



The Middletown United Methodist Church  
**MESSENGER**

**2024**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Worship News	<b>1</b>
Egg Hunt/ Easter	<b>2</b>
Office News	<b>3-4</b>
Thank You's/ About Our People	<b>5-6</b>
Love Offering/ Finance	<b>7</b>
General Conference News	<b>8</b>
SPRC News	<b>9-11</b>
Children's Sunday School	<b>12</b>
Bible Studies	<b>13-15</b>
Ways to Help Out	<b>16</b>
Music Ministry	<b>17</b>
Small Groups	<b>18-21</b>
Kids Club/Preschool News	<b>22</b>
Upcoming Events	<b>23-26</b>
In Our Community	<b>27</b>
Coloring Page	<b>28</b>

**OUR MISSION**

*To make disciples of Jesus Christ by loving God, others, and self.*

**OUR VISION**

*God has called us to build a community that invites, welcomes, loves, and accepts all people for the purpose of being transformed into deeply committed Christians.*

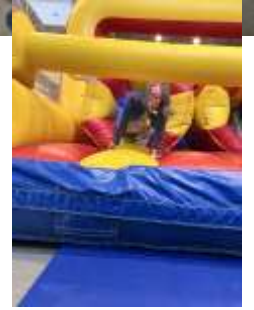
**W O R S H I P N E W S**

**SUNDAYS**  
 8:30 AM TRADITIONAL INDOOR  
 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 10:30 AM CONTEMPORARY INDOOR  
 ON-DEMAND, ONLINE VIA YOUTUBE

MIDDLETOWN UMC  
 7108 FERN CIRCLE MIDDLETOWN, MD  
 WWW.MTOWNUMC.ORG



Join us May 19th at the 8:30 or 10:30 worship as we Celebrate Pentecost and the Lay Leadership at MUMC. We invite all committee and team members to join us for service, where we celebrate the ways God's spirit works through you.



# OFFICE HOURS



The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am– 3:00 pm. Friday 8:30 am —1:00 pm.

The office follows FCPS inclement weather policy. If school closes for weather our office and building are closed as well.

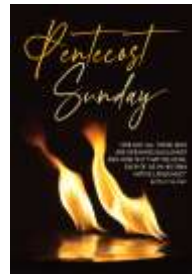
The office does have an answering machine you are welcome to leave a message after office hours and we will return your call as soon as possible.



May 2nd



May 12th



May 19th



May 26 th



May 27th

## New Hours for MUMC Office

Julie Twigg, staff member, is now working M, W, Th 8:30-3:00 and F 8:30-1:00

Sherie Koob and Debbie Kefauver, volunteers are covering on Tuesday 8:30-3:00

## OUR STAFF

### Lead Pastor

Rev. Katie Bishop  
[pastorkatie@mtownumc.org](mailto:pastorkatie@mtownumc.org)

### Administrative Assistant

Julie Twigg  
[office@mtownumc.org](mailto:office@mtownumc.org)

### Deacon-in-Residence

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads  
[ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org)

### Office Manager

[admin@mtownumc.org](mailto:admin@mtownumc.org)

### Music Director/Organist

Pam Mathews  
[music.mathews@gmail.com](mailto:music.mathews@gmail.com)

### Parents Time Out/Kids Club

Heather Kline 301-371-8380  
[kidsclub@mtownumc.org](mailto:kidsclub@mtownumc.org)

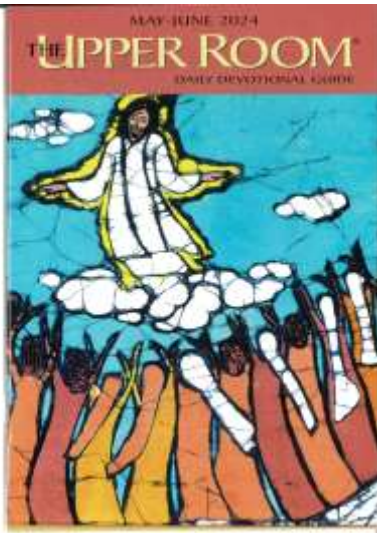
### Worship

Beth Tice  
[mumcmammat@gmail.com](mailto:mumcmammat@gmail.com)

### Preschool

Sarah Payne 301-371-8681  
[preschool@mtownumc.org](mailto:preschool@mtownumc.org)





### **Upper Room Update:**

The Upper Room (May/June) issue is available in the Narthex. We have regular and large print available. They are located in the narthex on the wall by the office and also on the counter in the narthex. Feel free to stop and pick up your copy. If you would like one mailed to you please contact the office by email [office@mtownumc.org](mailto:office@mtownumc.org) or by phone 301-371-5550. Please give your address and if you would like regular or large print.



### **Newsletter:**

Our newsletter is available digitally in the weekly email blast. We also have some paper copies available in the narthex by the office and on the counter in the narthex. If you desire a copy mailed to you please contact the office. Newsletter articles and submissions for the June newsletter are due in the office no later than May the 12th.



### **Weekly E-mails:**

We send out a weekly Ministry Highlights email on Wednesdays and a Join Us for Worship email that contains our bulletins for the weekend and the link to our You Tube channel. If you do not receive these already please contact the office with your correct email address so we can add you to the list.



