

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Middleburg United Methodist Church
Editor: Nichole Batten

November/December 2019
Issue 6

Unstuck

I recently attended our NE District's annual Team Meeting (formerly known as clergy meeting). The District Superintendent along with the district's operation team, who '*develop a new generative approach to organizing and leading ministries, driving for a new level of missional effectiveness,*' have prayerfully discerned a strategy for helping the Churches and Clergy become 'Unstuck.' The district will be utilizing the resources from the Unstuck Group who '*helps leaders grow healthy churches by guiding them through experiences that focus on vision, strategy, and action.*'

'Stuck' (as defined by Google dictionary):

Be fixed in a particular position or unable to move or be moved.

Be or become fixed or jammed in one place as a result of an obstruction. "He drove into a bog, where his wheels stuck fast."

Similar: become trapped, jammed, jam, wedged, lodged, fixed, embedded, immobilized, unable to move, get bogged down

Be unable to progress with a task or find the answer or solution to something. "I'm doing the cross-word and I'm stuck."

Remain in a static condition; fail to progress. "He lost a lot of weight but had stuck at 210 pounds."

Informal: be or remain in a specified place or situation, typically one perceived as tedious or unpleasant. "I don't want to be stuck in an office all my life."

Things get stuck. Churches get stuck. Clergy get stuck. However you define yourself, you may have some experience with the topic and if so then I think we can agree that being 'Stuck' no matter the circumstance is neither easy nor fun. The district wants us to thrive and be vital within our communities so they will be providing access to Unstuck's resources and assistance.

At all times and in all places our Church's mission is 'To Seek the Unchurched and Make Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ.' As you know, we all need a check-up from time to time. Church, it's our time for a check-up. We will refocus and realign with our mission. I am personally challenged to see this as an opportunity to use these valuable resources to become and/or stay 'Unstuck.' Please join me and pray for our membership and leaders as we seek to live into the mission God has given us—a mission that includes release and freedom for all.

With God's Love,

Pastor Brian Sanderson



From the Kitchen

The "Holidays" are upon us!!! You know which ones I am talking about. Thanksgiving and Christmas. Busy months for most of us, but easy months for the Wednesday Night meals. There will be NO meal on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and NO meal on Christmas night (the 25th).

As we near the end of this year, I would like to thank not only the folks who are part of the "kitchen" team, the cooks, those who serve, and those who work in the scullery, but all of the other folks that after they have finished eating, take the time to clear the tables and help hand-wash and dry the various utensils. That makes it possible for the kitchen crew to get done quicker for whatever we have next (in my case choir practice). **THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!!**

We are still looking for another cook team. You would only be responsible for 1 night a month, and if needed, I would be available to assist in the planning, shopping, and production of the meal while you get your feet on the ground. I have a great deal of recipes for group meals that I would be happy to share with whomever would like to try their hand at running a team.

For November, I'm going to try Honey Garlic Pork Chops for one meal and Sloppy Joes for the other. Glenda hasn't decided what she will cook at the time of writing this article.

For December, I'm looking at Meatloaf for one night and possibly chili for the other night. Staying away from the traditional meats and dishes since you will get plenty of that during the holidays. Again, Glenda hasn't made a menu decision at this time.

We in the kitchen would like to wish for each of you a safe and happy holiday season. Be sure to keep up with all of the events coming up at the church during this time.

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

Nov 5th – Dr. Stone will bring us Clay County Historical news

Dec 3rd - Maxine Hardee will present, "Down in the Holler," a true story.

The Joy Club resumed luncheons after a bit of a weather scare in September. We are once again meeting for lunch in the Family Life Center the first Tuesday of the month and have a new time of 11:30 with the program starting at Noon. The November lunch will be pork sliders, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert, and drinks all for \$5.00. Our program for November is Dr. Cynthia Stone, our local Historian. In December, Maxine Hardee will give the program called "Down in the Hollar." We look forward to seeing the "Just Older Youth" of our church. Friends are also invited to the Luncheon November 5th.

A Big "THANK YOU"
from the Sanderson Family
for all the love and appreciation.
We sure appreciate it!



I am sometimes a speaker of platitudes. Right now the one timeliest to me is "You reap what you sow," or "We are reaping what we've sown." This can be a deadly negative statement, a sarcastic comeback, a supercilious declaration, or a hopeful prophecy.

Farmers or folks who garden understand the truth of this platitude. If soil is not properly prepared to receive seed, if animals are left to fend for themselves through negligence, the end results are going to be less than satisfactory, fruitless, discouraging, and needlessly expensive.

We can say the same for those professing Christianity. Going to church on Sunday doesn't necessarily make you "A Christian." Neither does being there every time the doors are open. In order to reap even a little bit of the delicious harvest God has prepared for us, we have to take a pro-active step forward and **commit**. Your deeds today can determine the bounty of your harvest. If you are just content with a little, perhaps that is what you'll get.

