



The Middletown United Methodist Church

MESSENGER

2024



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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.

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



The season of Easter, or Eastertide, can be difficult to navigate. On the one hand, there is the ongoing unexplainable joy of Resurrection and the hope of new life. On the other hand, there is the inevitable feeling of "So, what?" as we notice that the world seems pretty much unchanged or perhaps even worse. This is exactly where we need to begin this series: "So, what? Christ is Risen!" That was our shout on Easter morning. "So, what?" "What difference has it made, is it making, and will it make in our lives day by day?" That is the question we are asking in this series for the beginning of the Easter season: How shall we live? To guide us through this series and to help us answer this vital question, we have the Epistle of John. Perhaps it's a surprising choice for some, but these letters can give us insight on life after Easter and how we might be witnesses to the kingdom, even as we wait for the fulfillment of the promise.

THE BLAST OF LOVE



Blast of Love Report

By Sherie Koob, MUMC Missions Team Chair

Count them...375 bags! That's how many bags were filled and distributed in our community this year!!! We started the program in 2022, on a leap of faith, with 200 bags and it's already grown to 375!!!

Those who receive our bags just before Valentine's Day felt blessed, surprised, and even astonished that they were nominated. Some of you nominated a neighbor, a grandparent, a teacher, or friend. Others nominated included the residents of Vindabona, the Fire Fighters in Middletown and Braddock Heights, clients of Middletown Valley People Helping People and some of our own seniors. Our Preschool and KidsClub students made cards and decorated bags. We held a card making session after church in early February where nearly 50 people showed up! Countless others donated chocolate, gloves, seeds, lotion, chap stick, tea lights and more. For each person who donated items, nominated recipients, made valentines, decorated bags, filled them and distributed them, ***we give thanks!***

I wanted to share some comments from one of our recipients. She and her son were recovering from COVID and had been stuck in the house for two weeks when I dropped off their bags. She was overwhelmed and very pleased to receive a bag. She studied each and every item in it. Prayed for all who made the bags possible and felt a very special connection to a young girl named Nora who made one of the cards she received. She had never met Nora and only knows her through her artwork and words of love, yet she feels blessed by Nora and everyone involved in our Blast of Love. She gives her heartfelt thanks and even made a point of telling me she's looking forward to planting the seeds she received and remembering us each time she looks at the flowers this summer.

Staff at Vindabona have conveyed their sincere thanks to Pastor Katie. They indicated not only were the residents thrilled when they received the bags, some even delighted in showing all the items to people who visit their rooms. The nursing staff who distributed the bags felt joy in being part of our event!

MUMC is a blessing to our community in many ways. This is just one. We're hoping to do another Blast of Love (of some sort) this summer. If you're interested in helping us plan it, please contact me at sheriekoob@hotmail.com.

FAITHPOINT CELEBRATION / CHILI COOK-OFF



FAMILY MINISTRY OUTING



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.



April 1st



April 22nd

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

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

OUR STAFF

Lead Pastor

Rev. Katie Bishop
pastorkatie@mtownumc.org

Administrative Assistant

Julie Twigg
office@mtownumc.org

Deacon-in-Residence

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads
ksrhoads@erucc.org

Office Manager

admin@mtownumc.org

Music Director/Organist

Pam Mathews
music.mathews@gmail.com

Parents Time Out/Kids Club

Heather Kline 301-371-8380
kidsclub@mtownumc.org

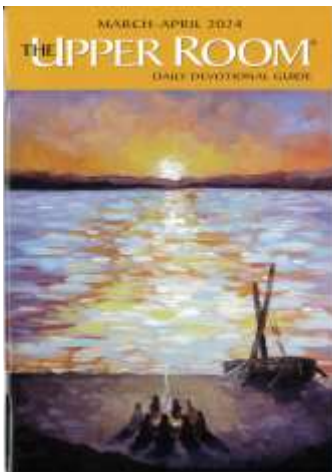
Worship

Beth Tice
mumcmammat@gmail.com

Preschool

Sarah Payne 301-371-8681
preschool@mtownumc.org





Upper Room Update:

The Upper Room (March/April) 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 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 May newsletter are due in the office no later than April 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.

