

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August, 2011

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The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Summer Worship Service

Worship Service – Alternating
Praise & Traditional 10:00am

Sunday School 10:15am



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

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The Meadowlark, published monthly, is the official newsletter of Middletown United Methodist Church. Materials published are voluntarily submitted and become the property of Middletown United Methodist Church. Articles are due no later than the 15th of the month prior. Materials may be submitted by email (webmaster@middletownumcnj.org), by fax (732 615-2357) or placed in The Meadowlark mailbox located outside the Church Office. Articles received beyond the due date will be published the next month unless date expiration has occurred. To subscribe to The Meadowlark in print form, please send your physical mailing address to Middletown United Methodist Church, 924 Middletown-Lincroft Road, Middletown, NJ 07748, and Attention: Meadowlark Subscription. To subscribe to the electronic version, please send your email address to webmaster@middletownumcnj.org.

The Pastor's Message

August, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

I've recently returned from my yearly teaching assignment at the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Local Pastors' Licensing School. There, the rest of the faculty and I instruct beginning pastors in four areas: Preaching/Worship, Administration, Pastoral Care, and Christian Education. This year's group was a bit smaller than in previous years, but they were enthusiastic and ready to learn so we had a good ten days.

One of the features of the school is that each student is led through the study and preparation techniques required for producing weekly sermons and they must then preach those sermons for evaluation. To make it a level playing field for everybody, we require that they all preach on the same Scripture text which this year was the parable of the mustard seed. The upshot is that I heard 21 sermons on that particular passage in the space of the ten days. You might think that would get kind of boring, but it didn't; it never does. The amazing thing about the Scriptures in general and the parables in particular is that you can never completely run out of things to say; there is always some new slant that God wants you to see that perhaps you hadn't considered before. As an example, one of the students suggested that the mustard seed parable might be a reference to the unique presence of Israel in the "field" of the Roman Empire. I had never considered that point of view before and I have to admit, it is an interesting interpretive idea.

What the student was trying to say was that the kingdom of God is present in unexpected places; even in the midst of circumstances that we might consider unholy or ungodly; and that the kingdom grows where it will regardless of the presence of the world's values. That is a hopeful position to take, especially in a world where there is so much that is profane. For the people of the Church, we must always remember that it is not up to us to decide whether we should be sowing the seeds of the Kingdom. We just do what God has called us to do and the rest is up to God. It is in these summer months that it is easy to get discouraged by low attendance and the concomitant low giving. What we have to keep in mind is that God is still at work and that we are simply called to be faithful; faithful in our work, faithful in our worship, and faithful in our fellowship with one another.

My prayer is that we would keep the ministry of Christ at the top of our list of priorities through the rest of the summer. Be sure to attend worship each week at 10 a.m. and keep your pledges current.

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Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

By the way, we are receiving pledges at about 95%; that is very good! If you happen to be behind, please try to catch up. Keep the Mortgage Elimination Fund in mind. We want to be rid of the mortgage as soon as possible; certainly by the end of the year. We are searching for someone to work with our youth groups and paying off the mortgage will enable that to happen.

I'd like to ask you to keep the search for a youth leader in your prayers. We have made contacts with Drew, Palmer, and Princeton Theological Seminaries and are also advertising through the conference website and GNJDigest. So far there has been no response. Pray that God will not only bring s someone, but that God will bring us the *best* someone to work with our youth. Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you in church!

