



Our Light

www.umcmiddlebury.org

The MIDDLEBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2016**

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.

A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

On Sunday, August 21, George Klohck gave a sermon at Middlebury UMC in which he spoke about what is happening in our United Methodist denomination and what he sees as a vision for the future of the church.

This year George and Margaret attended the General Conference (delegates from United Methodist churches all over the world) and two regional conferences here in New England and in the northeast US. George said that anyone might listen to some reports about what United Methodists are doing and conclude “that the church is hopelessly divided, in constant conflict, compromised in its mission, and possibly destined to split in two or more parts with its power to witness to God’s love and to serve human needs greatly diminished.”

“OR,” he said, “United Methodists could read about or hear dynamic and inspiring leaders in our church who are speaking with courage and clarity and pointing toward renewal of our devotion to Christ and our love for each other. United Methodists can and do celebrate new forms of worship, dedicated missionaries serving around the world, a church that stands for justice and calls for urgent efforts to turn around environmental destruction and save this earth.”

George concluded his message saying that we United Methodists here in Middlebury, along with other UM’s around the world, now can follow Jesus and “take the path of what is sometimes called ‘radical love.’ On that way we listen and learn and discover new things about ourselves and others and experience a joy in loving that is greater than anything we imagined before. The Holy Spirit moves the church forward! Let us rejoice!”

This sermon is available for anyone to read. Send George a message at mgklohck@comcast.net and he will forward it to you.

OUR WORSHIP PREACHERS

SEPTEMBER 4 Jill C Robinson
SEPTEMBER 11 Gus Jordan
SEPTEMBER 18 Don Jochum
SEPTEMBER 25 Jill C Robinson/Communion

OCTOBER 2 Jill C Robinson
World Communion Sunday
OCTOBER 9 Laurie Jordan
OCTOBER 16 Paul Hoffman
OCTOBER 23 Jill C Robinson
OCTOBER 30 Charlene Stavenow/Communion

HELP FOR VICTIMS OF STORMS AND FLOODS IN LOUISIANA

What do you think about when the TV news shows us the devastating damage that happened recently in Louisiana? People being rescued from their homes as rivers rise in their streets, everything they owned lost in the flood. We have to be so thankful that our homes are safe and then we wonder if there is anything we can do to help.

The United Methodist Church is there. There are lots of UM churches in Louisiana, and there is a Louisiana Conference that looks out for Methodists there. United Methodist Volunteers-in-Mission organizes teams of people from other parts of Louisiana and from other US states to help where they are needed. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is organized and ready to respond with supplies and equipment to support the volunteers. So, help is happening. It is happening because United Methodists everywhere care.

The Louisiana bishop recently wrote to all the United Methodist bishops to tell how great is the need, and our bishop, Bishop Devadhar in the New England Conference, sent out a letter that is posted in our church. He tells how we can help by giving money through our church which has the info about where to send it on to the point of need. He also tells us how people who are suffering through a disaster need to know that they are not alone. We help with funds we send and with our prayers.

Stories are coming back about people whose lives have been put back together because Christian people, acting out of love and concern, reached out to people in need.

The Middlebury Church began collecting funds for Louisiana on Sunday, August 28. Checks may be made out to the Middlebury UM Church with a notation for "Louisiana Relief."

LET US BE IN PRAYER FOR:

- Joann D as she continues to adjust to a new home
- Betty H with ongoing health issues
- David M after the recent loss of his father
- Scott N as he recovers from recent knee surgery and a stroke
- Lydia J after the recent loss of her nephew
- Joyce S after the recent loss of her sister-in-law
- Raymond L with some health issues
- Tom C's cousin who is undergoing chemotherapy
- Connie W with ongoing health issues, and Leonard who is helping to take care of her
- Bud C who has not been able to get to church regularly
- Sue T who has not been able to get to church regularly
- Don S's nephew with ALS
- Marilyn D who is in hospice care
- Margaret K after her recent shoulder surgery
- All who are living with and being treated for cancer
- Friends at East Middlebury UMC
- Students at Middlebury College

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 2016

Together we enable national and international graduate students to change the world -----

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins?

On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

UMW NEWS

Our Rummage / Bake Sale set for Friday and Saturday OCTOBER 21 & 22

The rummage/bake sale is a great fund raiser for our United Women's Club, last spring we earned over \$2000 from the sale. \$1998 came from the rummage sale items, with some of the "leftovers" being sold on an "on-line garage sale" and other things at a consignment shop. We went the "extra mile" to sell all the treasures we received. Thanks to all of you folks who brought treasures for us to sell, those that helped us at the sale and those who came and bought things!

The money earned from the sale goes to help buy things the church needs, to support local agencies in the county/state and to help out in disaster areas like the floods in Louisiana, etc.

Since fall has arrived it is time to stock up for our next sale. *We want you to know that we are once again looking for those items you no longer need.* Just give me a call to set a date for me to either open the church so you can bring the things in, or for me to come to your home to pick them up - my van can hold a lot of things. My number is 388.7573, if I am not there just leave me a message and I will call you back.

