitting in the sink waiting for someone else to wash. Folks, it’s not like you’re at home or some other dirty place. Clean up after yourself.

Another thing to consider, if you bring food to a church dinner, Homecoming, Christmas, JOY luncheon, etc., take your leftovers and your containers home with you. If you don’t want it back, don’t put your name on it and I can promise that it will not be there the next time you think about picking it up.

Sorry for the rant, but after 12 years, I feel that it is time to take steps to do this right.

God Bless.

Jim

Black Creek Winter Festival

It was a great day of fun and fellowship with our church family and Middleburg neighbors. We had 31 vendors, sold 293 chicken dinners, had 19 entries in the car show, and all the spaces up top around the Family Life Center were filled with beautiful quilts. The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all.

Thanks to everyone that helped sell dinner tickets, donated baked goods, donated crafts, and to all the people that helped set up and break down. Especially the youth that did the “heavy lifting” on Thursday & Friday nights moving the booths and helping the vendors unload their wares. A special thank you to Marie for soliciting donations for the silent auction.

Volunteers picked up food, parked cars, registered cars for the car show, sold tickets for door prizes, managed the silent auction, Kids Zone, Hotdog Sales, sweet table, craft table, served chicken dinners, manned the grill, worked in the kitchen making tea, keeping food ready to go outside, washed dishes, took garbage out, and cleaned the grounds and FLC to be ready for church Sunday. Congratulations to everyone who helped.

Quilt Show Winners

Jeanne Owens
Ann Barker

Booth Space Winners

Friday With Mom
Holy Land Cradle
Lydna Howard-Pin Needle Baskets

Car Show Winners

Best of Show

Chris Taylor
Black 1931 Studebaker

Spectators Choice

Lionel Smallwood
Black 2001 Corvette

Pastors Pick

Merlin Gish
Red 1956 Willy’s Jeep

Just a Fanciful Thought...

Realizing Groundhog Day is but a pleasant memory from weeks gone by, as I write this, I want to share a thought or 2. (And give kudos to Mary Lou in the choir for her inspiring Groundhog Day choir party...)

First, who decided February 2nd? What if the majority of the supposedly hibernating groundhogs didn't want to wake up in the chill of February? Further research found that the original critter used for this in Europe was the badger, whose appearance was a signal to farmers that spring was coming and crops could be planted. German immigrants brought the tradition to America. Changed from badger to more plenteous groundhogs, the delightful superstitious legend became famous.

Enter The Church. Feb 2 is the 40th day from Jesus' birth, when He would have been brought to the Temple for presentation. Catholics and Christians call this Candlemas, based on the practice of a candle-lit procession preceding Mass. Some now bring all the candles to be used during the year to the church to be blessed, both for church and home. Since this day is established, is this why Groundhog Day is on Feb 2? Just asking.

In Pennsylvania where the most renowned groundhog resides, large crowds gather to await his entrance. It seems to me their stomping around and enthusiastic noise probably disturbs the sleeping rodent and he ambles out to investigate. Maybe their screams of excitement scare him and he dashes back in – ah, 6 more weeks of winter. Or, he's a chill groundhog and decides the attention is cool – stays above ground thus predicting winter's end and early spring.

So how about this: ***We're*** groundhogs (in a stretch-of-the-imagination way). We come out of our comfy holes (the church) and react in 2 ways: either we dash back in, clinging to our tried-and-true, *don't-put-ourselves-out* ways, or we begin to investigate *outside* of our comfort zones. We retain our traditions while exploring how to teach others about them, knowing they need traditions as roots as they begin to grow as Christians. We ***all*** nibble the green grasses around our holes, enjoy the *lure* of fragrant flowers and maybe cookie crumbs left by the crowds who are watching, watching, watching. *How will you Christians react to this? Or that?* The noisy stomping world has disturbed our contentment and maybe our holes are being jarred in ways we wish they wouldn't. Will things change? You bet. Can we adapt? You bet. We can be adventurous groundhogs and invite other critters into our comfy holes, teach them the pleasures of worshipping together, and face obstacles in a collected, organized manner. Change (growth) and traditions (solid roots) can educate us as well as those other critters so that none of us have to be afraid of our shadow.

So, there you go, groundhogs. Brush your nibbler teeth and shake the dust off your fine coats. Winter is over and we're fixin' to face a new Spring.

Just saying.