APRIL'S LOVE OFFERING

Camp Manidokan



Manidokan is a magnificent 426-acre Camp and Retreat Center owned and operated by the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church. The site is located in southern Washington Country, Maryland, overlooking the Potomac River. With close proximity to the Potomac River and the C&O Canal, the center lies on the historic Harpers Ferry Road between Sharpsburg and Sandy Hook.

During their time at Manidokan, campers will participate in daily Bible study and worship, connect with faithful leaders who share the love of Christ with them, try new things like ziplining and the aerial park, and live in Christian community. The week-long residential Christian camps have the perfect balance of fun, friends, and faith that your child will never forget. Their goal is for your child to learn something meaningful about themselves, feel the love and support of the community around them, and be inspired to live an authentic Christian life. Whether rafting, climbing, worshipping, eating a meal, or simply enjoying the beauty of God's creation, seeds of God's love will be planted this summer.

Please donate generously to help fund our campership program as we share the love of God with the young people of MUMC!

UPCOMING LOVE OFFERING MAY - SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

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.mtowntumc.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

2024 February Pledge Giving: \$ 37,767.98

2023 YTD as of February 29, 2024

Pledges received: \$ 102,284

MUMC Consolidated

Commercial Loan Balance

as of 2/29/2024: \$ 732,698.69



Sunday School News for April 2024.

April's faith word is *SHARE*.

Sharing not only our worldly goods, but also our time, energy, stories, attention, attitudes, and faith.

Students will learn about Jesus' Great Commission to go and baptize, teach, and serve others; then how Peter and John shared what they had - healing outside the temple; and how the early disciples sharing *everything* they had; finally, about and the twelve disciples choose seven more to help with the early church.

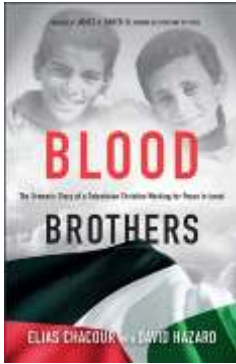
A Christian community is to embody Jesus' presence in the world to strengthen and guide God's children. To address the many needs of His children, God commissions us in many ways. A commission is a call to something God needs someone to do. It's like being on a mission with Jesus, a co-mission. We do this in many ways; some seemly small, like a genuine smile to someone who feels alone, or seemly big, such as starting a new ministry. And in all things, we can show respect, love, and gentleness. Serving, teaching, and baptizing were central actions in Jesus' ministry, just as they are central to our calling as followers of Christ. Jesus promises to go with us always, even when we doubt, as we carry out His Great Commission.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This month, reflect your commission. How can you work with Jesus to bring God's kingdom to earthly reality? Nothing is too small or too big for God. Is there something specific that you feel God is calling you to do? Even if you don't know, take some time to think and pray about it. If you think you know that to do, talk to someone about it. If you are ready to move forward, write a plan.

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

New Study Begins April 7



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) begins April 7 and runs through May 19. 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=SWg4ZG5OYUpPdXVra0lENXhGNEZlZz09w>). Contact Sherie Koob at sheriekoob@hotmail.com with questions.