Grace and Peace, Glenn Ferguson 

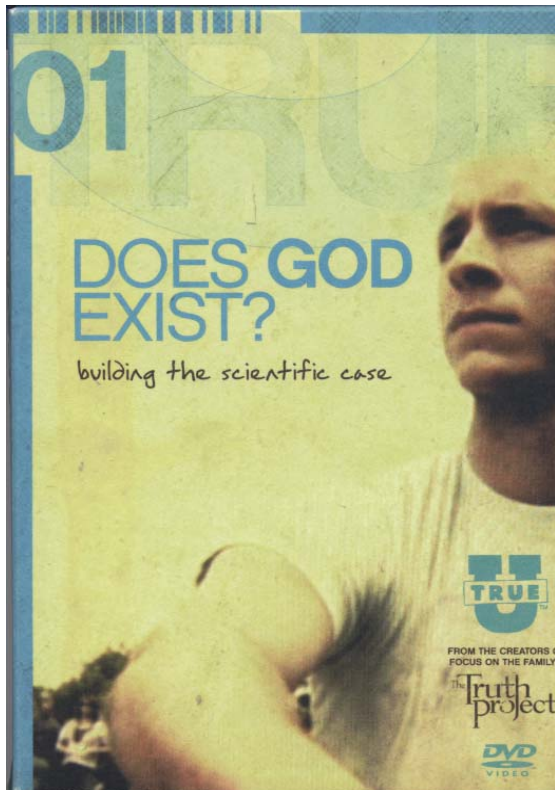
SIZZLING SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES STARTING SOON!

Is your belief in God a blind leap of faith? Do you attend church and claim Christianity because it was your family tradition? Have you ever had anyone challenge your belief using science as a reason?

What do the recent discoveries in physical and biological sciences say about God's existence? Let's find out together! It's going to be amazing, challenging and fun!!!

Who should attend? High School Seniors...College Age...Twenties...

What should I bring? All your friends plus an open mind to argue the possibilities.



When?

5:00PM-6:30PM on Sunday afternoons
June 26th, July 10, 17, 31, August 7 and 14.

Where?

June 26th Kick-off Cook-out!
11 Raven Rd. Colts Neck
Hosted by The Cline Family

July 10, July 17, July 31 and August 7. Church Fellowship Hall

August 14th Wrap it up Pool Party!
72 Dale Rd. Middletown
Hosted by The Furlow Family

Why?

Because you get to hang with your friends, make new ones + learn something about God and His Creation you've never known before.

For additional information text or call Kandis Furlow 908.267.3742, Russ Cline 732.939.3167, or Judy Lipke 732.768.6167.

AUGUST, 2011

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
SEPTEMBER, 2011							1	2	3	4	5	6	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	8:00: Walk In The Park	
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	6:30:	6:30:	6:30:	6:30:	6:30:		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
25	26	27	28	29	30		7:30:	7:30: Discipleship Meets	7:30:	7:30:	7:30:		
							8:00: Finance Meets						
COMMUNION SUNDAY 8 th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00: Summer Worship 10:15: Sunday School 5:00: Does God Exist? 7:00: 7:30:							7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00: Summer Worship 10:15: Sunday School 5:00: Wrap-Up Pool Party 7:00: 7:30:							14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00: Summer Worship 10:15: Sunday School 7:00: 7:30:							21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11 th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00: Summer Worship 10:15: Sunday School 7:00: 7:30:							28	29	30	31	SEPTEMBER 1	2	3

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


SEPTEMBER, 2011

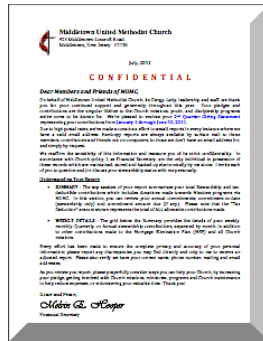
SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
OCTOBER, 2011							AUGUST 29	30	31	1	2	3		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S				9:30:	9:30:	8:00: Walk In The Park		
						1				6:00:	6:00:			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				6:30:	6:30:			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15				7:00:	7:00:			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22				7:30:	7:30:			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29								
30	31													
COMMUNION SUNDAY 12 TH Sunday After Pentecost 10:00: LAST Summer Worship 10:15: Sunday School 7:00: 7:30:							4	LABOR DAY Church Office Closed 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Finance Meets (?) 7:30:	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: 7:30:							11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: 7:30:							18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
15 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: 7:30:							25	26	27	28	29	30	OCTOBER 1	
9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:								9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Ministry Team 7:30:			9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		October Meadowlark	

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In Our Church Community...

