

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April, 2011

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Church Office (732) 671-0707

The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Regular Services

Praise Worship	9:00am
Traditional Worship	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 April, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

I attended a district clergy gathering earlier this week during which a presentation was made about technology and the Church. There I was, thinking that I was pretty much as up to date as I needed to be with electronic media, record keeping and reporting, audio-visuals, and the like. What I learned was that there are technologies being used in some churches today that I not only haven't learned, but haven't even heard of until now. Some of you will be receiving this newsletter by e-mail and some by traditional post. What we were told at the seminar was that e-mail is now old hat. People are using social network sites like Facebook for most of their communication needs. Smart phones and i-Pads are replacing personal computers and texting has made e-mailing almost obsolete; at least among the younger demographic.

Part of the discussion involved the advent of video conferencing and how we can now hold webinars (Internet hosted seminars) and online meetings and classes. The observation was made that we can save a lot of money on things like travel expenses by holding virtual meetings on our pads, phones, and laptops. Annual Conference sessions could be done this way as well. At least, that's the theory.

I beg to differ. Yes, you could do the nuts and bolts kind of things by using the available technology. However, a major part of being the Church is to understand and experience the reality that we are part of the Body of Christ. It is a body that is joined by more than the binary code of computers and the high definition images of LED screens. We are made in the image of Christ, as flesh and blood creatures that are meant to be in relationship with one another and for that to happen in its most meaningful sense; we need to be physically present with each other. This has been an issue that has been developing in the background since the first TV evangelist took to the airwaves. Is it enough for Christians to watch others worship on TV? My opinion, not surprisingly, is that it is not. Christianity is not a spectator sport. It is participatory in nature and it involves all of those who are called by God to be a member of the body.

We can and should do what we can to use the technology that is available to us. **(In fact, I would like to know if there is someone out there who would be able and willing to create and maintain a Facebook page for the church.)** The more we are able to keep up with the ways people are communi


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Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

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cating, the more likely we will remain relevant to the youth and young adults of our society. However, the need to be together, in the same physical space at the same time, will never change as long as we are human beings; as long as we are the body of Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Glenn Ferguson 

RUMMAGE SALE, 2011

A BIG thank you goes out to all of the people who worked so hard on this year's Rummage Sale. What a great day ... **we took in \$4,264.56!** This is probably the largest amount we have had in several years. And now our Missions will be the recipients of all that hard work.

We have LOTS of people to thank for the sale success. We especially thank **Suzette Halligan** for giving of her time and talents, providing professional haircuts and donating the proceeds to Missions. Thank you, Suzette!

We thank the **donators, the sorters, and the cashiers** ... they endured a lot but always with smiling faces; **the kitchen crew** ... always a good lunch; and last but certain not least, all those who came when the day was done to help clean up. Those angels arrived just when a lot of us had just about used up our last ounce of energy.

The **Ranch Hope** truck arrived and the gentlemen were the best ... pitching in and helping us clean up as well. To **Frank Bardell** who transported a lot of furniture and truly knows how to pack a truck! Thank you, Frank!

The pictures to the right are testimony to the clean-up effort by all who helped. Top: starting to clean-up and pack the Ranch Hope truck; middle: half-way through the effort; bottom: finally done!

While we're always glad when the day is done, we know that we will be right back at it next year.

Debbie Vincent, Carolyn Hooper 



APRIL, 2011

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
MAY, 2011							MARCH 28	29	30	31	APRIL 1	2	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14					FAMILY PROMISE <i>4/11 Meadowlark Online</i>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21							
22	23	24	25	26	27	28							
29	30	31											
							3	4	5	6	7	8	9
COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship ** MOTHER'S DAY ** 6:00: Int'l Family Dinner 7:30: <i>April, 2011 Meadowlark</i>							8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: Sharing Our Faith 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Finance Meets	8:30: 9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	District Resource Day Matawan UMC 8:30: Men's Breakfast	
							10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30:							8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Admin Council	8:30: 9:30: MDO Board 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: Healing Ministry 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: <i>Meadowlark Due!</i>	SPRING WORK DAY	
							17	18	19	20	21	22	23
PALM SUNDAY 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: Confirmation Class 7:30:							8:30: 9:30: MDO Closed 6:00: 6:30: Sharing Our Faith 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Trustees Meet	8:30: 9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30: Ministry Meets	8:30: 9:30: MDO Closed 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Communion Svc	GOOD FRIDAY 8:30: 9:30: MDO Closed 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Good Friday Svc	EASTER EGG HUNT	
							24	25	26	27	28	29	30
EASTER SUNDAY 6:30: Easter Worship 9:00: Easter Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:30: Easter Worship 4:00: NO Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30:							8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		

