



# Our Light

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SPRING 2018

The MIDDLEBURY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Newsletter

*Whether you are a member of the Middlebury congregation, a local resident, or a visitor to our area, you are invited to attend and participate in all activities & events mentioned in this newsletter.*

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CHRIST IS RISEN!! ALLELUIA



*For the next 50 days we are in the season of Eastertide. While we await God's gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we will seek out encounters and experiences with the Risen Christ.*

*The scriptures we will be hearing in worship will guide us in this as we hear accounts of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to his disciples and stories of the early Christian community as it was empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

*We will not be so fortunate as to have such direct encounters with the Risen Christ that those first disciples had. Instead, we are called to be alert to the possibilities of resurrection, new life in the midst of dread and despair, that God thrusts into our world with the resurrection of Jesus. During Eastertide we can pay attention to and listen for glimpses of hope and promise that death and demise do not have final power over us and the final say in our world.*

*To accompany you during “The Great 50 Days” of Eastertide and open your hearts to the realities of new life God is holding out for us, I offer this reflection from *Fragments of Your Ancient Name* by Joyce Rupp. I invite you to use this as your prayer through Eastertide, slowly reading and listening to the words and how they speak to you.*

### *“Voice of Freedom”*

*Calling softly to my secret self*

*Offering space to try again.*

*Asking trust when I cave in to fear.*

*Urging me to stand with strength.*

*Whispering daily encouragement.*

*Pleading with me to take risks.*

*Warning when I am in trouble.*

*Affirming belief in my endeavors.*

*Reminding me time and again*

*To liberate my wings of goodness.*

*As the new life of this season unfolds before us, I pray that each of us will hear God’s voice of freedom urging us forward.*

## ***IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD...***

On March 4, I announced to our congregation that I have accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Portage United Church of Christ in Portage, Michigan. In the United Church of Christ, ministers are not appointed by a bishop – instead we are called by a congregation after a process of interviews.

I am leaving Vermont, my home for 10 years, and Middlebury United Methodist Church with a jumble of feelings. You all are an amazing congregation with much energy and passion for serving Christ and being the Body of Christ for our world! I will miss the intimacy of this small congregation and the joys of being with you as your minister.

At the same time, I am looking forward to serving in a full-time capacity at this larger church in a larger community. I am also looking forward to being closer to my mom, my two sisters, and my oldest daughter – who will all be within a two hours' drive of my new location.

The District Superintendent has already met with the Coordinating Council to discuss a new appointment for Midd UMC. We know that she will prayerfully discern a good match for this congregation.

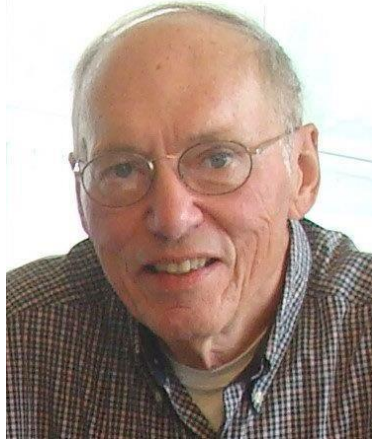
My last Sunday here at Midd UMC will be June 3. Until then, and for the weeks and months following, let us be in prayer for one another. Please be in prayer for me as I prepare to leave family and friends here in Vermont and find new community in Michigan. Let us all be in prayer for the Bishop and the District Superintendent as they discern who God is calling to be your next appointed minister. And finally, let us be in prayer for this congregation as you transition to a new minister and new directions for your life as a community of Christ.

Easter Blessings,

Mary Kay

## THEOLOGIAN AND AUTHOR WILL BE GUEST PREACHER ON APRIL 29

On Sunday, April 29, at our Middlebury UMC will F. Fisher as our guest prominent theologian and *Introduction to Christianity*: serving as pastor of United Massachusetts and then and teaching at Boston Theology, he was for twenty Scholar in Theology at Theological Seminary, a in Evanston, Illinois. In Lil, live in Wolcott, VT. Emma Lodge, a junior at Middlebury College, is the Fishers' granddaughter.



morning service, the welcome the Rev. Dr. Neal preacher. Dr. Fisher is a author. His latest book is *A New Way of Seeing*. After Methodist churches in serving in administration University School of years President and Senior Garrett-Evangelical United Methodist seminary retirement he and his wife,

Members of other area United Methodist churches and people in the Middlebury community will be invited to join us for the service with Dr. Fisher. There will be a reception after the service when people will be able to speak with him about our present-day concerns for the church. Please mark the date, April 29, and be sure to be at church if you are able.



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is a "happy, happening, place". Why not join the fun? Each Sunday, we need a volunteer to be extra hands and thoughts at Children's Church. Don't worry; you will not have to teach. We will have a signup sheet in the church entrance and can give you a copy of the planned curriculum on the Sunday before.

All are welcome to join the joyful chaos of Children's Church.



## **MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATE**

- **CHURCH SUPPERS**  
We are wrapping up another successful season of serving ' Chicken and Biscuits' to the folks in our community. This activity is providing a significant amount of funds for our mission team group to dispense to worthy causes locally and beyond.  
We had hoped for an April supper but scheduling around the rummage sale is going to be problematic.. If there is enough interest from the church members, we will resume suppers in the fall.
- **COMMUNITY LUNCH AT CHARTER HOUSE**  
After nearly ten years of serving free hot meals to the needy people in our area, the current group from our church has earned a much needed break. We are looking for an individual from our congregation who is willing to organize and supervise this activity. Currently we are providing and serving one meal every third week. This is part of a large shared activity with many other organizations which provide meals on other days. Charter House serves lunch every weekday but Friday.  
If you are interested in learning more about this service project, please contact Sue Colley or Eileen Rinker.



## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

In October 2017 the Trustees identified a number of high priority tasks to help improve the appearance and usability of our physical plant. The biggest item was the upgrade of the floors in the Memorial Hall in the church basement. That project is essentially done. The worn out carpets in the Sunday School rooms and in the Memorial Hall have been removed and replaced with a sturdy, rigid vinyl plank water resistant flooring material. Much of the musty odor in the basement is gone. We have enough left over material to resurface the 'teen room' which will also be a nice upgrade for that space.

The installers also redid the floor in the kitchen with the same product. If you haven't had a chance to see these improvements, please take a look . We are already getting a lot of positive feedback from the outside groups that use our basement space three days each week.

Children's Church is also making use of this space every Sunday morning during our regular service. With some fresh paint and some ceiling repair we will all have a usable downstairs space that we can be proud of and that would have pleased the members who created this space nearly 40 years ago.

Once the ice melts off the door step by the church office. Jim Collier and friends will be installing a roof over the office exit so there will be a safe place for egress. This area has not been usable in winter due to the massive ice piles which build up when snow falls off the church roof valley. We will also be installing a new storm door to mitigate heat loss from the office. Leakage under the door likely caused damage to the office floor which required replacement and a new surface.

We just ordered an automatic external defibrillator for cardiac arrest emergencies which will be installed most likely in the church vestibule. Our first aid kit has also been refurbished to supply needs for minor injuries.

We hope to set up a Saturday Spring Clean-Up Day for the church some time after the next rummage sale. All able bodied souls are encouraged to sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. . :)

Tom Colley, Acting Chair of Trustees

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our rummage sale is coming up and 28th. That is less than two do not have many "treasures" sale. Please help us have either bring your items in, or arrange a pickup. The sooner them sorted and priced for the sale. We sure do appreciate all the donations that you give us, including helping to set-up the area starting on April 23rd.



the weekend of April 27th weeks away, and we really down stairs to put out for another great sale and give the church a call to the better so we can get



We would like to thank the people of the church who have sent cards, phoned, mailed, sent cookies and food during the time of our confinement. Offers of rides have been numerous and appreciated. Thanks so much!!

Lee & Bonnie Totten Adkins



## AN EVENT IN SHELBURNE

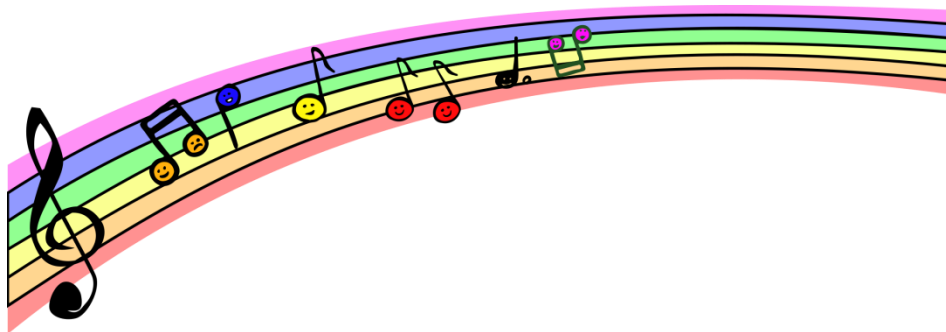
The Shelburne United Methodist Church and the Vermont District of the New England Annual Conference are pleased and excited to bring Mark Miller to our area on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 & 29, 2018.

Mark will play an organ recital on Sunday, April 29, on the Trillium Masterpiece Digital-Pipe organ at the Shelburne UMC on the corner of Route 7 and Church Street in Shelburne. The recital will begin at 2:00 p.m. Mark holds a master's degree in organ performance from Julliard School in New York City. There is no charge for this recital.

On Saturday, April 28, Mark will lead a workshop titled "Joyfully Eclectic, Theologically Rich and Relevant" - music resources for the small (and not so small) choir and congregation. The time is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 P.m. and will give a half CEU credit to those participating. Lunch will be provided. The charge is \$10.00 and you may register by contacting:

Vermont District Office [vmtdistrict@neumc.org](mailto:vmtdistrict@neumc.org) or  
802-485-4724 and speak with Evie Doyon

For additional information, contact Ann Rowell, Director of Music/Organist at Shelburne UMC [lar17g@comcast.net](mailto:lar17g@comcast.net) or 802-388-8410.





## REMINDERS

Don't forget that our new crafts ministry group meets the first and third Thursday mornings of each month from 10:00-Noon at the home of Julie Coons. Bring your latest project to work on and join the fun.



Please report any changes to the Church directory to Joyce Sargent directly or leave a message at the Church office 388-2510 or email, [newsletter@umcmiddlebury.org](mailto:newsletter@umcmiddlebury.org)

If you would prefer to get this newsletter by mail or wish to be removed from our email or mailing lists please let us know by leaving a message at: The Church office, 388-2510 or by email, [newsletter@umcmiddlebury.org](mailto:newsletter@umcmiddlebury.org)



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43 North Pleasant Street  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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