But God has so much more for you. If He sees you sowing thought, word, or deed sincerely, there's a good chance your harvest will be delicious. If your worship in church is heartfelt and genuine, you'll probably recognize the increase of fruitfulness. If your worship in private involves some frank conversations with God where you pour out your troubles, worries, wishes, or questions, His broad shoulders can take your burdens and begin to point you toward solutions. When you decorate your conversations liberally with praise and admiration for His wonderfulness, it's like adding fertilizer to your soil. Your roots delve deeper, your branches stretch upward, and the abundance of your blessings become more apparent in your life. Troubles will still beset you – we'll have troubles until Christ returns with his mighty trouble-chopping sword – but your certainty in the Lord's words and promises will give you strength and confidence.

The ripples of your choices will impact others. In the Bible, obedience or disobedience in one generation would affect following generations. Today, it doesn't take the length of a generation to see the results of seeds wastefully sown. Unfortunately, we are witnessing a lot of bad harvests. It is going to be a tough job in some cases to right the wrongs and as Christians we realize we cannot do it alone. So: step forward, **commit**, join into the activities of your church family, learn a Bible verse of more than 2 lines, turn off the radio and sing or talk to God as you drive. Sow those fat seeds of Truth and watch the spiritual growth happen. Let the Holy Spirit walk before and beside us as we sow, let our life's song reflect the assurance that Jesus is in charge and that God will provide the sun and rain to nourish our souls into a splendidly bountiful harvest.

We'll reap what we sow. And in His Image, we can grow. How do I know? The Bible tells me so!

**Susan



Thank you to everyone that helped make the Pumpkin Patch a huge success again this year. We cannot do it without all of our wonderful volunteers!

**Pumpkin Patch Tear Down:
November 1st and 2nd**

If you're able and willing, please come and help tear down the Patch. We really appreciate your help.

Youth News

What a blessed time to be a child of the Most High God! Over the past month, our youth group has been studying in the book of Matthew, learning all about Jesus walking here on Earth. As you know, there is much to learn in the Gospels. Our youth are taking in these messages very well, and I am extremely encouraged by their hunger for The Word. At the end of our study in Matthew, we will do an in-depth study of the season of Advent. This will be a great end-of-the-year Christmas message. For our younger youth, these messages will also serve as a great precursor to our upcoming Confirmation study and trip towards the end of the school year.

There is much to look forward to! This has been a year for learning and taking in The Word of God. It is forever my prayer that our youth will receive these messages in their minds, so it can prod their hearts to turn to The Lord. Then, as their hearts turn to The Lord, their feet will walk the path of righteousness. Their hands will reach out to the lost, hurting, and lonely. They will truly be disciples of the Most High God, making more disciples everywhere they go, just as we are all called to do. I pray for God's blessings on this church and I thank you all for your love and support of these youth.



KidMin



Fall is here and even though in FL it may not feel like it yet I have Christmas on the brain!

We are in the middle of planning One Starry Night! It will be on December 8th from 5-7 pm this year. Last year was so much fun and such a success for our church and our community. If you would like to be involved in decorating or helping putting it on or acting a part, please contact Katie!

If anyone is getting rid of their artificial Christmas trees this year PLEASE donate them to the KidMin program for our 2020 VBS program. I know it is early for VBS but it will be a winter theme and we will need fake Christmas trees for our décor.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We will be having a super fun Children's Christmas Program on Wednesday night 12/18. Details to follow.



United Methodist Women

Here we go again! It is now time to collect toys for the Food Bridge/Bread Basket Children. A bin will be placed in the Sanctuary Narthex for drop off. We need items from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The gifts will be disbursed on December 12th and 19th for Food Bridge children and December 21st for Bread Basket. We would like to be able to wrap these gifts and need at least two volunteers to do the wrapping. We thank Kathy Gross for once again heading up this mission.

Our UMW Unit is proud to announce that three of our members will be serving in UMW District Positions this coming year. Lib Creech is the incoming President, Susan Horn is the Secretary, and Mary Lou Whittlesey is the Chair of the S.E.E. Congratulations to these ladies and we look forward to your leadership in 2020.

Our Congregation has always been very supportive of our missions and we appreciate all the supplies and prayers. As we approach 2020, we continue to be a strong presence in MUMC. Our meetings are the second Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Portable.

All ladies of the church are welcome.

In Christ, Judy McNee



**NOW YOU CAN TAKE
MIDDLEBURG UMC WITH YOU.**

text: **"MIDDLEBURGAPP"**
to: **779-77**

to download our new app!



Check us out on YouTube! Link is listed on last page.