**Susan

Youth News

7

Excitement is generating within the youth group! We have enjoyed increased attendance the past several weeks as we dig into the book of Acts. Every Sunday morning we read through a passage and observe how the early church was started by the disciples. Wednesday nights are spent looking back at what we learned Sunday, and discussing how we can apply this information today.

What truths or actions were essential to the formation of the early church?

Are these things just as essential to our modern-day church?

If so, how can we as disciples hold these things true today?

These are the kind of questions our youth are pondering over in their studies. This will serve as a wonderful transition to Confirmation 2020! During which, our young youth will learn all about the history of the United Methodist Church, and how it began based on the same Gospel truths.

Confirmation lessons will be given on Wednesdays from

5:30-6:30pm beginning March 25th, 2020.

Rising 7th graders welcome; must be 12 years old as of May 27th, 2020

Confirmation Sunday Tentatively 5/31/20 (5th Sunday)

Epworth Trip June 5th-7th, 2020



Spring has sprung! We are preparing for Easter in April and as always we are getting ready for VBS in June.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for **Saturday April 11th**. Be on the lookout for candy donations!

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas Trees for our 2020 VBS! We appreciate it so much!

The planning process is in full swing and we have scheduled VBS for the week of **June 22th**. As of now, most of our main leader positions are covered, but we may need 1 leader positions of:

Kitchen Leader

Please think about it and pray about it and let me know if you are interested in taking either of these spots! They need to be filled as they are very important and it will be greatly appreciated!

~Katie



United Methodist Women

The new year has started out with a lot of planning for yet another banner year. We have our Calendar of Events all ready with the first event our annual Churchwide Birthday Party on March 29 in the Family Life Center at 6:00pm. There are still a few tables that have not been spoken for, so if you would like to decorate or bake a cake for one, contact Marie Livings as she has the information. As we did last year, we will have a "twist" to make this social event even more fun. This will not be announced ahead of time, so you will just have to come and see for yourself!

We continue to collect items for our annual yard sale which will be on May 16 from 8a.m.- 3 p.m. in the Family Life Center. If you have items you wish to donate, they can be dropped off in the office. If you have larger items, you can call me at (904) 505-7891 and I will gladly meet you at the church so they can be put in storage. This is our major fundraiser which makes it possible for us to fund our mission giving.

On March 6-8, we will have ten of our members attending the UMW Retreat at Epworth by the Sea. We pray for safe travels and a meaningful experience for each one of them.

Our meetings are held in the Portable on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.

In Christ,

United Methodist Men

The Middleburg United Methodist Men (MUMM) are officially back! We had our first meeting on January 11, Saturday night, where the leadership team provided a free BBQ Dinner with all the trimmings. It was beyond "well attended," as we broke all records with 53 men in attendance!

The General Conference states: "United Methodist Men shall be a creative, supportive fellowship who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily his will." The main purpose being: "to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships."

We are moving in this direction as we begin to wrap up our first volumes of Authentic Men, 33 The Series. There are six small groups, with 31 men in participation. We have been meeting weekly and the feedback has been very positive. Each man will have the opportunity to take another one of the six topics - our next lesson schedule is set to begin the last week of March. (More info on this at our monthly MUMM meeting on March 28th, 5 – 7PM.)

Hopefully, if you are a man, you have been coming to our monthly meetings or maybe you are taking one of the classes. If you haven't attended yet, we have been missing you. Remember to always invite those men you know to come and be with us. Church membership is not required.

God bless Middleburg United Methodist Church and all its ministries.

The MUMM Leadership Team



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm	3 Bible Study Crafters Joy Club - 11:30 am	4 Bible Study Youth Kid Min Starts Up	5 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	6	7 THE KITCHEN - 11 am Bread Basket
8 Cookie Crunchers 2-4 pm	9 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	10 Bible Study Crafters Finance Meeting	11 Youth & Children Bible Study Purple Gang	12 UMW – 6:30 Food Bridge Zumba	13	14 Bread Basket
15	16 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	17 Bible Study Crafters	18 Bible Study Youth & Children	19 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba Trustees 6 pm	20	21 Bread Basket FLC Reserved 12-3
22	23 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	24 Bible Study Crafters	25 Bible Study Youth & Children	26 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba	27 Dinner Theatre 6:30 p.m.	28 Bread Basket Dinner Theatre 6:30 p.m.
29 Ministry Council Meeting Church Wide Birthday Party 6 pm	30 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	31 Bible Study Crafters				

Weekly Events:

BIBLE STUDIES/ CLASSES

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

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

Wednesday: 9 am - Portable

UMM: Various meeting throughout the week.

