



2024



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship News	1-3
Music Ministry	4
Office News	5-6
About Our People/ Thank you's	6-7
Finance News	8-13
SPRC News	14
Children's Sunday School	15
Bible Studies	16-17
UW Faith Tea	18
Small Groups	19-21
Preschool/ Kids Club News	21
Upcoming Events	22-23
In Our Community	24-26

#### 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.

The Middletown United Methodist Church

# MESSENGER

## WORSHIP NEWS

### 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



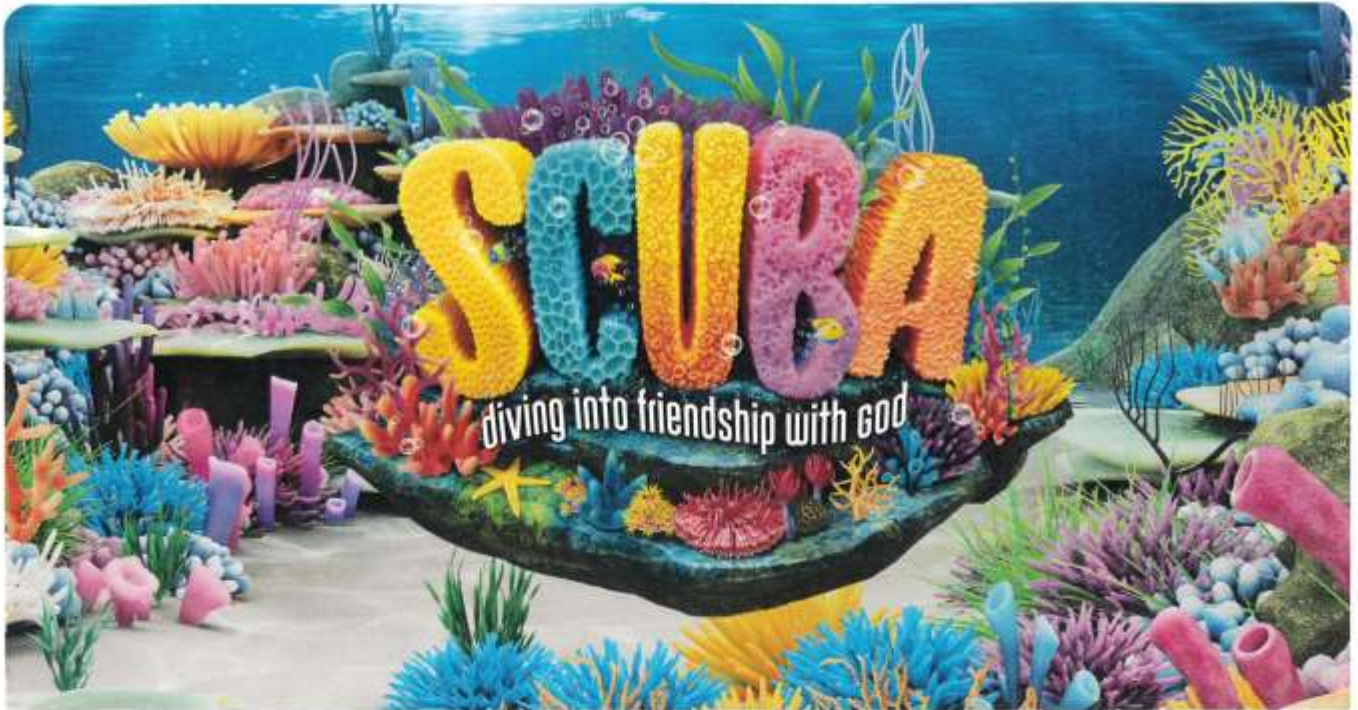
Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to convey his message and meaning effectively. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later. We are going to spend June and July reflecting on Short Stories By Jesus.

**August sermon series to be determined.**

# CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



# LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SNACK DONATIONS FOR VBS!



## SCUBA

"EZ VBS" BY GROUP PUBLISHING

**DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD** Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

### DAY 1

**BIBLE POINT**

God is a friend who's real!

**BIBLE STORY**

God shows himself to Elijah... (1 Kings 18-19)

**KEY VERSE**

John 6:69



Tad

### DAY 2

**BIBLE POINT**

God is a friend who loves!

**BIBLE STORY**

God shows compassion to... Nineveh. (Jonah 1-3)

**KEY VERSE**

John 13:34



Finnley

### DAY 3

**BIBLE POINT**

God is a friend we can trust!