If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact the office. You will need to sign a Confidentiality Contract and give a current email address to join. \* Any concerns, joys, births or deaths please call the office to add them to the list. All concerns will be on the list for a 2 week time frame and then removed unless the office is notified. **Please be sure to update the office of any changes to the concerns.**

# ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

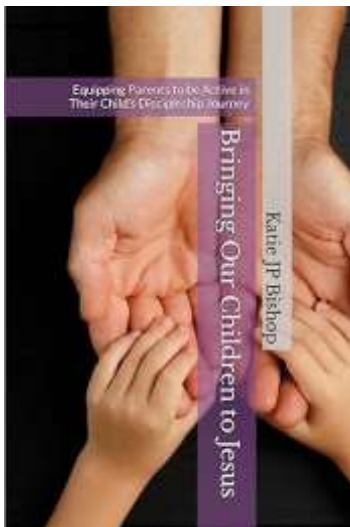


Our Card shower for Henruetta Fong was a success!

## Katie is a Rock Star at MUMC

Not only has Rev. Katie Bishop completed all the requirements to receive her Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in May. Now she is a published author of a book that is available via Amazon. I ordered my copy today and can't wait to read it.

Our congregation is proud of her considerable accomplishments!



***Bringing Our children to Jesus: Equipping Parents to be Active in Their Child's Discipleship Journey***

***By Kathryn JP Bishop***

Submitted by: Sandy Doggett & Kim Narayan, Co-Chairs of Staff Parish Relations Committee



I'm thanking Pastor Katie, and all the people who signed my lovely picture of Middletown United Methodist Church. It will be displayed in a prominent place in my new suite, it is a special gift.



My transition here was very smooth and everybody is very friendly and helpful and I feel that I made the right decision and I am happy and feel safe here. It's nice to be waited on hand and foot. My family is just a short distance away and that is great. My grandson can stop in on his way home from work which he has done several times already. Blessings on all of you. Love, Carol Lewis

Middletown  
Dear United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the **most generous** contribution you made to the Middletown Valley Food Bank. **You are a very kind and thoughtful friend to our clients.**

We work to give our clients healthy food including vegetables, fruits, eggs and meats. Luckily the summer months offer fresh vegetables that we are not able to get in the winter months. However, without your generosity we wouldn't be able to give them this healthy food. THANK YOU!

*I wish you could see the smiles on the clients faces when they come to us and find help!*

Bless you and again, THANK YOU!

Date: March 19, 2024 Amount: \$ 352

If you have a change of address, death, birth, or marriage you would like us to know about please contact the church office by emailing [office@mtownumc.org](mailto:office@mtownumc.org) or calling : 301-371-5550

## FUNERAL/ MEMORIAL RECEPTION TEAM

**Are you looking for a way to extend love to members of our church family?**

Please consider joining the Funeral/Memorial Reception team. Your help will be a gift to a family that is grieving. Although infrequent, the receptions often need to be planned quickly, so we would like to have a team of volunteers that could be called on; we understand that you may not always be available! There is a job for everyone, including teens who are looking for community service hours. We need volunteers to serve on a team to set up tables and chairs for the reception, a team to provide food, a team for kitchen prep and serving, and a clean up team.

For more information or to volunteer please contact

Linda Nealon, [nealonlb@aol.com](mailto:nealonlb@aol.com) ,

Sue Parrish, [sueparrish70@comcast.net](mailto:sueparrish70@comcast.net) or

Peggy Bishop, [peggybishop86@yahoo.com](mailto:peggybishop86@yahoo.com)

# MAY'S LOVE OFFERING



## May's Love Offering for Sleep in Heavenly Peace



New to MUMC's lineup of Love Offerings this year, Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) makes beds for kids in Frederick County who do not have their own bed. Their motto is "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!" Beds are made from scratch, by volunteers, and delivered to kid's homes where they are assembled and furnished with new mattresses, sheets, pillows and comforters.

MUMC is raising funds now to support the Build Day we have scheduled on October 19. Each bed costs \$250 to build and furnish with bedding. We've already raised some of the cost of building/furnishing up to 40 beds and are hopeful this month's Love Offering will help us get even closer to our goal of \$10,000. You can help in two ways this month:

- Make a cash donation through a Love Offering envelope or online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YP3W/home>
- Purchase new bedding through our Amazon Wish List at <https://a.co/dgy4uLm> or bring new pillows, sheets or comforters (in their original packaging) to the church so we can pass them on to SHP to pair up with a bed on one of their next build dates.

Watch for opportunities to be involved with our Build Date at the SHP Warehouse in October. There will be possibilities for some to pick up the lumber needed before the 19<sup>th</sup>; opportunities for people of many ages (and skill sets) to help with the building process on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and opportunities to deliver beds after they are completed. To get a sense of what it's all about, please check out this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcbLNOQEnUQ>.

None of us want kids to sleep on the floor! Please be generous and help us enrich the lives of children in our county! For more information, contact MUMC's Missions Team Chair, Sherie Koob at [sheriekoob@hotmail.com](mailto:sheriekoob@hotmail.com).