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


MAY, 2011

SUNDAY							MONDAY		TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
JUNE, 2011							APRIL 25		26			27			28		29		30	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S														
			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	30																
MAY 1							2		3			4			5		6		7	
COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: Confirmation Class							9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:00: Finance Meets		9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00:			9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. UMYF Meets 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir			10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:		9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:			
8							9		10			11			12		13		14	
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship NO CONFIRMATION CLASS							9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Admin Council		9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30: Healing Team			9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. UMYF Meets 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir			10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:		9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:		8:30: Men's Breakfast <i>Meadowlark Articles Due!</i>	
15							16		17			18			19		20		21	
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 3:00: Confirmation Class							9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Trustees Meet		9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00:			9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. UMYF Meets 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir			10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:		9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:			
22							23		24			25			26		27		28	
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class							9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study		9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00:			9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. UMYF Meets 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir			10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:		9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:		<i>6/11 Meadowlark Online</i>	
29							30		31			JUNE 1			2		3		4	
JUNE, 2011 MEADOWLARK 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship NO CONFIRMATION CLASS							MEMORIAL DAY 9:30: MDO CLOSED 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00:			ANNUAL CONFERENCE KING OF PRUSSIA, PA			ANNUAL CONFERENCE KING OF PRUSSIA, PA		ANNUAL CONFERENCE KING OF PRUSSIA, PA		ANNUAL CONFERENCE KING OF PRUSSIA, PA	


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In Our Church Family...

MORTGAGE ELIMINATION PLAN


We wanted to give you an update on this effort to rid ourselves of the encumbrance of the mortgage. We have been hoping that the final payoff would have happened sometime between the end of March or June. Unfortunately, the contributions toward the MEP were not what we'd expected in January and February, so we're adjusting our forecast. Most people who have made commitments to this effort are doing well in keeping current. There are still some families who have not made commitments or who have not contributed to paying off the mortgage. For this project to reach its conclusion, we need to have about \$35,000 come from those families. Given that we're talking about 70 families/giving units; that works out to approximately \$500 each by the end of June. There are 16 Sundays left between now and then. That would make it \$31.25 per week. It might be a bit of a stretch for some, but can we manage to make this extra effort to eliminate the mortgage? Like the little engine that could, we think we can. Perhaps you are in a position to do a bit more; that would help to make up for those who cannot. The Discipleship Team is having discussions about hiring a Youth Director and everyone agrees this is essential to rebuilding the programs we can offer our children and youth. Paying off the mortgage would make this dream a reality sooner rather than later. There has been a tremendous response to the MEP over the last year and we are grateful. Now we're asking for one last push to get us over the top. 

INTERNATIONAL COVERED DISH SUPPER

Join us TODAY, April 3 at 6:00pm for a time of food, fellowship, and fun. Bring your favorite dish that represents your family's national origins and be ready to tell us something about the food you've prepared. Kielbasa from Poland? Ham and Cabbage from England? Tacos from Mexico? Fish from Japan? We'll also hear about some of our world Missions' projects and sing songs from other lands. Plan to be with us. 



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's fellowship will be meeting for breakfast and some work on Saturday, April 16th at 8:30 am. Breakfast will be a light one and then we have been asked to give a hand...The Easter Egg Hunt is coming up and as we have for the last few years we will be "stuffin'" the eggs. We are waiting for the donations of plastic eggs and small wrapped candy to arrive at church. In addition, the palms for Palm Sunday need to be striped for the next day. **Nora Judd** has asked that anyone who would like to help is welcome to join her. It's also work day at church. So you can take your pick or do them all. But first come and enjoy some fellowship time and a good breakfast. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Hope to see you then. 