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus calms a storm. (Mark 4:35-41)

**KEY VERSE**

John 14:27



Fisher

### DAY 4

**BIBLE POINT**

God is a friend forever!

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus dies and comes back to life. (John 18-20)

**KEY VERSE**

John 11:25



Waylon

### DAY 5

**BIBLE POINT**

God is a friend for everyone!

**BIBLE STORY**

Lydia believes in Jesus. (Acts 16:11-15)

**KEY VERSE**

John 3:16



Octavia



# 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 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.

**This Month**



**Thursday, July 4th**

**And**

**Friday, July 5th**

## 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**

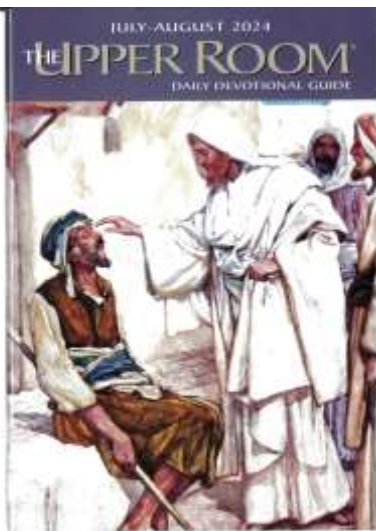
Heather Kline 301-371-8380  
[kidsclub@mtownumc.org](mailto:kidsclub@mtownumc.org)

### **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 (July/August) 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 **September** newsletter are due in the office no later than August 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



Congratulations to  
Mike & Sherie Koob



Pastor Evelyn's Ordination

# ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

## BIRTHS

Lottie– June Ann Bell

6/5/2024

Parents: Corrie-Mae & Tommy Bell

Grandparents: Mike & Debby Myers



New  
address

Kay Kline

11022 Pinot Dr.

Venice, Florida 32493



Dear MUMC staff and Momma T,  
Thank you all so much for  
the card and awesome blanket!

Alison

THANKS TO ALL OF  
YOU AT M.U.M.C. FOR  
BEING SHINING LIGHTS  
FOR JESUS! IT'S  
ALWAYS SUCH A JOY  
TO VISIT YOUR CHURCH!  
I LOVED SEEING YOUR  
PRE-SCHOOL KIDS AND  
THEIR FAMILIES! AND  
THANKS SO MUCH FOR  
THE WALMART GIFT CARD!  
LOOKING FORWARD  
TO MY NEXT  
VISIT TO  
M.U.M.C.!!



Praying the Lord blesses  
your giving hearts  
in abundant measure.

Thank You

 THANK YOU ALL!  
WITH APPRECIATION  
AND MUCH LOVE-  
TIM KEBER

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

# JULY'S LOVE OFFERING



The 16th Annual United Way/ FCPS Stuff the Bus Campaign is now underway. Each year generous Frederick County businesses and citizens help students start school with the necessary supplies that some families cannot provide. This year is no exception.

Supplies needed range from sturdy backpacks and composition books to loose-leaf paper, plastic pocket folders, glue sticks, rulers, safety scissors, pens and pencils, highlighters and erasers. Also requested are dry erase markers, earbuds, calculators, pencil sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, zip lock bags and boxes of tissues. Backpacks are expensive so we purchase them in bulk. Earbuds with microphones are currently the most needed requirement for all ages.

Have you seen the big yellow school buses parked around the county? FCPS school buses will make stops at participating businesses to pick up donated school supplies. Community partner agencies will then assist in distributing the supplies

In 2023, over 250 bins of supplies were collected and thousands of items were purchased with donor gifts. The school supplies collected were distributed to over 3000 Frederick County students.

Here in the Middletown High School Feeder Area, MVPHP serves as a partner, collecting needed supplies and monetary donations. In early August our teams will work packing and distributing prefilled backpacks to children who are registered for the program on Friday, August 2, between 2:30 and 5:30 at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department Activities Center.

If you or someone you know needs help with school supplies please contact us and we will send you a registration form. Registration has already begun and continues until July 29th. For more information please contact MVPHP at [MVPHPMD@gmail.com](mailto:MVPHPMD@gmail.com) or call our Emergency Assistance line at 301-371-3119.

## HOW TO DONATE

Look for the Stuff the Bus bin in the narthex if you are donating school supplies. Monetary donations should be placed in Love Offering envelopes or online.