The Food Bridge: How a Ministry Grew to Impact Thousands

Written by Bethany Hill

On the far side of the Middleburg United Methodist Church campus sits a small, unassuming structure. Named after the family who originally donated it, the Budington Building might appear insignificant to the average onlooker. But to pass judgment so quickly is to do an injustice to the impactful ministry that calls the Budington Building home.

Established in 2002, the Food Bridge began as a simple operation. Families who visited the church and requested assistance were given a bag of groceries to aid them in their struggle. After some time, families were permitted to visit twice a month if their level of need required it. At this point, the Food Bridge helped an average of eighteen families each week.

Since then, however, the ministry has expanded astronomically. From technological advancements, such as the addition of two walk-in freezers, to the increase in the sheer amount of food that is received and distributed each week, it cannot be denied that the Food Bridge has far surpassed its modest roots. Debbie Taylor, the ministry's resident number expert, has all the proof. Over 1100 families actively receive assistance from the Food Bridge, with an average of just over 160 visiting each week. Thanks to a partnership with Feeding Northeast Florida, food is donated by several major corporations – including Publix, Winn Dixie, and Walmart – with the total amount of food received exceeding 2.2 million pounds. Mille J. Wilkes, the coordinator of the Food Bridge, humbly shared that she “never imagined [the ministry] would grow to this size,” a testament with which many long-time volunteers can likely agree.

However, the Food Bridge hasn't just grown in size; it's also grown in spirit. Human connection and spiritual support are at the core of the ministry's work, so much so that a church service is held each Thursday morning before the doors open. First started about three years ago, this service gives volunteers and recipients a chance to gather together, offer praise, and share the troubles and triumphs that are currently on their minds.

Thankfully, the Food Bridge's expansion hasn't gone unnoticed. In September, the ministry was chosen as a recipient of the Operation Round Up Grant. Since it was implemented by Clay Electric Cooperative in 2016, Operation Round Up has provided monetary support to numerous charitable organizations throughout North Florida. The Food Bridge received \$15,000 – the maximum possible award – all of which will go towards vehicle repair, building maintenance, and the purchase of nonperishable food.

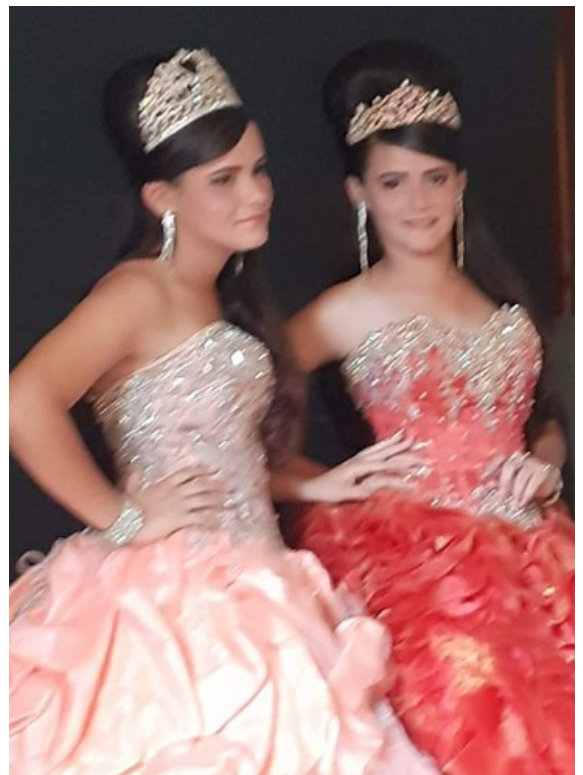
From its humble beginnings to its awe-inspiring growth, the Food Bridge is truly a testament to the power of the Spirit. So, next time you pass by the Budington Building, try to give it more than an indifferent glance.

Thank you so much for your support of our sister church in Mayorquin!

We were able to bless them with \$1,000, for the Quinceanera of the pastor's twin daughters: Yumi and Yami. Their actual birthday and celebration day will be the 9th of November.

It is such a blessing to be a part of a church that shares its resources and prayers with others who have so much less than us. God is surely blessing us for our compassion and obedience. God bless all of you!