Remember we take clothing of all sizes, dishes, knick knacks, games, puzzles, shoes, books, toys, jewelry, small tools, and the list just goes on. Due to lack of space we do not take any large furniture, but, can usually take small book cases or end tables.

Unfortunately we are not taking any more televisions. If you bring in smaller electronics, please put a note on them that they do work. We do not have the knowledge or equipment to check them out.

We have "opportunities" for folks to come October 17th through October 20th to help set up our rooms downstairs in preparations for the sale, we also need helpers for the days of the sale. Please note: we would love the help of anyone that can spare us some time, you may have so much fun, and you may want to do it every time! Our actual membership is very low, so any help is welcome.

Please give me a call if you need more information - want to leave your donations or have me pick them up. Please call either Mimi Hardy 388.6016 or, me to let us know when you can help us. Thanks much! Joyce Sargent 388-7573

VT DISTRICT UMW MIMI-RETREAT - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

Grace United Methodist Church, 130 Maple Street, Essex Junction VT
Retreat Leaders: Evie Doyon & Carol Jean Sutor
Registration begins at 9:30, Program from 10:00-2:30pm

Join us for some quiet time apart, to reflect, sing, pray, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

\$10 covers program & lunch/snacks

Please register by contacting Ginger Phelps, gingerp46@comcast.net, 802-879-7484

Women of all ages are welcome!

You do not have to be active in United Methodist Women to participate.

Please bring items for the food shelf and financial donations for the offering.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Summer has been a good time to work on our church properties. Our old church building and grounds are never at a lack for needed improvements. Good progress has been made in several areas:

1) The ongoing kitchen project is near completion. Josie Masterson Glen repainted all of the trim work and cabinets with some last minute relief aid from Marcia Collaer. The whole area now has a single coat of paint but will need a second coat. The walls had already been painted with two coats. We are now awaiting some decorative touches. A new floor covering is also in the plans.

If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please contact Tom Colley.

2) The church parking lot was draining poorly causing a large area of sediment to form near the center of the lot. Water was also freezing in this area creating a significant fall risk. This has been corrected by digging out the problem area and building a new drainage system with heavy stone topped with fine stone. So far the repair seems to be working but this winter season will be the true test!

3) Many of you have probably noticed that some of the church pews at the left front of the sanctuary have been moved. The organ platform for the electric organ has also been moved. All this is being done to allow better ergonomics for the choir and organist/ choir director. Now the choir has better visibility of the director and is facing the congregation. Opening up this space also makes it much easier for handicapped members to participate in choir without blocking the church aisles. We hope to expand the platform area to accommodate a piano and perhaps other instruments.

4) The church foundation leakage problem is once again under scrutiny. New leaks have developed around the east parking lot entrance. The old gutter and downspout was full of holes and has been replaced by a new plastic system. Other repairs will be needed to reseal the concrete joints around the east entrance.

If you are aware of other issues needing attention, please speak to a trustee member. Any help you may be able to offer would be appreciated. Look for news about the parsonage sale in the next addition of the newsletter.



Shouldn't These Folks Be Smiling??

THEY'RE BACK! CHICKEN AND BISCUIT SUPPERS

Tis the season once again for our ever popular suppers! Assuming the congregation wants to continue this social event and community outreach project, we will start the suppers in September. Some of you may not be aware that although we suggest a donation for our suppers, no one is required to pay for a delicious hot meal. Some members in our neighborhood enjoy this meal at no cost. We try to discretely welcome all comers without regard for their ability to pay.

The first supper will be held on **Sunday, September 25, 2016 5:00P.M.- 6:00P.M.**

We need a second person to take responsibility for organizing the meals when I am away. This would help us to adjust our schedule for other events taking place in the church as well as scheduling changes which limit time slots near holidays. If you think you might like to serve our church in this way, please contact me and we can discuss. Tom Colley

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

I am in the process of updating the information in our church directory. For the folks with e-mail addresses that were in the old directory, I will e-mail you the information that is in the old one, and would like you to make any changes necessary, and send them back to me or send me a note that all is OK.

I will personally check with the other folks, either in person, by phone or by mail to get the correct information. Unfortunately the new directory will not have our pictures in it, but at least the information will be up to date. Copies of the revised directory will be available to all.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Joyce Sargent

BECAUSE WE CARE

Calling all those who knit, crochet or sew (and any who would like to learn)! A small group of us are interested in making prayer shawls, lap throws, or pocket prayer shawls. These items will be blessed during worship, and be available for delivery by Rev. Jill and/or a member of our Congregational Care team to those experiencing an illness or difficulty. Please see Julie Coons if you would like more information or a pattern.

Also, as the weather cools, it is a great time to work on hats and mittens for the UMW'S Hat & Mitten Tree that provides warm items for those in need in our local community. Eileen Rinker will be happy to answer any questions about this project.