# UPCOMING LOVE OFFERING

## AUGUST-HOPE FOR THE DEAF SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

**CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW!**

**Hope for the Deaf School – Liberia, West Africa**

**MUMC Mission SINCE 2009**

MUMC gives the love of Christ to **The Hope for the Deaf School** in Liberia, West Africa. The Liberia government does not support schools for children who are deaf. While parents typically send their hearing children to school, they have been reluctant to send their deaf children to school due to costs and assignment to housework and stereotype that they may not benefit.



### **AUGUST GIVING FOR THIS MISSION:**

- **Love Offering donations.** MUMC members donate to the schools operating expenses and scholarships. May be placed in Love Offering envelopes or checks written to MUMC (note on check: “Hope for the Deaf School”).
- **Used/new clothing.** Summer clothing only for year-round wear; in children and young adult sizes. Including rain jackets, ponchos, and socks.
- **Used/new shoes.** Sneakers, sandals, rain shoes, soccer shoes; in child and adult sizes.
- **School supplies.** Such as wide-rule composition books (bound), pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, dry erase lap boards with lines on one side, fine point dry erase pens, dry erase erasers, reams of printer paper, art supplies, white chalk.
- **Sewing supplies.** Go thru your sewing closet, summer and cotton fabric, all sorts of supplies for hand and machine sewing, sewing machine in good working order. Also go to: Amazon Gift List, [Hope School For Deaf Skill Needs](#) (Registrant: Pat Thompson)

- **Games for physical education.** Deflated soccer/dodge/kick balls, frisbees, jump ropes, marbles. Also go to: Amazon Gift List, [Hope School For Deaf Games](#) (Registrant: Pat Thompson)
- **Toiletries.** Toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap, hand sanitizer.



**BACKGROUND:**

- **UMC Missionaries.** MUMC annually contributes toward the salaries of two missionaries: David Worlobah, Founder and Director of the school who has visited MUMC and taught at MUMC's Vacation Bible School; and Eric Drow, Assistant Director.
- **Deborah L. Hall School Building.** MUMC funded construction of a classroom building in 2009. The building is named after Debbie Hall, MUMC member and missions leader.
- **Rap Video.** MUMC's third mission trip to the school resulted in a rap video to change the country's perception of people who are deaf. Check it out! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFmA3zfqSc>
- **Teacher training.** MUMC member Vickie Brown and Abby Thigpen, a teacher at Maryland School for the Deaf, trained 16 teachers of the deaf in Liberia and provided learning materials.

- **Mission Trips.** MUMC has had four mission trip to the school; a total of 13 MUMC members have gone and many other members supported these trips with preparations and funds. Most recent trip was 2019, before COVID.
- **Vacation Bible School.** MUMC teams developed and held VBS there in 2009 and 2012.
- **Ebola.** During the ebola crisis, 2014-2016, MUMC sent preventive supplies to the school for distribution. School staff traveled throughout Liberia to teach the deaf about prevention.

## MUMC Giving Made Easy! Ways to give!

### Give By Check.

Place it in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it by the church office, or snail mail it to: **7108 Fern Circle, Middletown, MD 21769**

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...



### Online Giving.

Go to MUMC's church website at [www.mtownumc.org](http://www.mtownumc.org) and choose **Online Giving** from the menu. You will have the option of using bank draft or credit card.

### Giving via GivePlus MOBILE app.

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.

### Giving via Text.

Send a text to: **844-478-0280** and you will be prompted to connect to a payment method.

## Finance News

### MUMC

#### 2024 Stewardship Pledges:

\$ 422,043 Pledged, \$450,000 Goal

#### 2024 Monthly Stewardship Goal:

\$ 37,500

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2024 May Pledge Giving: \$29,757.80

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2024 YTD as of May 31, 2024

Pledges received: \$209,614.04

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#### MUMC Consolidated

#### Commercial Loan Balance

as of 5/31/2024: \$718,261.98

# Online giving to MUMC

Revised version 6/12/2024

By Steve Henderson

I'm writing this article to encourage you to consider contributing using the church's online giving tool if you haven't tried it. I've been attending MUMC for about 20 years, ever since our younger daughter was in middle school and played her flute with the church orchestra. I'm presently the chair of the MUMC Finance Committee.

When the pandemic began and I stayed home and worshiped by watching the services on my computer and phone, I started using the church's online giving tools to contribute to MUMC. At MUMC about ½ of collected offerings are given online, which matches current church giving patterns across the US and across denominations. I find giving online to be easier than writing checks, and easy to earmark my gifts to specify where the offering goes, and wanted to let you know how the process works.