N.A. Meetings Tues. - 8 pm - Mongiovi House
PURPLE GANG: EVERY 3RD 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
Praise Band Practice: 5 - 6:30 pm

FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

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

BOUTIQUE

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

BREAD BASKET – Saturdays 9-11am

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



April 2020

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 6 pm UMM Bible Study	7 Bible Study Crafters Joy Club - 11:30	8 Youth & Children Bible Study	9 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba UMW - 6:30	10 Office Closed Good Friday Jews 4 Jesus 12 pm	11 Bread Basket Easter Egg Hunt 11 am
12 Easter Sunday	13 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	14 Bible Study Crafters Finance 7 pm	15 Purple Gang Bible Study Youth & Children Bible Study	16 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba Trustees 6 pm	17	18 Bread Basket
19	20 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	21 Bible Study Crafters	22 Youth & Children Bible Study	23 Cub Scouts Zumba Food Bridge	24	25 Bread Basket
26	27 Prayer Meeting Bible Study	28 Bible Study Crafters	29 Bible Study Youth & Children	30 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba		

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MARCH

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Andy Wilder | 16 Lynne Summers |
| 3 Trevor Warren,
Lindley Wilder | 19 Mckenli Gerds, |
| 4 William DeMeritt,
Pat Griffin,
Maxine Hardee,
Devon Hill,
Heather Marsteller | 22 Kathleen Glaze |
| 7 Faye Taylor | 24 Jessi Starnes Huntley,
Kegan Rapin,
Joshua Scoville |
| 10 David Brasher,
Sandy Hamilton | 27 Scott McLendon,
Kay Rissmiller |
| 12 Bruce Behrens,
Julie Boyette,
Peyton Martin | 29 Marilyn Dmytryk,
Betsy (Hendry) Sommers,
Jennifer Morningstar,
Del Moon,
Angelee Smith |
| 15 Michelle Peters | 31 Deb Goulding,
Beth (Pope) Amos |

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APRIL

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Garet Howard,
Yvonne Gordon-Owens | 16 Trevor Raney |
| 3 Ed Elster | 17 Sonja Birkholz,
Gerry Witt |
| 6 Jonathan Pope | 18 Brenda Clark,
Millie Thompson,
Thomas Gerds |
| 7 Henry Rauch | 21 Joe Boyette,
Brenda VanGundy,
Millie Wilkes |
| 8 Wanda Green,
Sandy Mee | 23 April Isenberg,
Jonathan Whiteside |
| 9 Jeff Nordgren,
Michael Nordgren | 24 Jo Thompson |
| 10 Melissa (Gibson) Steiner,
Alyssa & Alexis Hutchison,
Warren Livings | 25 Meagan Sherard
Madison Tidwell |
| 12 Taylor Sherard | 26 Donald Weeks
Krystopher Sheehan |
| 13 Joyce Brantley,
Joni DeBusk | 27 Fran Dickson |
| 14 Katie DeMeritt
Misty DiGiovanni
Tracy Scoville | 28 Bailey Webster |
| 15 Gena Faulkner,
Willie Summers | 29 Robert Seymour
Steve Warren |

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

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

Prayer Roll

Scott Ashcraft, Rheta Barber, Bruce Behrens, Diane Betz, Joyce Brantley, Ben Brown, Crystal Brooks, Jane Bullen, Jim Bullen, Gloria Bullock, Debbie Chase, Debra Cleeland, 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, 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

Amen

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

April 10th, 2020

For Good Friday

Get the church's Mobile App

Text "MIDDLEBURGAPP"

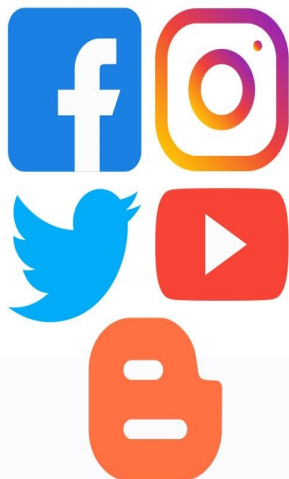
To: 779-77



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Middleburg United Methodist Church

3925 Main Street
Middleburg, FL 32068

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Go in Peace and Love

