



Our Light

www.umcmiddlebury.org

FALL 2017

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.

How Is It with Your Soul?

This is how John Wesley opened up small group meetings in the early days of Methodism

– “How is it with your soul?”

We’re used to being addressed with, “Hey there! How ya doing?” knowing that the one asking us really doesn’t expect an answer, and if they do, the answer they expect is, “I’m just fine” – whether we are or not! But imagine if someone asked you this – “How is it with your soul today?”

How would you answer? Would you give the casual, offhand response, “Just fine?” Or would you be like most the rest of us and stutter out an answer – “uh, uh...okay? I guess?”

This jarring question, “How is it with your soul,” provokes another question in me: “Have you stopped to listen to it lately?”

Have you stopped to listen to it?

This is the hard part. Our lives may be very busy – or they may be fairly leisurely, but in either case stopping to listen to one’s soul is difficult. It’s not the same as listening to the thoughts and worries running through your mind. Nor is it the same as rattling off

your prayers seeking God’s help, guidance, or rescue. Listening to your soul requires stillness. It requires a willingness to rest in the caring silence of God, as Henri Nouwen calls it.

The caring silence of God.

I’m guessing many of us hear some troubling in our souls these days. Our minds and bodies swirl with the tensions of national and international events, as well as struggles in our own families and personal lives, and beneath all this, our souls yearn for God’s nearness. This is when that caring silence of God calls all the more strongly to us. This is when we must stop and find that corner of our house, our apartment, or our room and let this troubling in our souls be bathed in the caring silence of God.

I encourage you in these days, to cultivate a daily practice of listening to your soul. Set the timer on your stove or on your phone – or don’t use a timer at all – and rest in God’s caring silence. Allow your soul to speak and be renewed.

--Rev. Mary Kay Schueneman



JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE!

During the month of September, we will be celebrating the **SEASON OF CREATION.**

What is this season?? The Season of Creation is an optional season for the church year. For the most part, the seasons of the church year follow the life of Jesus: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. The remainder of the church year encompasses Pentecost Season, which celebrates life in the Holy Spirit. The four Sundays in the Season of Creation allow us to celebrate God the Creator. We do not worship creation, but worship God in solidarity with creation.

The Spirit in Creation

September 3: ***FOREST SUNDAY***

Genesis 2: 4b-22 and John 3: 1-16

September 10: ***LAND SUNDAY***

Genesis 3: 14-19; 4: 8-16 and Matthew 12: 38-40

September 17: ***WILDERNESS SUNDAY***

Romans 8: 18-27 and Mark 1: 9-13

September 24: ***RIVER SUNDAY***

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17 and Matthew 28: 1-10

“Silence is God’s first
language. Everything else
is a poor translation.”

— *Thomas Keating*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

September is upon us and it is time to start up our monthly UMW meetings. Our first meeting will be Monday September 18th. We will be together for lunch at the Compass Center in Brandon at 12:30PM. Please meet at Mimi Hardy's house at noon to car pool to Brandon. Hopefully new comers will join us. After lunch we will discuss plans for our **FALL RUMMAGE SALE** which we will hold on **Friday, Oct 13th from 9-5/BakeSale from 9-1 and on Saturday Oct 14th from 9-Noon..** Please come to the meeting prepared to offer new ideas fro more helpers in the setting up and sales jobs

SPIRITUALITY

The first meeting of the Spirituality Group will be Tuesday, September 19th.at Mimi's house at 1:30 PM.

Please bring "My Grandfather's Blessings" and ideas for other readings. Beverly Megyesi has kindly supplied the 2017 schedules for Weston Priory. Hopefully we will find a time when we can make a trip there.

Our meetings will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 1:30PM.

HURRICANE HARVEY

By now we have all heard about or witnessed via technology the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey .. Your Church provides a simple way for you to help victims of this tragedy. You can write a check made out to the Middlebury UMC with a notation for Hurricane Harvey victims. These funds will be forwarded immediately to UMCOR to help Hurricane Harvey Victims and help rebuild Texas.

Checks can be placed in the offering on Sundays or mailed to the Middlebury UMC at 43 N. Pleasant St Middlebury, VT 05753. 100% of all funds donated go to the relief effort.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

Choir practices have started up. We rehearse every Thursday evening at 7PM at the Church! Please join us and



SPEAKER FOR NICARAGUA COVENANT COMING TO OUR CHURCH

Kevin McNally and his wife are planning a tour of Vermont to educate our churches about the Nicaragua Covenant. Soon after the destructive and costly civil war in Nicaragua in 1986, a group of Methodists from the New England area started a mission program in that country to help the most needy people there. The program has been ongoing since that time. It addresses the ongoing need for basic medical care in rural areas via a traveling mobile medical clinic. It also helps efforts to provide food and assist small villages in obtaining clean water to prevent the transmission of water borne diseases. A third arm of the program is a sewing program which allows people who are motivated to increase their income by producing products which can be sold locally or in the U.S. Many of these items were on display and for sale at annual conference. Many Methodists in our district are unaware of this program as I was until we went to the recent annual conference.

As the number of conference churches has decreased over the past decade, it has become an increasing challenge to financially sustain this mission program. Since our district was formerly a part of the Troy Conference, little information about this mission has filtered down to the average lay person in our churches. There is a very urgent need to shore up this mission effort. Having heard this message at annual conference, Sue and I were interested to hear more and spoke at some length with Kevin McNally who is the representative to conference for this program. He and his wife are pleased to be able to make a trip to our area to talk about this mission effort. A firm date has not yet been set but we are looking at a weekend in early October possibly on a Saturday evening at an early hour.

If you have access to the internet you can look up The Nicaragua Covenant on the conference website. **KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CONSIDER AND PRAY AS TO WHETHER THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU COULD FIND A WAY TO SUPPORT.** The need is great!!!

Tom Colley, Mission Team Coordinator

P.S. Mission teams from our conference regularly make trips to help out in Nicaragua. This could be the trip of a lifetime especially for some of the young people in our district.

*Speak to Mimi Hardy to
pledge a walker!*

OCTOBER 1, 2017



sign up or

AN INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The Rev. Jill Colley Robinson will be installed as the District Superintendent for the Vermont District of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 15, 2017.

The service will be held at Faith United Methodist Church on Dorset Street in South Burlington beginning at 3:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar will lead the service. Other District Superintendents will also participate.

This is a special time for our former pastor and it is hoped that many of our church members and friends will attend. It would be a good idea to think about car pooling from here to South Burlington. Directions will be printed out and available at the church .

We pray for Rev. Colley Robinson as she responds to God's calling on her life in a new and significant way. In addition, we would pray for her family as they adjust to the schedule and demands of her position.

TRICK OR TRUNK GATHERING

The United Methodist Women will once again offer a Trick OR Trunk gathering for the children of our area. The date is Tuesday, October 31, 2017 and will be held in the church parking lot. Donuts and cider will be available in the Fellowship Hall as well. You are invited to participate by bringing your car with a trunk to open to with goodies for children. If you don't wish to do that, gifts of candy or money to purchase candy may be given to members of United Methodist Women at church on Sundays before Halloween.

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



October 13th & 14th -- Do you have something to donate?

The Middlebury United Methodist Church
43 North Pleasant Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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The newsletter of the Middlebury UMC

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