## UPCOMING LOVE OFFERING JUNE – MAMA BABY HAITI

<p><b>MUMC Giving Made Easy! Ways to give!</b></p> <p><b>Give By Check.</b> Place it in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it by the church office, or snail mail it to: <b>7108 Fern Circle, Middletown, MD 21769</b> Consider making your gift using our eGiving (electronic giving) tools sponsored by VANCO. eGiving lets you set up recurring giving by using one of the following eGiving tools...</p> <p><b>Online Giving.</b> Go to MUMC's church website at <a href="http://www.mtownmumc.org">www.mtownmumc.org</a> and choose <b>Online Giving</b> from the menu. You will have the option of using bank draft or credit card.</p> <p><b>Giving via GivePlus MOBILE app.</b> Using any device...go to the App Store or Google Play to download the app for free. Enter zip code 21769 for the church. Click GIVE and it will prompt and connect you with payment methods.</p> <p><b>Giving via Text.</b> Send a text to: <b>844-478-0280</b> and you will be prompted to connect to a payment method.</p>	<p><b>Finance News</b></p> <p><b>MUMC</b></p> <p><b>2024 Stewardship Pledges:</b> \$ 422,043 Pledged, \$450,000 Goal</p> <p><b>2024 Monthly Stewardship Goal:</b> \$ 37,500</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>2024 March Pledge Giving: \$ 35,140.58</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>2024 YTD as of March 31, 2024</b> <b>Pledges received: \$13,424.89</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>MUMC Consolidated</b> <b>Commercial Loan Balance</b> as of 3/31/2024: \$ 728,681.89</p>
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# The Long-Awaited General Conference of the UMC

will be held April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC.

MUMC will continue to be the church we know. Nothing that happens at General Conference is expected to directly impact the way we work or how we serve God in our community!

There are 862 voting Delegates at the Conference (half Clergy and half Laity) elected by their Annual Conferences. The Baltimore-Washington Conference has a Delegation of 12 (plus alternates/reserve members) who were elected in the spring of 2019 in anticipation of representing us at the 2020 General Conference which was postponed due to the Pandemic. An excellent article that explains what General Conference is all about can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/gc-beginners-guide>.

Our “Welcoming Community Group” is affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN <https://rmnetwork.org/>). That organization is one of 15 United Methodist Church related caucus groups that have joined together under the umbrella of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC <https://www.lynccoalition.org/>) to “work toward a just, inclusive and grace-filled denomination.” The priorities of LYNC with respect to General Conference are to support the 3 R’s:

- **Regionalization:** Currently there are five Jurisdictions in the U.S. and Central Conferences in other parts of the world that all operate under our *Book of Discipline*. However, Central Conferences have a bit more flexibility than those of us in the U.S. do, to operate under rules they establish for their cultural context. If the U.S. had the same flexibility, we could deal with issues around inclusion and disaffiliation without dragging the rest of the world into our disagreements. Regionalization would allow that.
- **Remove:** The harmful language in the *Book of Discipline* where it says that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching,” “marriage is between a man and a woman,” and any other harmful language needs to be removed.
- **Revise:** In 2012, the General Board of Church and Society was charged with updating the Social Principles (a portion of the *Book of Discipline*) to make them more Global and less U.S. centric. They were given eight years to do this. The Revised Social Principles were ready to be voted on in 2020. There had been countless listening sessions around the world, input from individuals, churches (including MUMC’s Justice for All Journey Group) and the working teams charged with taking all the input and writing new Principles. The hope is the new document will be voted on without changes at this General Conference.



Each of the caucus groups in the LYNC partnership are supporting other legislation as well, but they have all agreed the 3 R's are the priority.

More information on the General Conference (including a link to live stream portions) can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/gc-info> (don't be put off by the number of tabs about the "2020" General Conference – they are really about the "postponed 2020" conference, aka 2024 GC).

## SPRC NEWS

"The SPRC Committee is interested to know the preferred type of communications our church would like to receive.

We have developed a survey for all folks to fill out.

It can be filled out on paper or online. Place your paper copy in Box in Narthex.

Online you type in your name to verify that you only fill it out once. But your name will not be recorded with your answers. Data will be anonymous.

The survey will be open for 4 weeks.

Thanks for helping us craft our communications to best serve your needs.

Sandy Doggett Co-Chair of SPRC



[https://qualtricsxmtq3xm73t.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5z2KVT8QI6B8tIY](https://qualtricsxmtq3xm73t.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5z2KVT8QI6B8tIY)

## MUMC Communications Survey

I currently receive communications from MUMC in the following ways (select all that apply):

- Email
- Newsletter
- Website
- Social Media (Facebook)
- Remind App
- Other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

I would prefer to receive communications about upcoming events, small groups, congregational needs, and other MUMC news in the following ways:

- Email
- Newsletter
- Website
- Social Media (Facebook)
- Remind App
- Text message
- Other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

In general, I feel that I am aware of upcoming events, small groups, congregational needs, and other news from MUMC:

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

I know where to look to find more information about upcoming events, small groups, congregational needs, or other news from MUMC.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Have you visited the church website within the last three months?

- No
- Yes

If "yes", could you find what you were looking for on the website?

- Yes
- No (Please describe what you were looking for: \_\_\_\_\_)

Has there ever been an event at MUMC you didn't know about, but wish you had?

- No
- Yes (What event was it?  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Is there anything that you feel MUMC is currently doing well regarding communication about MUMC news and events?

Do you have any suggestions for improving our communications with the MUMC Community?

Think of an organization you are a part of that does a great job communicating with you. What do you like about the communications?

How often do you attend services and/or other MUMC events or activities?