HOGAR INFANTIL

Thanks to the kind generosity of our Missions Committee, headed by Robin Smith, and our church members, Gary Kochman and Betsy Peyton were able to return to Hogar Infantil with 75 new sweatshirts (sueters) and backpacks (mochilas) for the children. We also brought a big box full of yarn which the children are putting to good use with knitting projects. There was enough money to purchase 22 pairs of shoes for those in greatest need, with pesos left over for sandals. How wonderful was that! MUCHAS GRACIAS!

Hogar is a children's home, located on a ranch, in the very poor area of Ocozocoautla, in Chiapas, Mexico, where currently 72 children, ages approximately 5-23 live. Hogar affords these children the opportunity for an education, as well as providing a safe, loving "home", food, and clothing that otherwise they would do without.

We are happy to report that Pedro and Dori, the new directors, are doing a phenomenal job. The children are lovingly cared for, the meals have improved greatly, and the little boy's home has a newly renovated bathroom thanks to the efforts of a dedicated volunteer. We were pleased to see sheets and blankets on their beds this time too.

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**COMMUNITY
EASTER EGG HUNT**



**MIDDLETOWN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
924 MIDDLETOWN-LINCROFT RD.**

**Saturday, April 23
11:00 a.m.**

**All children from pre-
school to 5th grade are
welcome!**

**A HOT DOG LUNCH AND GAMES WILL BE INCLUDED
IN THE FUN. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
732-671-0707 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.MIDDLETOWNUMCNJ.ORG**

Church Announcements...

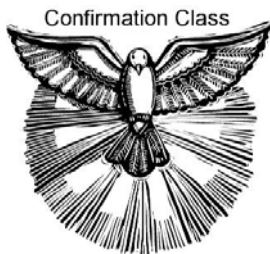
PLEASE LIFT UP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

- * Joe Anderson * Elaine Bardell * Mark Brittingham * Douglas Collier * Cleo Duncan * Stickle Family *
* Duthie & Evarts Families * Frank Jacobs * Matilde Kalbian * Jayne Moore * Barbara Philpot *
* Mary Ann Connolly's Father * Tom Walker Family * Phil Welch, Sr. * Beverly Wrede *
* O'Connor Family * Japan Tsunami Victims, Families & Rescue Workers * Peace in the Middle East *
* The Families of those serving in the Military * Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *

CONFIRMATION CLASS MENTORS

Members of the 2011 confirmation class are looking for adult mentors who will share the experience of the process with them. Mentors are expected to attend the confirmation classes and participate in related activities.

Mentors are encouraged to meet with their confirmand separately and act as advisors/big brothers/big sisters. The adult mentors will also function as sponsors at the service on June 12, 2011 when the class will be received into membership. It's not too late! If you are willing to be a mentor, please let the pastor know by telephone at (732) 671-0707 or by email at mumc.pastor@comcast.net.



Upcoming MUMC Events:

- April 3, 2011 - International Family Dinner
April 9, 2011 - District Resource Day
April 9, 2011 - Men's Breakfast
April 16, 2011 - Spring Work Day
April 22, 2011 - Good Friday Service
April 23, 2011 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt
April 24, 2011 - Easter Sunday Services
May 14, 2011 - Men's Breakfast
June 1-4, 2011 - Annual Conference

HOGAR INFANTIL

(← Continued from Page 6)

One "Tia" is responsible for the care of 21 little boys in their house, ages 5-12, 24/7! Imagine that! The children at Hogar are all very responsible, polite, happy, and respectful. It is a joy to spend time with them.

A special thank you to **Russ Cline** and **Debbie Vincent** for transportation to and from the airport. Thank you again for your continuing support for the children of Hogar.
Betsy Peyton

Middletown United Methodist Church, its members and friends wish to express their deepest condolences to:

Helen Duthie & Family - passing of her husband Don
Bob Stickle & Family - passing of his mother
Mark O'Connor & Family - passing of his wife Kimberly
Thomas Walker & Family - passing of his wife Judy

RUMMAGE SALE 2011

