



Middle Monthly

Middle Presbyterian Church

July 2022



From the Pastor's Study



Middle Family,

We're entering July and the temperature is getting hotter. In season with the heat of the summer we are mid-way through our series on HOT TOPICS. Some of the things we have covered, Biblical Authority, Science and Faith, Hurt in the Church, and Abortion are not always easy topics to talk about. My prayer through this study is that the Spirit is leading each and every one of us to be better equipped to face these challenges as we come upon them in our day to day living. I also pray that with God's help we can discuss these issues with grace and love. As we wrap up this study we will cover the claim that there is only one way to God, and the question "Why is there Evil?"

In other news, Caley and I are participating in and looking forward to the renovations at the Manse, and along with Terry, have set a goal to move in (hopefully) by August!

As always here at Middle we are looking forward to VBS Sunday as well! This will be July 24th. As we depart July we will start a series called "New Exodus." This seven-week series looks at the complementary historical books Ezra and Nehemiah.

In John 15:12-13 it records Jesus saying "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

There are people who speak very casually about "the imitation of Christ," some foolishly attempting to gain their way to heaven by being like Jesus. An example of this emphasis is the once-popular WWJD jewelry and paraphernalia that boiled down

the Christian faith to this question: "What Would Jesus Do?"

The idea is that all we have to do in any situation is to know what Jesus would do and then do it ourselves. The problem with this approach is that it fails to realize that Jesus is unique in both his person and his saving mission. In most situations, Jesus would do what we cannot do and, in some cases, should not do. The most important example is how Jesus responds to the sins of his people, laying down his uniquely perfect life as the once-for-all Sacrifice to atone for sin. For this reason, the very heart of the Christian faith is what Jesus did for us, precisely because we could never do it for ourselves. We are saved not by doing what Jesus did but by trusting what Jesus did for our salvation.

What is service to Christ without love, but tyranny and self-righteousness? What is evangelism without love, but winning arguments and defeating enemies? How little prayer there will be without love! It is surely in part our lack of love that accounts for our lack of prayer. Prayer stirs up our love for one another, and especially our love for God, with whom we speak in prayer. To realize that while we are yet sinners, God receives us with love at his throne of grace, and that he cares for and meets the needs we express in prayer, is to grow in our love for both the Father to whom we pray and Jesus in whose name we ask. Jesus commands us to obey his commandment to love, to bear good fruit in the gospel, and to pray "so that you will love one another," knowing that in this same way we express and grow in our love for him as well.

Be Blessed and a Blessing,
Pastor James

Rummage Sale Report:

On June 4th we had the biggest and best rummage and bake sale ever! The profit, a little over \$1,200.00, will go to our church's youth camp scholarship fund. A special thanks to the Helper's Guild and the entire church family. You all had a part in this to make it such a big success!

Janet Reid,
Helper's Guild

250 Team Update:

The 250 Team has been busy planning upcoming events and projects to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our church.

To kick off the celebration we are asking all adults and children to wear their anniversary T-shirts to the worship service on Sunday, July 3rd. Then on the first Sunday of August, September, and October, please wear your shirts again. We hope you are also wearing your shirts around town to let the public know that Middle Presbyterian Church has something special to shout about.

Two picnics will be scheduled, one in July and one in August after the worship service. They will be potluck picnics, so please bring your favorite casserole or dessert.

We are waiting for proofs from the Copy Center for the keepsake 2023 calendar and from the Cat's Meow company for the wooden replica of our church. We will be placing an order for many of each item so no one has to be worried about not getting one. T-shirts are still available; you can place your order with David Glenn.

More events are planned for the fall, including an Open House at the church on Saturday, October 1 and a traditional worship service and rededication of the church the following morning on Sunday, October 2. More information will follow about those events.

It's a great time to be a Middle Presbyterian. Praise God for giving us a church that has been a blessing to so many people for 250 years.