- At least 3-4 times per month
- 1-2 times per month
- Less than 1 time per month

I typically worship at:

- 8:30 service
- 10:30 service
- Online service
- I don't regularly worship at MUMC

I have been a member/attender at MUMC for:

- Less than a year
- 1-2 years
- 3-4 years
- 5 years or more

My age range is:

- Under 18 years old
- 18-25 years old
- 26-35 years old
- 36-45 years old
- 46-55 years old
- 56 years or older

Are you a parent?

- Yes, with one or more kids living at home
- Yes, with kids not living at home
- No



Sunday School News for May 2024.

**May's faith word is *LOVE*.**

Jesus invites all people to love other people with sincere love – a love without agenda, conditions or pretending – aiming to love one another like family, showing honor, respect, generosity, and forgiveness. We love because God first loved us.

But love can be hard. It might seem impossible to demonstrate this kind of love. How can we possibly always be loving? Especially when Jesus asks us to love people who hurt us!

This month, we will learn that Love is a practice. We can grow in God's love and in our ability to share love. We will help children see ways they can practice being a person of love and how to offer that love to others. Children will study the stories of Peter and Tabitha, Paul and Barnabas, Pentecost, and Love in Action (Paul's letter to the Romans).

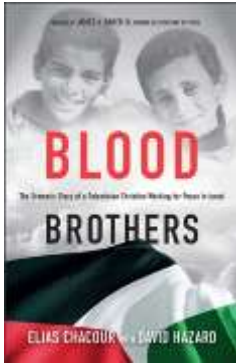
These Sunday school lessons teach us that we can treat one another as equals and not think of ourselves as better than anyone else. We can befriend those who have no status. We can resist seeking revenge on those who have wronged us. We can work to live in peace with people. Together, we will learn that love can look like different things in different situations. We will work to understand that we may be called on to love people in their lives in different ways at different times and exchanging loving gestures is part of being in a community of believers.

***Spiritual Practice for Adults***

This week, write down the names of those you love and those who love you. Choose a person each day to prayerfully lift to God using the practice of 'loving kindness'. Look up "Loving Kindness Meditation" online, and use this practice to hold people in love in your thoughts and prayers. Next, ponder, who in your community needs love and support, and who do you rely on in hard times? Pray and love as God leads you.

# A D U L T B I B L E S T U D I E S

## Palestinian and Christian



As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Palestinian village in Galilee. When tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and nearly one million forced into refugee camps in 1948, Elias began a long struggle with how to respond. In *Blood Brothers*, he blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict, exploring whether bitter enemies can ever be reconciled. This book offers hope and insight to help each of us learn to live at peace in a world of tension and terror. Chacour, a former Archbishop of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, has built a university, libraries, community centers, and youth clubs throughout Israel's Galilee region to create dynamic bridges of reconciliation between Palestinians and Jews. He has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize three times and travels the world as an ambassador of peace.

This study of *Blood Brothers: The Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel* (2013 version) began April 7 and runs through the end of May. Join the Justice for All Journey Group, Sunday's at 9:30 in room 204 (or on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84431890757?pwd=SWg4ZG50YUpPdXVra0lENXhGNEZIZz09w>). Contact Sherie Koob at [sheriekoob@hotmail.com](mailto:sheriekoob@hotmail.com) with questions.

**Parents:** Are you looking for a way to make more connections at church and find support for your parenting journey? There's a group just for you! The Parent Fellowship Group is a casual gathering of parents where we can get to know each other, provide fellowship and support, and discuss parenting from a Christian perspective. Please join us on Sundays in the fellowship hall during the 9:30 Sunday School hour. Grab your morning beverage, a snack or two, and come on over! Feel free to contact Alison Preston with any questions at [theprestons24@gmail.com](mailto:theprestons24@gmail.com).

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

### “LOST CHRISTIANITIES”

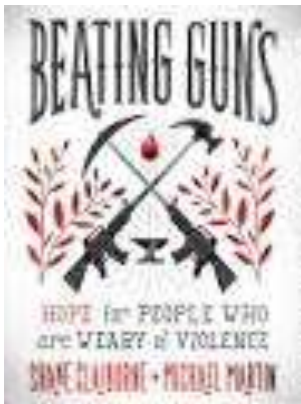
Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 in the Gathering Room

Class Leader: Mike Parrish 301-606-7209

All are invited as we begin this new study. Come as you are able.

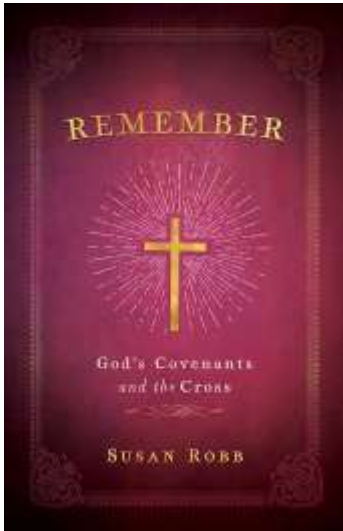
A video series by Professor Bart D. Ehrman, professor and chair of Dept. of Religious Studies at UNC @ Chapel Hill. This class is an introduction to an astonishing range of “lost Christianities” that flourished at the time when the Christian movement began. The class consists of a 30-minute video with discussion following.

