

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May, 2011

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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 May, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

As I begin writing this letter, I am listening to *The Blue Danube Waltz* by Johann Strauss. It is one of my favorite pieces and always takes me back to the time I was on a cruise boat floating down the Danube through the Wachau Valley section of the river. On both sides of the river and around every bend, there are vineyards, castles, storybook villages, and magnificent vistas. The feelings I had were a combination of awe and wonder and also, after a bit, a sense of peace; of being at ease in God's Creation. That feeling didn't last too long, however, because it wasn't long after we'd left the boat and re-boarded our tour bus that we arrived at Mauthausen Prison Camp, one of the Nazi work camps located in Austria. Walking around the camp, listening to the guide, and viewing the memorials to those who died in captivity made me wonder. I asked myself a question and in a lot of ways I still ask myself the question: "How could people who have been so blessed by God to live in such a beautiful part of the world be the perpetrators of such an enormous evil as the Holocaust?"

It seems counter-intuitive that one could be surrounded by such profound evidence of the goodness of God and yet somehow envision and carry out a program of hatred and death. I suppose one only needs to go to the opening chapters of the Bible to find out that this is a part of who we are as fallen human beings. Adam and Eve had everything too. They were also surrounded by the providence and beauty of God yet chose to do things their own way; to disobey God. Sometimes people wonder about the presence of evil in the world and they are puzzled that in a world where God is present evil can sometimes appear to be so powerful. I think the answer is relatively simple; God gave us free will and human beings make wrong choices. There are bad things that happen; terrible things that happen, that aren't inherently good or evil. Natural disasters like the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan is a good example. Yes, there was terrible human suffering in the wake of that catastrophe, but it wasn't evil. There was no moral force behind what happened.

The presence of evil in the world will always be a reality as long as human beings are around because there will always be those who choose to use, abuse, and mistreat their fellows. A primary mission of the Church is to bring transformation to the world; to show the people who might otherwise choose evil that there is a better way. We must embody the beauty of God in such a way that our fellow human to set such an example of godliness that others will be affected by it. To be the people of God, we must reject ways of living that harm others, even indirectly. The general rules of the United Methodist Church are: 1. Do no harm. 2. Do good. 3. Observe the ordinances of God. (That's the simplified version.) We must be aware of the consequences of the actions we take. For example, the use of "Free Trade" coffee emphasizes our concern for the people of the world who labor in unjust situations. I think that, by and large, we do a very fine job of intentionally doing good. Being just as intentional

(Continued on Page 3→)

Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

about doing no harm is likewise important as we do what we can to be transformative instruments of God's grace.

Grace and Peace, Glenn Ferguson 



Community Outreach Group Churches Donations for Evening Food Pantry

2011 Schedule

The **Calico Cat Food Pantry & Cupboard** sponsors an Evening Food Pantry for working low income families on the 4th Tuesday evening of each month. **Cleaning items and personal care items** are among the items we give to each family. We anticipate as many as 30 **families**. We are asking help from our participating **Churches to donate 30 orders of these items once a year** to assist with this effort. Donations need to be delivered to the Calico Cat Food Pantry on the **Monday** before the evening pantry. MUMC will be delivering our cleaning and personal care items on May 23 so all donations must be in by May 22. The following is the list of items to include in the bundles.

- 6 rolls toilet paper
- 1 container of dish detergent
- 1 container of laundry detergent
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 bag of plastic sandwich bags
- 1 container of kitchen/bathroom cleaner
- 1 deodorant (every other month Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov)
- 1 tube of toothpaste
- 3 bars of bath soap

Thanks so much for helping to make help these struggling families!

Robin Smith 

HELLO!

This summer, I'm traveling to Guam for a little more than a week with members of the Ramapo Chorale to participate in the 2011 Pacific Summer Music Festival. We'll be performing with residents of Guam and conducted by Dr. Weston Noble, an internationally acclaimed conductor and music educator--the only director in history to lead All-State choirs, bands, and orchestras in all fifty states. I'll be home after the first week of May, and looking for work to support my attendance on this trip! If there is some form of manual labor I can do, please think of me for help! Yard work? Household cleaning? Let me know!