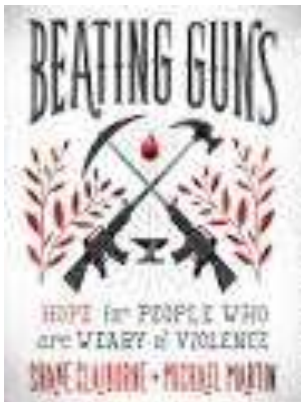
Parents: Are you looking for a way to make more connections at church and find support for your parenting journey? There's a group just for you! The Parent Fellowship Group is a casual gathering of parents where we can get to know each other, provide fellowship and support, and discuss parenting from 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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Understanding the New Testament

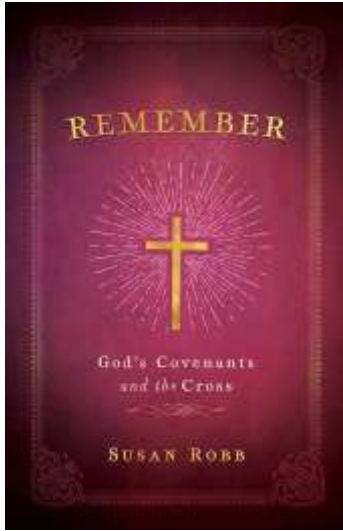
Class starts September 10th. Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 in the Gathering Room
Class Leader: Mike Parrish 301-606-7209

The course will investigate the diversity of the New Testament by studying the distinct perspectives of its individual writings in their historical context and will consist of 24, 1/2 hr video sessions followed by discussion. It is from The Great Courses Series and is led by Dr. David Brakke, chair of the History of Christianity and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.



MUMC's United Women in Faith

MUMC's United Women in Faith meet monthly via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87044952957?pwd=TmY2Ym5PaU9MbUNiWEpSY0E2SWpIQT09> on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. The next meeting will be April 14th. Following 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. Bestselling author, speaker, and activist Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin show why Christians should be concerned about gun violence and how they can be part of the solution. The authors transcend stale rhetoric and old debates about gun control to offer a creative and productive response. Full-color images show how guns are being turned into tools and musical instruments across the nation. Charts, tables, and facts convey the mind-boggling realities of gun violence in America, but as the authors make clear, there is a story behind every statistic. *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 read Chapters 10-14 before the April 14th meeting. 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, please contact Sherie Koob at sheriekoob@hotmail.com.

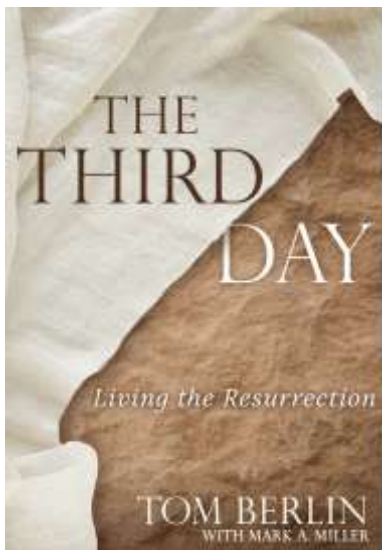


Remember, is a 6-week study that begins on Sunday, April 7, 2024 and ends on Sunday, May 12, 2024.

Remember

God's Covenants with 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.



Third Day Study continuing. New undecided study to begin on April 19th.

All are invited to join The Friday Morning Journey Group! We are a small group that study together and support each other on our faith journey. We meet via Zoom on Friday mornings at 10 AM. For more information contact Linda

Nealon nealonlb@aol.com



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. Thank you in advance. We look forward to seeing your entries. Please know that not all photos will be used.



MUMC Composts!

By Sherie Koob, Global Ministries EarthKeeper

Did you know MUMC has been composting kitchen scraps, dead altar flowers and other things for more than five years? Well, we have! It has always been a low-key effort. Originally, I took the bucket to my home compost pile every week, and when I moved to an apartment another member took over the task. However, things got a bit complicated during the pandemic when we weren't in the building (or very few of us were) and the bucket rarely got emptied. For more than a year, Peggy Bishop has quietly, and faithfully, picked up the bag in the bucket and dropped it off every week at the Key City Compost Bin in the parking lot at Middletown's Memorial Park. Many of us feel it's time to spread this opportunity to more members and are inviting you to sign up to do so one or more Sunday's during the year using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BACAB2AABFC1-46718820-mumc>.