### MUMC’s United Women in Faith



**Our Next Meeting:** MUMC’s United Women in Faith meet monthly via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87044952957?pwd=TmY2Ym5PaU9MbUNiWEpSY0E2SWpIQT09> on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. Because the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May is Mother’s Day, we’re skipping our May meeting, and the next meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup>. (The group will be taking a break in July and August.) After a brief business meeting the group reviews portions of a book they are reading. Our current study is *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence* by Shaine Claiborne and Michael Martin. Inspired by the prophetic image of beating swords into plows, *Beating Guns* provides a provocative look at gun violence in America and offers a clarion call to change our hearts regarding one of the most significant moral issues of our time. *Beating Guns* allows victims and perpetrators of gun violence to tell their own compelling stories, offering hope for change and helping us reimagine the world as one that turns from death to life, where swords become plows and guns are turned into garden tools. Participants are asked to be prepared to discuss from Chapter 10 through the end of the book at our June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting (extra chapters since we didn’t get around to our discussion time in April). United Women in Faith is open to all women, of all ages who wish to be in a fellowship of women who study issues that affect women, children, and youth.

For more information on either the UWFaith May Tea (see pg. 21) or our meetings, please contact Sherie Koob at [sheriekoob@hotmail.com](mailto:sheriekoob@hotmail.com).

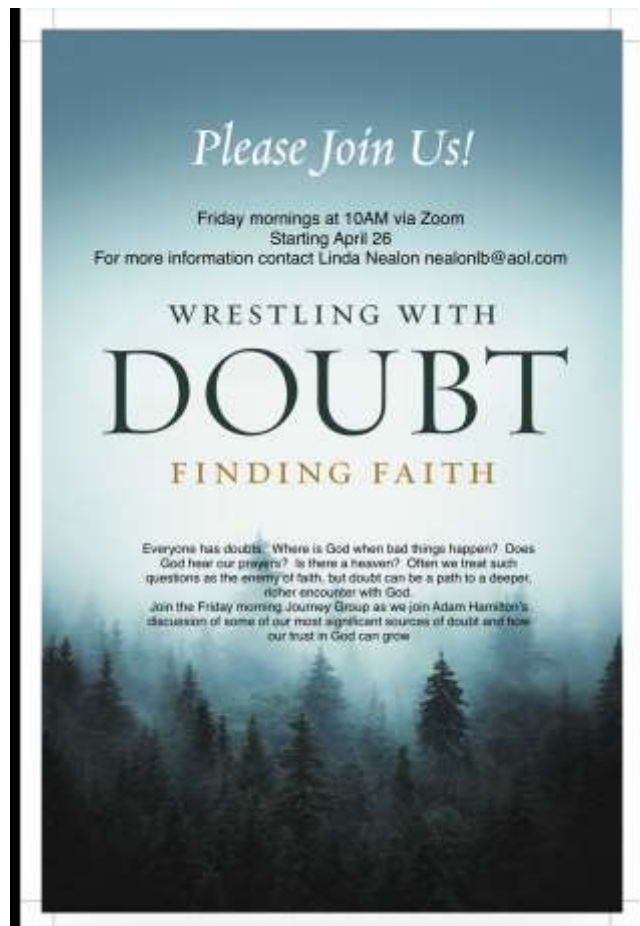


***Remember*, is a 6-week study that begins on Sunday, April 7, 2024 and ends on Sunday, May 12, 2024.**

*Remember*

*God's Covenants and the Cross* by Susan Robb

God's covenants throughout the Old Testament show the character of God's promises to the people of Israel. In this book, Susan Robb leads readers through the covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. The story culminates with an examination of the cross as another example of God's promise for a new world. The basic lessons of the covenants are taught through a mixture of biblical history and personal stories which provide a basis for understanding God's promises and the role of Jesus's passion and crucifixion in the history of the covenants. We invite you to join our Faithful Hearts small group on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in room 206S or via Zoom. Please contact Elaine Canonico at 301-606-0063 or Diane Lewis 240-344-1565.





## GARDEN HELPERS WANTED

It's that time of year again. We're looking for volunteers to help care for the church flowerbeds, and memorial gardens. Please prayerfully consider signing up for a week to keep our grounds looking good through the spring, summer and fall.

### Weekly Garden Schedule for MUMC

Please sign up to volunteer to tend to our Memorial Garden and all the flower bed areas around the church building. Sign up for any week, beginning in May and ending in October, Sunday through Saturday. You can come as often as every day and during any time of the day that works best for you, or you can pick a day of the week that works with your schedule and accomplish everything in one day. It's up to you. We appreciate any and all help that we can get to maintain the beauty of the grounds.

Your responsibilities will include:

1. Water pots (Preferably daily) and gardens depending on rainfall.
2. Deadhead flowers (spent blooms).
3. Tidy up the rock area & mulch. Make sure mulch and rocks are in beds not on walkways.
4. While watering the flower, also add water to the fountain rock- there is a small reservoir under the rock that tends to evaporate on hot days and damages the motor. **\*Disregard adding water for fountain until further notice (fountain not working currently)**
5. Weed all gardens.
6. Remove any trash from the area.
7. Sweep sidewalks/brick areas as needed.

Please be sure to note that the date you are signing up for is for that entire week through Saturday, not just that Sunday. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you! You can find the sign-up on Sign Up Genius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4FAEA72BA2F58-48120283-weekly>



We are looking for volunteers who enjoy taking pictures to document our events here at MUMC. We would love to have pictures to put in our monthly newsletter showing off some of our activities, Easter egg hunt, potlucks, work parties, family events and celebrations, special worship services. Just general church life events. If you attend an event here snap some pictures and email them to [office@mtownumc.org](mailto:office@mtownumc.org). Thank you in advance. We look forward to seeing your entries. Please know that not all photos will be used.