I've also found that giving online is fast and safe, and my gifts have been accurately tabulated by MUMC in my annual year-end giving statement. I also receive email verification notifications immediately when I contribute.

But I realize that giving online is a solitary completely private effort. Unlike putting cash or a check in the offering plate, your children don't see what you're doing to help the church. Unless you tell them or demonstrate by dropping the card in the offering plate saying you give online, the next generation won't learn your habit and the importance of giving. You're setting an example of being a faithful giver, so be sure to talk about what you're doing.

Here's how it works when I'm using a laptop:

- 1) I go to the MUMC home webpage at: <https://www.mtownumc.org/>
- 2) At the very bottom of the home page is a picture of a wheat field ripe for harvest, and a box at the bottom labeled "Donate Now"
- 3) Clicking on the "Donate Now" box goes to <https://secure.myvanco.com/YP3W/home>
- 4) This page is run by Vanco to collect online donations. It is specific to MUMC. As of mid April, there are fifteen categories you can select for your gift.
- 5) For example, if the "Blooms for Beds" choice is selected, your money will go to funding the construction of bunk beds for children in the Frederick area who do not have their own bed. Selecting "Donate Now" brings you to a page asking how much you want to donate and if you want your gift in honor or memory of someone. You can select "add to basket" if you wish to give money in other categories.
- 6) You can select another option, or go to the next step labeled "Continue to payment." If you wish to give to another category, you can select "See all" to return to the list of 15 choices. For example, if you then select "Pledged offering" the new page will ask for the dollar amount, if this is a one time donation or a recurring donation, and the specific date you want to give. You can then select another giving option, or pick "Continue to payment."

- 7) On the payment page, you can pick the option to pay by credit card, or to pay from your checking or saving account. The first time you donate online you need to fill in your credit card information or bank account and bank routing number, as well as your name and address and contact information.
- 8) On this page you have the option to cover the processing fees. For credit cards, the church is billed 3% of your donation. For gifts from your bank account, the cost is 1%, So for your gift of \$10, you have the option to pay \$10.10 if the money is being withdrawn from your checking account.
- 9) Selecting "Continue to review" shows the exact amount you've decided to give to each category and the last four digits of your account number.
- 10) Selecting "Donate now" processes your donation. You'll get an immediate confirmation on the next page, as well as an immediate email sent to the email address you provided. Today's online verification message said: **"Thanks for your support, Steve! You will receive details at (youremail) Share Middletown United Methodist Church Your support makes a difference."**

11) The email receipt will come from Support@Vanco.com.

The email message I received reads: "Middletown United Methodist Church Thank you for your support! Hello Steve, you can review a summary of your items and payment information below. We thank you for your generosity." The amount you gave and the categories will be detailed as well as the last four digits of your payment method.

And here's how giving online works from my Android phone. It looks like identical method.

- 1) I start at the MUMC website at mtownumc.org.
- 2) Like using a laptop computer, the phone shows the online giving button at the bottom of the webpage just below the picture of the wheatfield. Clicking on the "Donate Now" button takes me to the Vanco link that is specific to our Middletown United Methodist Church. I scroll down through the giving choices to find where you would like to donate. For that choice, you select "Give Now."
- 3) This pulls up a screen asking you to fill in the dollar amount, if this is a one time or a recurring gift. If it is a one time gift, it asks you if you wish to give right now or on a later date. Pressing "Add to Basket" brings you to the menu to select "Continue to payment" or "Explore more ways to give, see all options."
- 4) Selecting "Continue to payment" asks if you want to pay with a credit card or a withdrawal from a bank account. As with online giving from a laptop, you can enter in the credit card or bank account information. Or, if you've set up an account with Vanco you provide your email and password. The webpage will have you select the credit card or bank account, and then ask if you wish to cover the processing fee. Pressing "Submit" will give you an instant "Thanks for your support" message on your phone, and an instant email with your receipt verifying the gift.

I realize this can be confusing the first time you attempt to give an online contribution. I'd be glad to help walk you through the steps over the phone without asking any of your confidential information. If you'd like my non-professional help, please send me an email. [Stevewhenderson28@gmail.com](mailto:Stevewhenderson28@gmail.com).



## SPRC NEWS

### **Reverend Doctor Katie Bishop Reappointed to MUMC**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that Rev. Dr. Katie Bishop has been re-appointed to Middletown United Methodist Church by Bishop Easterling at the Annual Conference in Baltimore.