The orange 5-gallon compost bucket is located under the island in the kitchen, off the Social Hall. There is a box, next to the bucket, of compostable bags to line the bucket once you remove the full (or partially full one). If you need to take the whole bucket, please move the 2nd bucket forward and return the bucket you're taking as soon as possible. The bag of compost can either be taken to your own home compost pile or to the bin in the parking lot at Memorial Park in Middletown (next to the Medical Offices). If the box of replacement bags is running low, leave a message for me in the office. This continues to be a low-key effort that is beneficial to the planet because it keeps methane producing waste out of landfills and converts that waste to soil. Let's keep this effort going and get more members involved. It's something that can easily be handled on Sunday, after services, and is a great way to teach our children one important way to care for God's very good creation! Questions should be referred to sheriekoob@hotmail.com.

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 ,

Sue Parrish, sueparrish70@comcast.net or

Peggy Bishop, peggybishop86@yahoo.com

THANK
YOU

Middletown United Methodist Church,
On behalf of all the School
Crossing Guard's, We want to
Thank your kindness to all of
us for the Valentine Goodie
Bag.

Thank you
Elizabeth Rantz - Head School Crossing Guard
Stan
John
Donna
Hannah
Crystal

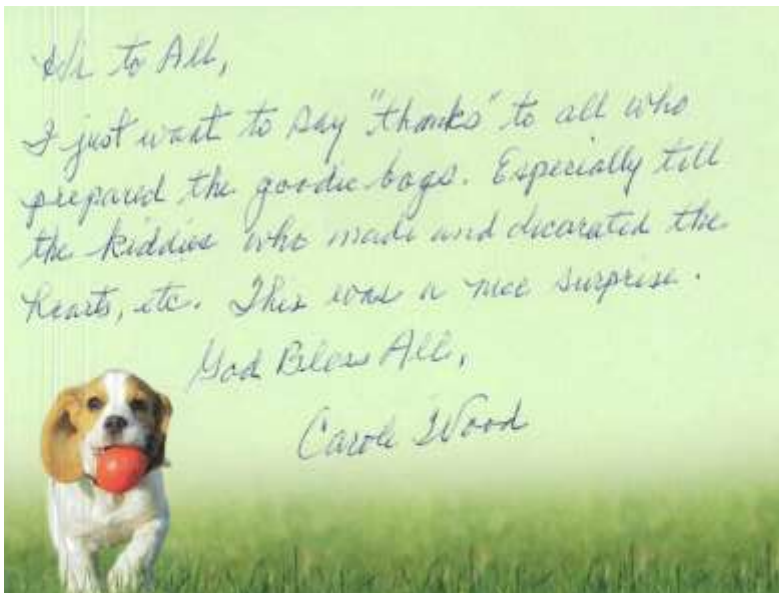
Hello! 2024
MVDHP wanted to
Thank you for your
continued support of
our organization.
The church's generous
donation of \$1,233⁰⁰
is truly appreciated.
Wishing you peace.
Barbara Ramsey
Corresponding
Secretary

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 or calling : 301-371-5550

Dear Blast of Love Friends,
Your act of kindness is very
much appreciated. Your "goodie
bag" came to my mother,
Billie Shyly, at a sad
time for her. It truly
brightened her day. Thank you
for sharing God's love and
giving your time for others.
Most sincerely,
Susan Kreiger

TO OUR NEIGHBORS
AT MUMC -

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT
BAGS YOUR CHURCH DROPPED OFF AT
FIRE STATION 12! EVERYTHING WAS
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED! WE'RE
THANKFUL TO HAVE YOU IN OUR
COMMUNITY.
SINCERELY,
YOUR CAREER FIRE FIGHTERS



ABOUT OUR PEOPLE



Carol Lewis
Sunrise Silas Burke House
9619 Burke Lake Rd.
Suite # 113
Burke, Virginia 22015



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. **Contact Pam Mathews at 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.)

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 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.

