

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December, 2011

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The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Visit us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/mumcnj

Sunday Services

Praise Service	9:00am
Traditional Service	10:30am
Sunday School	9:15am



*Middletown United Methodist Church
924 Middletown-Lincroft Road
Middletown, New Jersey 07748*

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The Pastor's Message

December, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

If you've never been to Longwood Gardens in Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania, I highly recommend it. I've not been there in several years; the last time was to sing with members of the South Jersey Master Chorale. We were there to do a program of Christmas music and it was a very enjoyable experience. Longwood Gardens is worth visiting at any time of the year, but I especially like it at Christmas. You can go in the daytime and the displays of poinsettias are fairly amazing, but I like it best at night when all of the lights are on. There is something almost magical in the ways the trees, shrubs, and buildings are illuminated and a stroll around the gardens reinvigorates the holiday spirit.

People of faith have always seen something meaningful in creating light in the midst of darkness. For as long as people have observed the birth of Jesus, first candles and then other kinds of decorative lighting have been important features of our celebrations. The symbolism isn't hard to figure. First of all, the birth of Jesus occurred in the shortest days of the year; at least in the northern hemisphere, when the nights are long and the darkness can feel never-ending. The Gospel of John refers to the coming of Jesus as the Light of God coming into the darkness of the world. From a theological perspective, the world existed in the darkness of separation from God until the light came; first as a star, then in the brilliance of the throng of the heavenly host, and finally in the manger of Bethlehem.



We continue the tradition of bearing light in the darkness in many of the things we do in the holiday season, culminating in the candlelight services on Christmas Eve. They will be held at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. that night. As usual, the services will feature many of your favorite carols, special music, and of course, the telling of the nativity story.

Christmas Day comes on a Sunday this year and we will gather for worship, but with an amended schedule. There will be one service on Christmas; a combination of the traditional and the praise services at 10:30 a.m. There will be Sunday School for children from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

I hope to see you often through the weeks ahead and as we approach the end of the year, I want to encourage you yet again to do your best to get your giving current if you happen to be behind. If you are

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Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

already current, perhaps you can prayerfully consider doing a little extra so that we can finish the year in as good a position as possible. We are still trying to complete the elimination of the mortgage. A gift toward the Mortgage Elimination Plan prior to the close of the year would be greatly appreciated. The Finance Committee is making contingency plans for refinancing what remains of the mortgage, but it would be much better if we could be rid of it altogether.

I wish you and yours a blessed Advent Season and a very Merry Christmas.

Grace and Peace, Glenn Ferguson 

MUMC 2012 Pictorial Directory

This fall, we plan to launch a campaign to update the official MUMC Pictorial Directory. The **2012** edition is planned for distribution next Spring. This campaign will provide the following opportunities:

- Didn't like your photo last time? Submit your own NEW individual or family photograph or we'll take a new one for you; we can scan and use a photo print or you can send it in by email;
- Update your individual or family information, such as children's ages, new home address, new email address, new telephone or mobile number, etc.;
- List individual or family achievements & accomplishments, such as traveling ministries you've been on or will participate in, recent graduations, new employment opportunities, etc.

And something new!

We're now able to incorporate "Birthday" pages in the Directory. No, we don't want to know how old you are, just to share your birth month and day (NOT the year) with those who may have the same date! More importantly, you'll be able to make a happy wish on someone's special day.



Let's make the 2012 MUMC Pictorial Directory the best yet! **We need everyone to participate!**

Watch for additional announcements in the Sunday bulletins, The Meadowlark, and on the Church web site and Facebook pages.



Bible Fellowship Study Calendar

December 2011 & January 2012	
Monday	Lessons/Lectures
5	Lesson 11 DLs: Wally & Paul/Ron
	SG - Pp 97-107
12	Lesson 12 DLs: Bernie & Ricky
	SG- Pp 109-118
13	Christmas & New Year Break
to	<i>Note: DLs please contact participants and</i>
Jan 1st	<i>remind them on returning Monday, Jan. 2</i>

Notes	
TBA	Handout: 2nd half Study Calendar for 2012
TBA	Participant Survey in 2012
TBA	Book of Study for Next Year [2012-2013]

2012 Stewardship Campaign

MUMC's 2012 Stewardship Campaign was launched on Consecration Sunday, November 20, 2011. If you were unable to attend, we're continuing to collect the cards. Blank cards may be found in every pew in the Sanctuary and on the table in The Narthex. We ask that you bring your card with anytime or complete one at the Church. Cards may be left in the Financial Secretary's mailbox outside the church office, mailed to the church, or you can email your discerned contribution to Mel Hooper at webmaster@middletownumcnj.org. As always, your information is held in strict confidence.