Beth Thompson 

A PRAYER REQUEST

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I've planned a cross-country road trip on the Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco beginning May 2nd. I'll be taking 400 Gideon Bibles to give out to people I meet along the way, along with words of witness as our Lord leads and gives opportunity. I'm aiming to practice and see what it's like to wake up each morning with no agenda but God's for the day. I know many of you do this routinely, but it'll be a first for me! Your prayers for me and the people I meet whenever the Spirit brings us to mind would be deeply appreciated far more than words can express! Please pray that the Holy Spirit would be my cloud by day and my pillar of fire by night, that He will give me boldness and gentleness to speak the truth in love as He leads, that God's Word may find fertile soil in many hearts, and that Jesus Christ may be praised and glorified in all. I shall thank God always for the fellowship we share, and for your faithfulness in love and prayer. Thank you so much. May God bless you all.

Your grateful brother in Christ, Gary Kochman 

In Our Church Family...

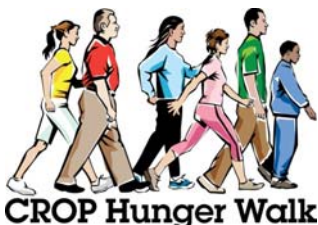
MORTGAGE ELIMINATION PLAN... WE CAN STILL DO IT!

Most people who have made commitments to this effort are doing well in keeping current. There are families who have not made commitments or contributions to paying off the mortgage. There are 11 Sundays left between now and June 30, 2011. A weekly contribution of \$45.45 would help is realize this dream. 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. Discussions continue about hiring a Youth Director, essential to rebuilding the programs we can offer our children and youth. There has been a tremendous response to the MEP over the last year and we are grateful. We're asking for one last push to get us over the top.



31st ANNUAL CROP WALK

This past CROP Walk celebrated the 30th annual walk. Middletown United Methodist Church was represented once again and raised over \$1,200. For the past 2 years, Patty Thompson has been the organizer for MUMC and also served on the teen leadership committee. For the 31st annual CROP Walk, however, she will be at college, so a new organizer is needed to step up! This is an opportunity for a youth or adult to actively participate in the church and, if needed, gain service or leadership hours. Please contact Patty or the Ministries Team if you or someone you know may be interested.



Patty Thompson

PLEASE LIFT UP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

Joe Anderson * Elaine Bardell * Mark Brittingham
Cleo Duncan * Matilde Kalbian * Kathy Hessinger
Michael McCabe & Family * The Morris Family
Jayne Moore * Carlos Newman * Phil Welch, Sr.
Barbara Philpot & Family * Beverly Wrede & Family
Gary Kochman (NY-CA) * Beth Thompson (Guam)
Bill Thompson's Mother Eileen * Tornado Victims in
the South, their Families & Rescue Volunteers
Annual Conference and all working towards its success
Our Military Brothers & Sisters & their Families
Peace On Earth

Upcoming MUMC Events:

- May 1, 2011 - Concordia Spring Concert
- May 14, 2011 - Men's Breakfast
- May 21, 2011 - RISE Coffee House
- June 1, 2011 - 2011 Annual Conference
- June 10, 2011 - Blue Claws Game
- June 19, 2011 - Family Promise Host Week
- June 26, 2011 - Summer Worship Begins

ART EXHIBIT
"A BLEND OF ART SOCIETY"

MAY 5TH THRU 30, 2011

EASTERN BRANCH MONMOUTH
COUNTY
SHREWSBURY, NJ
1001 ROUTE 35

A blend of mixed mediums,
pastels, watercolors, oils
& photography

Reception: Saturday, May 7th,
1pm to 4 pm

LIBRARY HOURS: MON. THRU
THURS. 9AM - 9PM
FRI. & SAT. 9AM - 5PM
SUN. 1PM - 5PM

Members: Ernest & Helen
Antholis, Mary Christensen, Sol
Hara,
Rose Korman, Marie Monahan
Carol Seip

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: LAST 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: 7:30: Ministries Team		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:		RISE Coffee House			
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:		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 Church Office 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		ANNUAL CONFERENCE KING OF PRUSSIA, PA	

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