Everyone in our congregation is inspired by her sermons each Sunday. We also appreciate her enthusiasm and organizational skills. She demonstrates significant abilities in teaching and leading multiple age groups which make up our congregation. She encourages our congregation to reach out and serve the wider community of the Middletown Valley through her example.

We appreciate her leadership and example of how to live a Christian life in the Twenty-first century.

Submitted by: Sandy Doggett, & Kimberly Narayan,

Co-Chairs of SPRC Committee



**The 2024 summer Sunday School session will explore three important faith words:**

**PEACE, BELONG, and COURAGE**

We invite your kids to join us when you can this summer. All the lessons are independent and there is nothing to miss. We get to do music, crafts, and games! We watch a short video lesson with great discussions and sharing times at each meeting. Just drop in from 9:30 until 10:30am on Sundays. There are several available classes for adults at that time, so parents can grow too or just enjoy some quiet, peaceful time.

This summer, Sunday School looks at the lives and stories of Abraham and Lot, David and Abigail, Ester, Rahab, Lydia, Ruth, and Naomi. We will also explore what it means to be peaceful and to belong. We will see how people can make peace and help others to belong through compromise and adaptability. These actions can take great courage. Often someone needs to give a little first so that a compromise is possible. Before suggesting a compromise, we need spend time thinking and praying about a problem and what might be a just way to resolve it.

When you are a child, it can be hard to believe that you can put your faith into action because there are so many things that you can't do on your own. However, all of us, including children, are acting on our faith in little ways each day of our lives. Often, we don't notice when we are doing the things that our faith has taught us. Our faith can show up in big ways or in small actions that are equally important but may go unnoticed.

### ***Spiritual Practice for Adults***

This summer, help your children gain awareness of their faith in action by being aware. See how your child responds in various situations, and how you respond in various ways. Try to catch your child showing courage, peacemaking or helping others belong, praise them for how they are showing their faith. Help your child see the ways that these qualities show up the Bible stories of people who helped others feel a sense of belonging and who showed courage in their faith. Encourage your children to seek out courageous ways to be peacemakers, or help others belong.

Is there a situation in your life that needs compromise? Spend some time thinking about how you can bring peace through justice by compromising in a difficult situation. Can you courageously work to find peace? to help someone feel they belong.

# ADULT BIBLE STUDIES



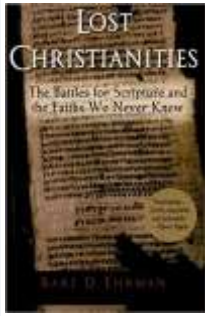
## Summer Study

Join the Justice for All Journey Group as they read and discuss Amy-Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives. In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives.

In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later. The group meets Sunday's at 9:30 in room 204 and via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84431890757?pwd=SWg4ZG50YUpPdXVra0lENXhGNEZIZz09>. The study began June 2<sup>nd</sup> and concludes on August 4. 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.

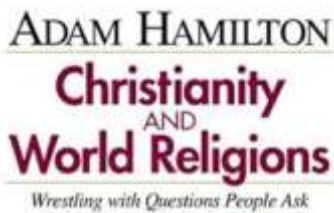
## United Women in Faith

MUMC’s United Women in Faith meet monthly via zoom at [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87044952957?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87044952957?pwd=TmY2Ym5PaU9MbUNiWEpSY0E2SWpIQT09)

[pwd=TmY2Ym5PaU9MbUNiWEpSY0E2SWpIQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87044952957?pwd=TmY2Ym5PaU9MbUNiWEpSY0E2SWpIQT09) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. **(The group will be taking a break in July and August.)** For more information on UWFaith, please contact Sherie Koob at [sheriekoob@hotmail.com](mailto:sheriekoob@hotmail.com).

## Faithful Hearts Studies

July 7, 2024 – August 11, 2024



Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask

Adam Hamilton deals with questions so many of us have about the four major world religions— Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism – and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity.

In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, Hamilton urges us to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel. Join us in Room 206S or via Zoom.

\*Contact Elaine Canonico at 301-606-0063 or Diane Lewis at 240-344-1565 or [celticblue2022@gmail.com](mailto:celticblue2022@gmail.com) for more information.

**August 18, 2024 – August 25, 2024 (No study planned)**



## United Women in Faith News

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our May 18<sup>th</sup> Tea! It was a huge success, raising over \$800! We had well over 50 attendees and really appreciated the enthusiasm of everyone present. Our speaker, Marybeth Grove, shared a wonderful talk on the origins of legends around the Fae and her experiences building Fairy Dwellings. We also thank our resident Fae persons (Eden Bishop and Jillian Trawick) for adding a special touch to the event. Great fun was had by all whether they chose to build their own Fairy Dwelling or simply enjoy the fellowship and food!