Connect Class:

Interested in becoming a Covenant Partner or Affiliate Covenant Partner? Please stay after worship for just a half-hour on July 31st.

Men's Group:

If you are interested in joining a new Men's Group @ Middle, please find the sign-up sheet in the front of the sanctuary.



Thanks to your donations, and Barb's sewing talent, Middle Church was able to send 19 dresses to **Little Dresses For Africa!**

We are seeking passionate volunteers to update our weekly church sign!

Please see Pastor James for details.

What's Happening

in **MidKids!**



MidKids Worship:

In May, we learned how God used leaders like Deborah, Gideon, and Samson to lead His people. In June, we saw God at work in the life of Ruth and Samuel. Coming up in July, we'll see how God is at work in the life of David.

MidKids at Pleasant Manor:

The warm May weather allowed us to play outside and do a litter pick up at Pleasant Manor in May. We celebrated the end of the school year and beginning of summer by giving the resident children flip flops and Middle t-shirts. MidKids in Action program will break for summer and resume once school starts up in September.

MidKids Sunday School:

Another year of Sunday School has come to a close. Enjoy a time to refresh over the summer before we resume again in September. A giant 'THANK YOU!' goes to our dedicated teachers, Miss Tracy and Miss Adrian.

VBS Decorations and Worship:

On July 10, please plan to stay after worship to help decorate for VBS. First we'll have lunch and then we'll work together to convert the church into a Monumental Southwestern Desert. Please set aside an hour or two to join in the transformation!

Monumental VBS:

VBS is July 18-22 from 6-8:30pm. Please make a point to invite someone's child to VBS for a monumental encounter with God. Haven't signed up to volunteer yet? We still need assistants for games and Bible stories. Or, if you want a smaller job that's only from 5:45-6:15, we need a couple of folks to be at the registration table at the start of each night. And have you considered volunteering to drive some of our Pleasant Manor kids to and from VBS? We'll need a few drivers to make sure those kiddos don't miss out on the faith and fun at VBS! Your willingness to volunteer can make a big impact in a child's life.

VBS Worship:

The Sunday after VBS, children will lead us in a special VBS Worship on July 24 featuring our VBS songs, bible points, spotlight slideshow, and more. Plus, our VBS-themed snacks with a bible message will be featured in crossroads cafe. Don't miss this fun time of worship.

VBS Teardown:

After worship on July 24, take some time to stick around and help tear down our Monumental decorations. As we all know, it's so much quicker to tear down than it is to put up! So, we should be able to get it done in no time with lots of volunteers staying to help.

MidKids Summer Projects:

In May, the children were busy unloading folks' trunks on Sunday mornings and setting up items for the Rummage Sale which was held on June 4th. Thanks to all who helped the children raise money for summer camp by volunteering for the rummage sale.

In June, the children and their parents served dinner to the seniors of our church at the annual Senior Dinner. The kids loved being waiters and waitresses, (plus they got to eat cake too!) They really enjoyed this opportunity to serve!

Children in 2nd grade and older will be volunteering at the Mount Pleasant Food Pantry on June 28 and July 26 from 8:30am-11:30am. Remember to wear your Middle Church t-shirt and closed-toed shoes. Parents are welcome to join us as well. Please see Melissa for a volunteer registration form if this is your first time volunteering with the food pantry.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Communion	4 happy 4 th JULY!	5	6	7	8	9
10 VBS Decorating after worship 11:30AM	11	12	13	14	15	16 Staff Mtg 8:30AM
17	18 Monumental VBS 6PM - 8:30PM	19 Monumental VBS 6PM - 8:30PM	20 Monumental VBS 6PM - 8:30PM	21 Monumental VBS 6PM - 8:30PM	22 Monumental VBS 6PM - 8:30PM	23
24 VBS Sunday Worship 10:30AM VBS Tear-Down 11:30-AM	25	26 MidKids @ Food Pantry 8:30AM	27	28	29	30
31 Connect Class 11:30AM						