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. Our book discussion group is open to all and you not need to be a member of

MUMC to ZOOM in. **The**

Serendipity Reading

Group will begin their

2023-24 book discus-

sions on September 12,

2023 via ZOOM at

7:00pm. We would love to

have you join us. Our first

book is historic fiction: **THE**

ROSE CODE by Kate

Quinn.

**Serendipity Book Club Selections
2023-2024**

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



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 jfk1126@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.

S'AGES

April 8th (eat promptly at noon)

FAITH FOOD FRIENDS

Regular members will be called.

New Members WELCOME!

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

For all who want to stay we're having

Bunny Bingo



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.

Last month's
gathering for
St. Patrick's
Day!





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 - 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).



PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS



MUMC Preschool has some exciting news!! Starting Monday, April 1st, 2024 and continuing during the 2024/2025 school year we will be offering the STREAM Enrichment Program to our 4-year- old students who are not enrolled in Kids Club or Extended Day. STREAM will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00pm- 2:00pm (children will bring their own lunch on these days). STREAM will be held in the STEM Lab (room 107N). This program is a way to extend your child's day and continue their learning in the areas of Science, Technology, Reading, Art, and Math. The cost for the STREAM Enrich-

ment Program is \$140/month. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Williams via email at preschool@mtownumc.org

Preschool Art Show



KIDS' CLUB MINISTRY NEWS

Miss Anna's
Arts and Crafts with
The kiddo's!



Bulletin Board in Kids Club



UPCOMING EVENTS



The Frederick School of Religion convenes its 40th year of classes on April 8. The school is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a ‘Learning for Life’ experience for all. The six-week classes include a broad range of topics appealing to diverse groups. The location rotates and this Spring classes will be at Brook Hill UMC, 8946 Indian Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702. Courses are 6 weeks long on consecutive Mondays or Tuesdays from April 8th through May 15th. Each course is eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, go to www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657.

Save the date!!!



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)*. Ticket sales begin in the church lobby on Sunday, April 28. For more information, please contact Sherie Koob at sheriekoob@hotmail.com.

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

The MUMC Creation Care ~ Climate Justice Team will again participate in the **Green Team Networking** event Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30. Many faith communities in Frederick County will meet in the community room at 15 W Church Street, Frederick. It will be an inspiring evening with information tables, speakers, and refreshments. The event is co-sponsored by The Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS) of Frederick County. MACSFrederick.org. For more information contact Mike, mikekoob@hotmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US!

**Second Annual
Green Team Networking Event**

Tuesday April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

*Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
Community Room - Elevator available
15 West Church St. Frederick MD*

Let's share, learn from and support each other in creating a more sustainable, just and healthy Frederick County. Tables available for you, your team & your posters, photos, fliers, or brochures.

Wine, non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks.

Set up at 6:00pm.

*Co-hosted by Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS)
and Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC)*



Communities Coming Together

Blood Drive Middletown UMC

Fellowship Hall
7108 Fern Circle
Middletown, MD 21769

**Saturday, April 20, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule your appointment or visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Keyword: MiddletownUMC.

Eligibility Questions: Call Donor Client Services at 1-866-236-3276.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor,
consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to:
RapidPass®

Spring into action: Come give blood April 8-28 for a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. PLUS, automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000 gift card, there will be two lucky winners! Terms apply: rcblood.org/spring



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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**American
Red Cross**

RAPIDPASS®

Complete your pre-donation and health history questionnaire
from your mobile device using RapidPass®.



Scan Me

Expedite your donation!

Use your mobile device or a donor tablet to scan the QR code and complete your RapidPass®. Be sure to screenshot or email your RapidPass® to yourself and have it ready to present to staff before exiting health history.

Did you know?

On the day of your appointment you can start the donation process before leaving home using the Blood Donor App or by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/rapidpass*](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/rapidpass)

You can save up to 15 minutes!

*Any RapidPass® completed before 12 noon, on the day of donation will be valid and the donor will be asked to complete the health history again on site.
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**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.



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

We meet on the 1st 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