OUR CHOIR

Calling all singers !!! Our choir has resumed practices on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm. Please come join us for singing and Christian fellowship. Under the direction of Dr. Kevin Parizo, we prepare an anthem for our Sunday worship service.



UPCOMING Middlebury UMC MEETINGS

The first meeting of the season for the **UMW** will be **September 19, 2016** at 2PM at Mimi Hardy's home. **October's** meeting will be on the **17th** at the Church.

The **RESOURCES TEAM** will meet on **September 19 and October 17** at 4PM in Julie Coons' office.

The **COORDINATING COMMITTEE** will meet on **September 19** at 5:30PM in Julie Coons' office.

THE SPIRITUALITY GROUP will meet **September 20, 2016** at 1:30PM at the home of Mimi Hardy. **October's** meetings will be on **the 4th and the 18th** – same time, same place. All are welcome.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANNUAL RABBI REICHERT BIBLE TALK SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

The Talk will take place on Sunday, September 18th, at 4 pm in the Ripton Community Church on Route 125 in the village center. Laurie Patton, President of Middlebury College will be the guest speaker.

GOSPEL CONCERT SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

The Certain Sounds will present a gospel concert on Sunday, Sep. 18, at 3pm at the Center Church. The concert will feature Bill and Gloria Gaither music, with such favorites as "Joy in the Camp," "I Came to Praise the Lord," "We Are So Blessed" and many more. If you like Gaither music, you won't want to miss this!

WEST ADDISON UMC CHICKEN PIE DINNER

Sunday, September 25, 12:30 pm first seating, Community House

Adults \$10, kids 6-12 \$5, kids 5 and younger free.

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women of West Addison

ADDISON COUNTY CROP WALK OCTOBER 2, 2016

For more info contact

EllenMckay emckay@middlebury.edu

Patty Hallam pattyhallam@gmail.com

VERGENNES UMC SUPPER

Saturday, **October 8** Turkey and all the Fixin's

5-6:30 pm , Adults \$9, Children \$5, 5 and younger free

\$1 will go to the church restoration fund

Sponsored by the Vergennes Supper Club

TOURS OF MIDDLEBURY CHURCHES OCTOBER 9, 2016

The Sheldon Museum is sponsoring a tour of local churches on Sunday, October 9, 2016, 1-4pm.

Our church has agreed to participate. This will occur during the peak of the fall touring season. We need members with an interest in our church's history and tradition to be on hand to give tours and discuss the history of Methodism in Middlebury . Our church's history in Middlebury dates back to a visit to Middlebury by Francis Asbury, America's first Methodist bishop. This should be a fun event for all. If interested, please contact Tom Colley or Julie Coons.



CONFERENCE NEWS

Invitation to hear Bishop Spong in Schenectady, NY

Rev. Bob Long, retired Troy elder, has extended an invitation to anyone who wishes to attend, to come to First UMC in Schenectady NY to hear Bishop John Shelby Spong on Saturday, September 17 and/or Sunday, September 18 during worship.

The topics he will address on Saturday are "Why Is there a Crisis in Christian Faith in the World today?" at 10:00AM and "How Do We Sing the Lord's Song in the 21st Century?" at 1:00PM.

Deep Change for Climate Justice: Coalescing a Transformational Movement

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light *and* Our Children, Climate, Faith Symposium are collaborating to bring you this conference on Saturday & Sunday, October 15 -16 in White River Junction at Briggs Opera House, Newberry Market, and other nearby locations. Luminary guest speakers, The Rev. Fred Small and Sherri Mitchell, will be with us as leaders and facilitators throughout the conference.

Participants may choose to come for one day or two. The conference offers many workshops, breakout groups, music, inspiration for action, and so much more - don't miss it!

Registration is now open. You can register, pay online, and find lots more information at the conference website: [Deep Change](#) Contact: Betsy Hardy at info@vtipl.org or call 802-434-3397.

Bishop On The District

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7 – 9pm

Save this date and plan to come to Hedding UMC (40 Church Street, Barre VT) to meet with Bishop Devadhar. Clergy and laity will meet together with our Bishop. Please see his most [recent newsletter](#) for details of the conversation topic:

Main Tasks for the next four year:

- Continuing to provide pastoral leadership as the conference is engaged in prophetic and creative movement toward becoming a fully-inclusive church
- Finishing the implementation of the strategic plan aligning the conference structure and resources with the conference vision and mission.
- Leading the conference in engaging in new and relevant ministries of evangelism and church growth, especially with youth and young adults.

The workshop” **Giving.Jesus.Generosity – Living the Spiritual Discipline of Generosity**” will be held November 12 from 9:00-3:30 save the date now!! District Resource Day on generosity and stewardship sponsored by the UM Foundation of New England and the Vermont District. This day's program is particularly for laity (although clergy are welcome). Details will be made available soon. (Hedding UMC will host.)

MIDDLEBURY UMC
47 North Pleasant Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The newsletter of the
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