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

MUMC 2nd Quarter Giving Statements through June 30, 2011 have been issued. If you did NOT receive a hard copy in regular surface mail, please check your email. If you didn't receive your copy at all, please call Mel Hooper at 732 241-6508, send an email message to him at (webmaster@middletownumcnj.org), or speak with Mel directly. As always, every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of your contributions. Nonetheless, even with today's technology, we're not above admitting our humanity. Should you find or discover any discrepancies or errors in your statement, please let me know to get an adjusted or corrected statement. If you have any questions interpreting your statement, please speak with me personally – the privacy of your contributions remains my utmost priority. Thank you for your continued generosity and support! 



CROP Hunger Walk

- 3) **Collect pledges** from church members – the best way to get walkers to sign up is to sit at a table in the Narthex between Church services.
- 4) **Hold a peanut butter and rice drive** during October so our church can contribute to the collection of food that goes 100% to local food banks; then see that the peanut butter and rice contributions are delivered to Red Bank Regional High School on the day of the walk.
- 5) **Participate in the walk** and encourage all the walkers to turn in their money on October 16, 2011, the date of the 2011 31st Annual CROP Walk.
- 6) **Follow-up** with any walkers who did NOT turn in their sponsor sheets and money; and
- 7) Obtain the final CROP Walk report from the Red Bank CROP committee and report it/publicize it to our congregation.

While this MIGHT look like a lot, it really isn't! This can be leadership hours for a high school student and could be a great parent/child project!!

If you have questions, please contact **Dianne Thompson** since Patty will be gone to school by the time you read this! If you want to volunteer and help out in any way, please let **Robin Smith** or **Pastor Glenn** know as soon as possible!! Thank you!

Dianne Thompson 

MUMC NEEDS A CROP WALK REPRESENTATIVE

For the past several years, **Patty Thompson** has served as our church's representative to the CROP Walk committee in Red Bank. Patty is now at college and won't be able to participate this year.

The position of Crop Walk Representative is now open and available. What does it involve? Well— if you are a teen, you can be a part of the Teen Leadership committee and do as much as you'd like for the **31st Annual CROP Walk**. If you aren't a teen or don't have time to get that involved, you would need to:

- 1) **Attend a meeting** in early September to get the information and sponsor sheets for our church (September 12, 2011 is the date).
- 2) **Recruit some walkers** from our church and give them the sponsor sheets – talk to the youth groups!

(Continued in next column)


In Our Church Family...

WE NEED SINGERS & RINGERS!

All our choirs are in serious need of singers and ringers! It's time to think about bringing your voices out of the showers and into rehearsals!



- You DON'T have to know how to read music,
- You DON'T have to be great, and
- You DON'T need to worry about carrying a tune.

But! You DO have to be enthusiastic, you DO have to attend rehearsals, and you DO have to be reliable. As we love to tell everyone, "COME SING WITH US!" Whether you have an interest to sing or ring, please speak with Kris Bomersbach. 

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Kelsey Michelle DeVesty


Kelsey graduated Magma Cum Laude with Honors from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Business Management, and a concentration in Innovation, Technology & Entrepreneurship.

Kelsey will be leaving for Kentucky at the end of August to serve for a year with the Christian Appalachian Project. Among her responsibilities, she'll be organizing, coordinating and working with youth groups coming into the area to do home repairs, etc. She'll also be involved with the home projects as well.


Amanda Jean Gaal

Amanda graduated from Loyola University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology.

Amanda Gaal will be leaving for Haiti at the end of August to serve for a year with The Haiti Project. She'll be teaching at a school while there.

The members and friends of MUMC heartily congratulate these and all our graduates and pray their future endeavors meet with favor and success. 

9/11 TRAGEDY - CNN MONEY


MUMC has been contacted by CNN Money asking if any of our members or friends has been affected by the September 11th tragedy, and if they would be willing to be interviewed for an upcoming edition. If you or any family you know are interested, please contact Aaron Smith, CNN Money, 212.275.7714 or contact Aaron by email at aaron.smith@turner.com. 

WE'RE LOOKING FOR MEADOWLARK, FACEBOOK, & WEBSITE APPRENTICES!