MUSIC MAKER DAY CAMP WHEN FCPS IS CLOSED:

**Music Maker 1 Day Camp at MUMC - Tuesday, May 14 from 9AM to 2PM**

Open to children ages 4 through 5th grade. We will have campers learning songs, playing percussion instruments and Boomwhackers, cardio drumming, and making crafts. Camp includes a snack and campers are asked to bring a packed lunch. 6th through 12th graders can serve as volunteers and gain community service hours. Cost is \$20 per camper. Space is limited.

**Register here:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScE2-hum0kM7XPIR5GcYa-gnGH8fmB3FJXzVlKf3wx7Wkos9g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScE2-hum0kM7XPIR5GcYa-gnGH8fmB3FJXzVlKf3wx7Wkos9g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Contact Pam Mathews at [music.mathews@gmail.com](mailto:music.mathews@gmail.com) for more information.**

**Summer Music Maker Camps at MUMC:**

Come join us for a fun musical summer camp! **The camp is June 10th to 15th. Music Maker camp is for children entering grades 2nd through 8th. Jr. Music Maker Camp is for those ages 4 to rising 1st graders.** Older youth needed as volunteers.

We will meet Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 2:00. We will present our musical camp performance on Saturday, June 15 at 5:00. (We will have a final rehearsal Saturday morning June 15.)

The cost is \$45 per camper. Space is limited. **Register here:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelQWZyGAebZALw09\\_Qwd7bJ8fTkfnV\\_LXgw57ShwXLXVdl9g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelQWZyGAebZALw09_Qwd7bJ8fTkfnV_LXgw57ShwXLXVdl9g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Music Makers Camp** will have campers learning a mini musical and also creating music together with drums and other percussion instruments, handchimes, boomwhackers, and cardio drumming. We will learn about stories in the Bible while setting everything to a musical beat. Our campers will also have the opportunity to participate in singing, dramatic reading and movement. Our schedule will also include crafts and games.

**Jr. Music Maker Camp** will have campers learning a few parts of the musical and exploring music with drums, other percussion instruments, and boomwhackers. Our schedule will also include crafts and games, as well as time for the students to play.

Before Care from 7:00 to 9:30 am and After Care from 2:30 to 5:00 pm available at additional costs.

**Ongoing Musical Opportunities at MUMC:**

Please contact Pam Mathews at [music.mathews@gmail.com](mailto:music.mathews@gmail.com) if you are interested in sharing your instrumental or vocal talents with us or joining one of our existing music ministries for an updated rehearsal schedule.

**Children's/Youth Music Makers**

Come and make music with other children and youth! Children ages 4 through middle school are welcome to join us. We will be singing and using drums, percussion instruments, handchimes, and Boomwhackers to share music in worship. We rehearse every Sunday at 10:10 (during the end of the Sunday School hour before 10:30 worship) as well as special additional rehearsals. Contact Pam Mathews about rehearsal times and schedule.

**Handbell Opportunities**

More ringers are needed to join our handbell ensemble! Youth and adults welcome. Music reading skills are preferred, but we can teach you if you are willing to learn! Contact Pam Mathews about rehearsal times and schedule.

**Vocal Ensemble** - Adults and high school students are welcome to join us as we learn music to sing in worship services. The Vocal Ensemble usually provides musical selections at the 8:30 service as well as special seasonal services. Rehearsals are usually Tuesday evenings at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Check with Pam Mathews for exact schedule.

# MUSIC CAMP

Special thanks to Mrs. Pam, Anna, Ava, Maddie, Eden, Nicolas and Bethany for making camp amazing!

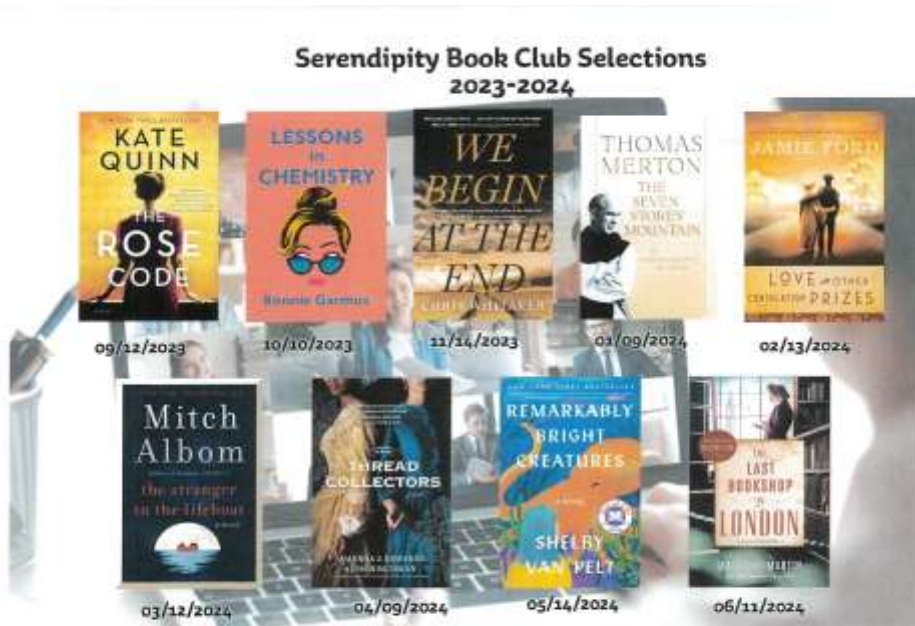


## SMALL GROUPS

### Serendipity Book Club

Did you know MUMC has a book club. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month via ZOOM. We would love to have you join us for our devotions, program updates and book discussions.