DECEMBER, 2011

SUNDAY							MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY			
JANUARY, 2012							NOVEMBER 28		29		30		DECEMBER 1		2		3			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							9:30: 10:00:Prayer Fellowship		9:30: MDO In Session					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14							5:30: 6:30:		5:30: 6:30:					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21							6:30: 7:00:		7:00: 7:30:					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28							7:30:							
29	30	31																		
COMMUNION SUNDAY																				
9:00: Praise Service 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF 7:30:							9:30: MDO In Session		9:30:		9:30: MDO In Session 12:00: Philathea 5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Bell Choir 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir		10:00:Prayer Fellowship		9:30: MDO In Session		8:30: Men's Breakfast			
							5:30: 6:30: 7:00: Finance Meets 7:30:		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:				5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:							
Christmas Is Love																				
9:00: Praise Service 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF 7:30:							9:30: MDO In Session		9:30:		9:30: MDO In Session		9:30: 10:00:Prayer Fellowship		9:30: MDO In Session					
							5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Admin Council		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Bell Choir 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: <i>Meadowlark Items Due</i>		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Nancy Scharff Christmas Concert					
Christmas Is Love																				
9:00: Praise Service 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF 7:30:							9:30: MDO In Session		9:30:		9:30: MDO In Session		9:30: 10:00:Prayer Fellowship		9:30: MDO In Session		CANDLE LIGHT SVC			
							5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Trustees Meet		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Bell Choir 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		7:00: Candle Service 11:00: Candle Service			
CHRISTMAS DAY																				
9:00: 9:15: 10:30: ONE COMBINED SERVICE 10:45: SUNDAY SCHOOL 7:00: NO Sr. UMYF 7:30:							9:30: MDO In Session		9:30:		9:30: MDO In Session		9:30: 10:00:Prayer Fellowship		9:30: MDO In Session		NEW YEAR'S EVE			
							5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Bell Choir 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir		5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Bell Choir 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir		<i>Online Meadowlark</i>			

Note: Calendar is based on the official MUMC Church Calendar and subject to change as per entries provided by the groups, committees, and organizations represented.

JANUARY, 2012


FEBRUARY 2012							MONDAY DECEMBER 26	TUESDAY 27	WEDNESDAY 28	THURSDAY 29	FRIDAY 30	SATURDAY 31	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	NEW YEAR'S EVE						
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29										
NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION 9:00: Praise Service 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 7:00: NO Sr. UMYF							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	10:00: Prayer Fellowship	9:30: MDO In Session		
							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Babcock Bells	6:30:	6:30:		
							7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
							7:30:	7:30:	7:30: Chancel Choir	7:30:	7:30:		
							8	9	10	11	12	13	14
							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	10:00: Prayer Fellowship	9:30: MDO In Session	8:30: Men's Breakfast	
							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Babcock Bells	6:30:	6:30:		
							7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
							7:30: Sr. UMYF	7:30: Admin Council	7:30:	7:30:	7:30:		
							15	16	17	18	19	20	21
							9:30: MDO Closed	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	10:00: Prayer Fellowship	9:30: MDO In Session		
							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Babcock Bells	6:30:	6:30:		
							7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
							7:30: Sr. UMYF	7:30: Trustees Meet	7:30:	7:30:	7:30:		
							22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	10:00: Prayer Fellowship	9:30: MDO In Session		
							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Babcock Bells	6:30:	6:30:		
							7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
							7:30: Sr. UMYF	7:30:	7:30: Chancel Choir	7:30:	7:30:	Meadowlark Online	
							29	30	31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4
							9:30: MDO in Session	9:30:					
							5:30:	5:30:					
							6:30:	6:30:					
							7:00:	7:00:					
							7:30: Sr. UMYF	7:30:					

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In Our Church Community...

Joshua – Second Moses? Precursor of King David? Type of Savior?

For centuries God had been promising to give the land of Canaan to the family of Abraham. That promise was fulfilled after Joshua assumed leadership of the wandering Israelite nation when Moses died. With the seasoned commander Joshua as God's general, the Lord led the Israelites to take possession of their inheritance. In the process, the new nation learned unforgettable lessons about God and what it meant to be a citizen of God's Kingdom.

The Adult Bible Study Class, meeting in the Library on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am, will begin a study of the book of Joshua during the second half of November. We will be using a study guide from the LifeChange Series which contains excellent background notes, thought-provoking discussion questions and pointed personal applications. Please watch future Sunday bulletins for more details or see Phil Welch, Jr. 

Calling Bi-Lingual Volunteers!


We are gearing up for Project Homeless Connect and the Point in Time Count in Monmouth County which will take place on **Wednesday, January 25, 2012**. We anticipate being in Asbury Park, Freehold, Long Branch and Keansburg and possibly a very limited site in Red Bank to conduct the Point in Time Count.

We are in need of volunteers, **both bilingual and those who are not bilingual** to assist Monmouth County in the one day Point in Time count of the homeless. In conjunction with this, Project Homeless Connect will attempt to link homeless individuals and families with housing and other services in order to help them break the cycle of homelessness. At the Project Homeless Connect (PHC) sites, food and beverages, social services, and health screenings will be available, as well as "giveaways" such as warm clothing and toiletries.