United Women in Faith raises funds to support endeavors that meet the needs of women, youth and children. Our Unit has voted to donate \$750 of the proceeds as follows:

- \$250 to the Sleep in Heavenly Peace event, which covers the cost of building one bed.
- \$250 to the Mama Baby Haiti Love Offering.
- \$250 to a summer Blast of Love Event at MUMC (see separate article) that will put together Menstrual Hygiene Kits for UMCOR.

The remaining funds will be given to another project we identify later in the year.

Our Unit normally meets on the second Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. via Zoom. We will not be meeting in July and August. Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 8 at 4. Women of all ages are invited to join us! Please contact Sherie Koob ([sheriekoob@hotmail.com](mailto:sheriekoob@hotmail.com)) with questions.

Photos courtesy of Kelley Banfield





# S'AGES

July and August we will be eating at a restaurant  
(more information to come)

(eat promptly at noon)

Anyone interested in attending must call Kitty **240-385-6331**

## 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.*



## GARDEN HELPERS WANTED



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



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"x 60" or lap blankets 30"x 45" and newborn blankets 24"x 30".

All are welcome to ZOOM into an evening of chatting and stitching or meet at MUMC in the gathering room at 7 pm. 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.

## Serendipity Book Club Selections 2023-2024



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

## 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.

## PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS



See  
you  
next  
Fall!

## KIDS' CLUB MINISTRY NEWS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# MUMC *Summer* CAMPS

### 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



**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.



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



## PROJECT LINUS – Volunteers of All Ages Needed



Project Linus began in December 1995 by a woman inspired to make blankets for her local children’s cancer center. It is named after the adorable security blanket toting character from the *Peanuts*® comic strip. Creator Charles Schulz was aware of the efforts and was delighted to have *Linus* inspire blanket makers to help comfort children in need. Since then, Project Linus has expanded to a nationwide non-profit organization with chapters in every state dedicated to donating handmade blankets for babies and children 0-18 who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

The Frederick County MD chapter of Project Linus was launched in October 2017 and meets regularly at Middletown United Methodist Church (MUMC) on the first Saturday of each month. Janice Crogan (plfredcounty@gmail.com) is the current Frederick County Chapter Coordinator. Please contact her for more information.

The mission of Project Linus is two-fold. First, to provide love and a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets, quilts, and afghans that are lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.” Second, to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities.

Community involvement is vital to the success of Project Linus as all chapters are run SOLELY by donations and volunteers. You can help make a difference in the life of a child by:

### **Volunteering**

Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. You can help by making blankets or by attending a blanket-making day to see how you can help. “Blanketeers” meet the first Saturday of each month at MUMC from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. All ages are welcome and anyone who can tie a knot, use scissors, use a sewing machine, or count is invited to join the fun. We make blankets, give demonstrations and support, label and inspect donated blankets, and sort and prepare blankets for distribution to local agencies (e.g., hospitals, surgical centers, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Children Advocacy Center, Camp Jamie). Scout troops and teenagers that need community service hours are always welcome.

## **Become a “Blanketeer”** (make a blanket)

All blanket styles are welcome, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans, and receiving blankets in child-friendly colors. They may be worked on or made at a regular meeting at MUMC or made at home. Always remember that blankets must be new, hand-made, washable, free of pins, and come from smoke-free environments due to allergy reasons. Just like children who come in all sizes, so do our blankets.

- Baby size 36” x 36”, child size 45” x 60”, and teen size 60” x 72”.
- The most popular blanket is a single layer, no-sew fleece blanket – approximately 54” x 60” (uses 1½ yards of fleece).
- Finished blankets may be brought to a monthly meeting at MUMC or dropped off at JoAnn's in Frederick or Patches Quilting and Sewing in Mt. Airy.

## **Make a Donation**

Monetary donations or donations of supplies/materials that can be used to make blankets are always needed. Additionally, gift cards to stores that sell blanket-making materials (JoAnn's, Walmart, etc.) are welcome.

### **For more information contact**

Frederick County Maryland Chapter Coordinator Janice Crogran [plfredcounty@gmail.com](mailto:plfredcounty@gmail.com)

[www.projectlinusfrederickmd.org](http://www.projectlinusfrederickmd.org)

Follow us on Facebook - Project Linus - Frederick Co Maryland

National Headquarters [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)