Do you see one that looks interesting? If so, please contact Mary Straits at 301-371-7344 or [jmstraits@comcast.net](mailto:jmstraits@comcast.net). Our book discussion group is open to all and you do not need to be a member of MUMC to ZOOM in.



All book discussions will be conducted via Zoom.  
Contact Mary Straits for details and sign in information

# S'AGES

May 13th (eat promptly at noon)

**FAITH FOOD FRIENDS**

Regular members will be called.

**New Members WELCOME!**

Just call Kitty Kefauver for registration (240-385-6331)

***Transportation Needs:***

*Contact Judy Garrett (301-371-5622)*

*for arrangements to doctors appointments, groceries, etc.*

***The Lions Club*** is collection old glasses and hearing aids.

*Bring your donations to MUMC.*

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.



Psalm 85:11 ESV



This Meal Train Ministry has been so helpful over the years to so many of our congregants. It provides meals when someone in the congregation has a need: illness, surgery, new family member, death in family, hospitalization, etc. If you would like to be placed on the email list that is sent out

for people to provide meals when there is a need, please email Kathy Farrell - [kathyf0421@gmail.com](mailto:kathyf0421@gmail.com) - 410-733-4794.

### PRAYERFUL STITCHERS

Prayerful Stitchers is an on going ministry of faithful knitters and crocheters who create shawls approximately 20"x60" or lap blankets 30"x45" and newborn blankets 24"x30".

All are welcome to ZOOM into an evening of chatting and stitching on the first Friday of each month, or work at your own pace. You don't need to knit or crochet to be a part of this ministry. We also need people who are willing to deliver shawls and visit with the person receiving the gift.

If you know someone who needs to be wrapped in prayer and comfort, please pick up a shawl or lap blanket in the church office or leave a message with your request and we will make arrangements to get it to you. For the celebration of joy for the birth of a new baby, please contact Roberta Matthai for a baby blanket. For additional inquiries contact Roberta Matthai (301-788-4516).

### *Altar Flowers*



If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor of someone or a life event, or in memory of someone, please contact **Jan Walden** at [jfkwl126@hotmail.com](mailto:jfkwl126@hotmail.com) or

240-870-2994. Request by Monday preceding the Sunday you would like flowers arranged. The cost

of flowers is **\$35.00**. Your check should be made payable to MUMC (note ALTAR FLOWERS in the memo line). You are welcome to take the flowers after the Sunday Worship Service.



## United Women in Faith

MUMC's United Women in Faith will be putting on a Tea, *Saturday, May 18 from 1-3 p.m.* The theme is *Enchanted Garden*. Our speaker will be Marybeth Grove who is a naturalist, music teacher, clergy spouse and much, much more. Marybeth has created a magical space in a cluster of trees near her home in West Virginia which includes "fairy houses" constructed from all natural materials. She will help us to create our own to take home! We'll also have a table set up for a plant exchange. This should be a fun afternoon for people of all ages! We'll be serving a variety of teas and light sandwiches. Funds raised from this event will be passed on to one or more organizations that support women, youth and/or children. The cost is *\$18 per person (or \$12 for children 12 and under)*. Tickets will be available in the church lobby on Sunday's, April 28 through May 12.



# PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.

Of all the paths you take in life, make sure that some of them are dirt.

(Both John Muir)

In keeping with these sentiments, just a short walk from the gym back to the playground we found a salamander under a storage bin, we learned that the toad hopping along was NOT a fake frog, and that dewy grass can be very wet. The outdoors is amazing, especially in the spring. Our spring is busy with field trips.



Before their tour of South Mountain Creamery, the Extended Day Class is going to release their bullfrog tadpoles in the creek at Wiles Branch Park.



The Fours are going to Catoclin Creek Nature Center to learn about bugs.

The Threes are going to the Nature Center to learn about animals.



The Twos are headed to Green Meadows Petting Farm.

May we find more than we are looking for and get dirty in the process.

# KIDS' CLUB MINISTRY NEWS



PTO class artwork with Mrs. Anna and Ms. Crystal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Class of  
**2024!**



Middletown UMC is Celebrating in Worship our  
*2024 High School Graduates*

May  
**19th**

Join us at the 10:30 service as we honor our High School graduates.

Have a graduate? Let the church office know!