We are looking for bi-lingual volunteers who speak Spanish, Portuguese or Creole to assist us


(Continued in next column →)

that day for a few hours. If you are willing to volunteer for this very important event, please contact Judith Diaz at jdiaz@co.monmouth.nj.us to obtain the Volunteer Form for completion and return to fax (732) 845-2054. We will contact you with a confirmation of site at a later date.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the setup at the 4 sites the day before the event, Tuesday, January 24th and at our warehouse in Freehold sorting coats. If you could offer any assistance with this too, please indicate this on the Volunteer Form. If you are interested in getting more involved with the planning committee, our next scheduled meeting is on **Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 9:00am** in the Ag Bldg., 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ in the 4H Lunch Room, Main Floor of building. If you have any questions, please contact Judith Diaz at (732) 683-2174 or myself at (732) 683-2102. Thank you and Happy Holidays! 

Laurie Duhovny, HSAC Coordinator
Monmouth County Department of Human Services

KESWICK, 2012 IS COMING!

Keswick 2012 is coming! The event dates are February 3-5, 2012. For more information, to obtain the registration forms, and for the Youth & Adult Leaders sign-up sheets, please contact Cecilia Cummins by telephone at (732) 671-8326 or by email at made.by.me@hotmail.com. 



Dear Friends and Church Family,

We will be taking orders for Christmas poinsettias beginning on Sunday, November 27, 2011. The price is \$7.50 per plant. There will be a box in the narthex to receive your orders along with order sheets. Please make checks payable to Middletown United Methodist Church and write "poinsettias" on the memo line. **Last day for placing orders is Sunday, December 11, 2011!**

In Our Church Community...

Nancy Scharff

IN CONCERT AT COUNT BASIE THEATRE



Friday
Dec. 16, 2011
7:30 PM
99 Monmouth St
Red Bank, NJ

Portions
of ticket sales
will benefit
LOVE, INC.



With special guests:

- Ecumenical Choir
- Three Tenors
- Gospel Choir
- Children's Chorus
- Bell Choir
- Fourteen Piece Orchestra
- Praise Band

Christmas Is Love

Tickets: \$25, \$20, \$15

For information call the box office: 732-842-9000

Purchase tickets on the web: www.countbasietheatre.org

Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for immediate assistance to the needy.

www.NancyScharff.com

Church Announcements...

PLEASE LIFT UP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

- * Joan Andersen's Friends Carol and Connie * Elaine Bardell * Linda Bardell's Cousin Jason *
 - * Eleanor Collier's Brother Lesly Marteny * Nancy Love, Debbie Rigney & Their Families *
 - * Elsie Meagher * Al Philpot & Family * Dianne Thompson's Mom Lucille Mentzel * Jayne Moore *
 - * John Moricz * Diane Nash's Son-In-Law Danny * D. J. Shannon * John Sullivan *
 - * Children and Families In El Salvador * Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military & Their Families *
-

Middletown United Methodist Church, its members and friends extend their heartfelt sympathy to Al Philpot and family on the passing of his wife Barbara, and to Joan & Ed Andersen on the passing of his brother Joseph.

New Address!

Diane Nash, 1078 Ervin Pace Road, Chapmansboro, Tennessee 37035

Joy & Praise!

Congratulations to Dana & Paul Ferrara for the birth of Ava Josephine Ferrara on November 16, 2011. Proud grandparents are Janet & Gerry Ferrara, and Andrea & Raymond Frank.

Thanksgiving

T - is for the Trials, God has brought me through,
H - is for Heaven where I'll one day walk with You
A - is for All the times I've fallen and You picked me up,
N - is No end to the times You've filled my cup.
K - is for Keeping me safe and healthy, every day,
S - is for Saving and teaching me to live Your way.
G - is for the Goodness and love You put in my heart,
I - is the glorious Idea that You've set me apart.
V - is the Victory in Jesus, that I hold within,
I - is the Invitation to turn all from their sin.
N - Never going back to the sinful road I've trod,
G - is Giving thanks for all things, to our Living, Giving, Great, and Glorious God!

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

(Please see the Church Calendars for specific times.)

- Dec. 05, 2011 - Finance Committee Meeting
- Dec. 05, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
- Dec. 10, 2011 - Men's Breakfast
- Dec. 12, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
- Dec. 12, 2011 - Administrative Council Meets
- Dec. 15, 2011 - Meadowlark Articles Due
- Dec. 16, 2011 - **Christmas Is Love Concert**
- Dec. 19, 2011 - Board of Trustees Meet
- Dec. 19, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
- Dec. 24, 2011 - **Candlelight Service (7 & 11)**
- Dec. 25, 2011 - **Christmas Day (One Service)**
- Dec. 26, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
- Dec. 31, 2011 - **New Year's Eve**
- Jan. 01, 2012 - **New Year's Day**
- Jan. 16, 2012 - **Martin Luther King Day**

Sr. High UMYF meets Sundays at 7:00pm*
Jr. High UMYF meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm*
MDO meets Mon., Wed., & Fri. at 9:30am*
** Unless otherwise specified.*