Craig Van Gundy





November 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Tear Down Pumpkin Patch | 2 THE KITCHEN - 11 am * Bonnie Tarrant Funeral Service 11 a.m |
| 3 | 4 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm | 5 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters Joy Club—11:30 | 6 Bible Study Youth & Children | 7 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba | 8 | 9 Bread Basket |
| 10 Cookie Crunch- ers 2-4 pm | 11  | 12 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters Finance Meeting | 13 Youth & Children | 14 UMW – 6:30 Portable Food Bridge Zumba | 15 | 16 Bread Basket |
| 17 | 18 Prayer Meeting Bible Study | 19 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters | 20 Bible Study Youth & Children Purple Gang | 21 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba Trustees 6 pm | 22 | 23 Bread Basket |
| 24 | 25 Prayer Meeting Bible Study | 26 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters | 27 Bible Study Youth & Children Food Bridge | 28  Happy Thanksgiving | 29  | 30 Bread Basket |
| | | | | | | |

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 FLC Choir Room

Wednesday- 9 am in the Portable

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

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



December 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | 2 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm | 3 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters Joy Club—11:30 | 4 Bible Study Youth & Children | 5 Food Bridge Cub Scouts | 6 | 7 THE KITCHEN - 11 am Bread Basket FLC Reserved |
| 8 Cookie Crunchers 2-4 pm One Starry Night 5-7 pm | 9 Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6pm | 10 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters Finance Meeting | 11 Youth & Children Bible Study Chili Hayride | 12 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba | 13 | 14 UMW Christmas Tea - 2 pm @ Jody Robertson's House Bread Basket |
| 15 | 16 Prayer Meeting Bible Study | 17 Young Adult Bible Study Crafters | 18 Purple Gang Youth & Children Bible Study Children's Christ- mas Program | 19 Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba Trustees 6 pm | 20 | 21 Bread Basket |
| 22 | 23 Prayer Meeting Bible Study | 24  | 25 Office Closed  | 26  Food Bridge | 27  | 28 Bread Basket |
| 29 | 30  | 31  | Staff returns on January 2nd | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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 FLC Choir Room

Wednesday- 9 am in the Portable

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

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 Rylen Gerds, Brad Lyda, Shelby (Updegraff) Seal, John Webster | 16 Stephany Birkholz, Peg Maher, Noel Rucker, Samantha White |
| 3 James Loudon | 19 Aiden Hutchison |
| 4 John Foschaar Nichole Batten | 20 Heather Milam |
| 5 Derrick Jefferson | 21 Kevin Ossenfort, Cole Russell |
| 6 Lynn Peaslee Tina Raney | 23 Sharon Futch, Amber Wreden, Angel Smith, Michelle Eckert |
| 7 Elizabeth Bozeman | 24 Tara Almand, Caleb Frisbee, Kendra Baum |
| 8 Connie Westerwelle | 26 Nancy Long, Julia O'Sullivan |
| 11 Bill Taylor, Gina Hinson | 27 Elle Nordgren, Nan Callahan, Jane Ward |
| 12 Paul Ackley | 30 Patricia Beneduce |
| 14 Eileen Free | |
| 15 Mary Cordell, Jimmy VanBoskerck | |

Anniversaries

- 1 Nicolas & Karissa Terrell
4 Kenny & Wendy Brewer
23 Chris & Ruth Paine
27 Bill & Faye Taylor



Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 Jet Zayas | 23 Mickey Burns, Jane Hoffman, Gary Monson, Kailee Crehfield, Zarek White |
| 3 Harry Faulkner | |
| 4 Joyce Cox, Jim Jordan, Jody Rogers, Allie Wilder, Ralph Zayas | 24 Hope Dmytryk, Richard Fouraker, Annette Hagler |
| 7 Ashlee Thornton | 25 Beth McDonald, Noel Starnes |
| 9 Christopher Simpson | 26 Lacey Crist, Gordon McDonald |
| 10 Nelda Orcino | 27 Mary Schulte |
| 12 Ann Woodard | 29 Polly Criss |
| 13 Lydia Scherzer | 30 Kathy Saunders, Jody Robertson, Marcia VanBoskerck, Loretta Webster |
| 16 Wanda Spooner | 31 Laura Gerds, Selma Stansbury, Sue Woodley |
| 17 Susan Hendry | |
| 18 Matt Howard, Christina Smith | |
| 20 Patricia Tuck | |
| 21 Harry Benedict, Nicholas Bogdan, Barry DeMay | |
| 22 Lynn Fullerton | |

Anniversaries

- 7 Tom & Lynn Summers
13 Mike & Clara Bragg
16 Steven & Stacy Spooner
19 Mylon & Amy Pope,
Aussie & Irene Whiting
22 Richard & Pam Partridge
30 John & Ruth Ann Dickerson
31 James & Diane Geiger

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,

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

**November 28th and 29th
&
December 24-31st
Church Office Closed**



[youtube.com/channel/UCozVSQMNC6pvy3kPwYDs-zg/
featured?view_as=public](https://youtube.com/channel/UCozVSQMNC6pvy3kPwYDs-zg/featured?view_as=public)



www.Middleburgumc.org



MiddleburgUnitedMethodist



twitter.com/MburgUmc



Instagram.com/middleburgumcfl/

Middleburg United Methodist Church

3925 Main Street
Middleburg, FL 32068

10

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Go in Peace and Love



Merry Christmas