Offered by  
MARYLAND DEAF COMMUNITY CENTER



ONLY  
**\$50**  
PER  
FAMILY

**FAMILY**  
**ASL**  
**CLASSES**

*Mondays for 6 Weeks!*

April 8-May 13 | 6pm-7pm or 7pm-8pm

Led by Deaf Instructor Niki Warman

Middletown United Methodist Church  
7108 Fern Ct, Middletown MD 21769

\$40 for Individuals  
\$50 for Families



Online registration is required at [www.deafmdcc.org](http://www.deafmdcc.org)





**SUMMER  
KIDS CLUB CAMP**  
AGE 3 TO  
RISING 7TH GRADE  
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 8TH  
WEEKLY, STARTING TWO  
WEEKS AFTER FCPS ENDS  
TO AUGUST 9TH  
COST VARIES DEPENDING  
ON THE NUMBER OF HOURS



# MUMMC Summer CAMPS

**MUSIC MAKER  
SUMMER CAMP**  
RISING 2ND TO RISING 8TH  
& **JR. MUSIC MAKER  
SUMMER CAMP**  
AGE 4 TO RISING 1ST

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 8TH  
WEEK AFTER FCPS ENDS  
9:30AM TO 2PM  
SHOW: THE FOLLOWING  
SATURDAY AT 5PM

**BASE CAMP RATE:**  
\$45 PER CAMPER

**ADDITIONAL FEE:**  
BEFORE CARE 7-9:30 AM  
\$50 PER WEEK, PER CAMPER  
AFTER CARE 2:30-5 PM  
\$50 PER WEEK, PER CAMPER

## MANIDOKAN CAMPS

Register Starting Feb 1st  
**Adventure Camp**  
Best Week Ever  
July 8th to 12th  
Middle/High School  
Cost: \$580/\$480

**Mini Camp**  
June 26th to 28th  
Rising 1st to 8th  
Cost: \$315



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP

AGE THREE TO  
RISING 5TH GRADE

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 8TH  
JULY 22ND TO 26TH  
9AM TO NOON  
\$35 PER CAMPER  
TEEN HELPERS NEEDED  
RISING 6TH TO 12 GRADE



Middletown United Methodist Church 7108 Fern Circle, Middletown MD  
Learn more about each program by visiting [mtownumc.org](http://mtownumc.org).



**COMING SOON!**

TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## ABOUT US

The mini pantry movement is a grassroots, crowdsourced solution to immediate and local need. Whether a need for food or a need to give, mini pantries help neighbors feed neighbors, nourishing neighborhoods. Come check us out at the address below!



### GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

Place unexpired food, hygiene, or paper items inside the mini pantry. Give what you would want to receive.



### TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

If you find items inside and you need them, take them. Please take only those items you need. You determine your need.



### THINGS TO NOTE

Please see this mini pantry as our neighborhood's. Be aware foot traffic may increase, and please reach out with suggestions.

## Little Free Pantry—Middletown UMC's Memorial Garden Coming this May

This pantry cares for our community, feeding our neighbors. If you don't know what a Little Free Pantry is, it is an outdoor pantry that provides food for those in need, just like a Little Free Library provides books. There are people in our community who could use some help and the pantry is anonymous. People don't have to be embarrassed to pick up Mac-n-cheese or a can of tuna fish to feed their family. The theme is "Leave what you can. Take what you need."

This is Bethany Bishop's Girl Scout Silver Award Project.



### WHAT IS PROJECT LINUS?

Frederick, MD chapter of **Project Linus** is a non-profit organization that makes, collects, and distributes blankets to local children who have suffered trauma and/or a crisis.

**Have a question?  
Would you like to volunteer?**

**Do you know a child in need of a blanket?**

**Are you with a local business that is willing to be a drop-off location or make a donation?** We'd love to hear from you! E-mail:

[plfred-county@gmail.com](mailto:plfred-county@gmail.com)

**We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. @ MUMC, in the social hall.**

Your metals for recycling provides funds for Middletown Service Day projects and local charities.



Every Sunday 7am to 12:15pm at Holy Family Catholic Church

7321 Burkittsville Rd, Middletown. Look for large white van with trailer in parking lot.

Cans, coat hangers, old hardware, wire (coated or not), pots and pans, pipe, chains, etc.

Would you like to connect with other moms in our community?

Do you have little ones who would like playdates?

Would you like to enjoy a moms night out?

Join us!!



#### Who we are

Middletown Moms is a local parenting group, founded in 2002 by a local mom. The group is sponsored by the Middletown United Methodist Church (MUMC) and open to members of any denomination/ religious beliefs. You do not need to be affiliated with MUMC to join. We hold our monthly meetings in the winter months at MUMC.

#### What we do

Monthly membership meetings, holiday parties, playdates in members homes, park meet-ups, craft playdates, library story times, lunch get togethers, clothing swaps, moms' night out and night in, community service and more!

#### How to join

We use a **private** Meetup platform and a **private** Facebook page to plan and communicate. Membership is \$20 per year and gives access to these groups. Submit a "join" request on Meetup or reach out through our public Facebook page and an email will follow.

Middletown Moms is a non-profit organization.

Not sure? Come check out an event before you join!

Check out our Meetup page!



Public Facebook page



[Middletown\\_moms\\_at\\_home@yahoo.com](mailto:Middletown_moms_at_home@yahoo.com)



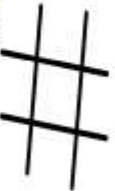
MY  
**Mommy**  
 IS THE  
**BEST**  
 LOVE...

My mom is  
 the best  
 because:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



TIC TAC TOE



My mom's name is \_\_\_\_\_

Her favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_

Her favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_

WORD SEARCH

SPECIAL	LOVE
FUN	GENEROUS
MOTHER	KIND
BEST	FRIEND

A Y L O V E I B M P  
 S P G I A A W E U A  
 P E U R L R F M W R  
 E F G E N E R O U S  
 C U K D U M I T H K  
 I N W J P V E H K I  
 A C Q O S C N E P N  
 L B E S T A D R Q D



Color and cut out  
 the bookmark!

Finish the garden for your mom!