Attention MUMC Jr. High, Sr. High Youth, and Adults! Are you (or someone you know) interested in:

- Learning how our monthly newsletter is produced, published and distributed?
- Our new Church Facebook page, how it works and becoming an event planner?
- Our Church website, web design, electronic media, and internet ministry?

We're looking for a few apprentice volunteers to learn, help maintain, and improve our printed and electronic media, and internet presence. If you're pursuing a journalism or media career, this can be a prime opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge, insight and experience to build upon.

We want YOUR ideas, input and help to improve our electronic and internet church presence while helping to provide you with career benefits. If you or someone you know has an interest, for more information, or to get involved, please call the Church Office at (732) 671-0707, email Pastor Ferguson or speak with him personally. You can also email the [Webmaster](#). 

Church Announcements...

PLEASE LIFT UP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS:

- * Joe Anderson * Elaine Bardell * John Sullivan * Jeffrey Collier * Cleo Duncan * Matilde Kalbian *
* Kathy Hessinger * Linda Bardell's Cousin Jason * Phillip Sovinee & Family * John Moricz *
* Elsie Meagher * Jayne Moore * Linda Terhune * Eileen Thompson * Beverly & Emil Wrede *
* Diane Nash's Son-In-Law Danny * Katie & D.J. Shannon (deployed to Afghanistan) * World Peace *
* The Families of those serving in the Military * Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *
-

Greater NJ Exploring a Call to Ministry Event!!!


Sponsored by the GNJ Board of Ordained Ministry
And the GNJ UM Camping Ministries

August 15-17, 2011 Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery

Are you active in church? Do you feel like God may be asking you to explore ministry deeper? This retreat will help youth and young adults explore what it means to be called to ministry. We will specifically explore what it means to be an Elder or Deacon in the United Methodist Church, as well as the other outlets for ministry within our denomination. This event will provide a space for young people to explore the call to ordained ministry through worship, prayer, networking and small groups.

Young people will be inspired by guest speakers who will help them explore and nurture their call into ministry. There will be times the whole group will be together, but small group work will allow for further conversation with people your own age.

A large part of ministry is networking and relationship building. With that in mind, there will be plenty of time for fun activities which will help young people get to know one another better. We will spend time on the lake in boats. Small groups will also have time to experience the low ropes course together. Following evening worship, there will be campfire time.

This retreat will be geared for all young people -- youth and young adults, whether they are just starting to think about ministry or it's a conversation they have already had with their pastor and church leadership. There is a \$35 registration fee, which will secure your spot. There is no other cost for meals or lodging associated with this retreat. Young people will leave with a copy of "The Christian as a Minister", as well as other valuable resources. For additional information or to register go to www.gnjmyp.org/specialevents and click on Exploring a Call to Ministry. 

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

- August 01, 2011 - Finance Committee Meets
August 02, 2011 - Discipleship Team Meets
August 07, 2011 - Does God Exist? Series
August 08, 2011 - Administrative Council Meets
August 14, 2011 - Does God Exist? Wrap-Up
August 15, 2011 - Board of Trustees Meet
August 16, 2011 - Staff/Parish Meets
August 23, 2011 - Ministry Team Meets
September 4, 2011 - **Last Summer Worship**
-

NEW BIRTH!

Clara Lianna James was born June 24, 2011 to Amanda, Jeff and brother Benji James. The proud grandparents are **Bill & Sandy Whitten**.

BLEND OF ART SOCIETY

Members Ernie Antholis, Helen Antholis, Mary Christenson, Sol Hara, Rose Korman, Marie Monahan, and **Carol Seip** will be exhibiting, photography, pastels, watercolor, and colored pencil at the **OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY, 701 DEAL ROAD, OCEAN, NJ, from August 6 through September 7, 2011.**

Reception Date: Sunday, August 7th from 2 - 4 pm

EXHIBIT HOURS: Mon, Tues, & Thurs. 10am to 9pm, Wed. 9am to 5pm, Fri. 1pm to 5pm, Sat. 9am to 5pm. Library closed on Sunday. 