



Our Light

www.umcmiddlebury.org

SPRING 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 to Make the Week Holy

Palm and Passion Sunday: Hosanna! April 9
10 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Family Worship

Weather permitting, we will begin our worship services on Palm Sunday with a blessing of the palms on the front stairs, ramp, and lawn of the church at 10:45 a.m. If the weather is inclement, we will begin inside in the fellowship hall per a typical Sunday. People newer to the church will be received as members on this day. If you are interested in exploring membership, contact Jill at your earliest convenience—rev.jill.colley.robinson@gmail.com.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae: Love one another. April 13
7 pm, Worship, Vergennes United Methodist Church
6:30 pm, Soup and Sandwich Supper, Middlebury Congregational Church, UCC
7:30 pm, Worship, Middlebury Congregational Church, UCC

Jill will be leading a traditional Maundy Thursday service at the Vergennes UMC this year. The service will include scripture, singing, tenebrae (symbols of light and darkness), footwashing, communion, and the stripping of the altar. All United Methodists in the congregations Jill is serving are invited to participate.

Per tradition, our congregation will join with the congregation of the Middlebury United Church of Christ to observe the Last Supper. We will gather in their basement for a light soup and salad supper first. The worship service will include scripture, singing, symbols of light and darkness, prayer, and communion. If you would like to read a scripture passage at this service or the one in Vergennes, contact Jill at your earliest convenience—rev.jill.colley.robinson@gmail.com.

Ecumenical Good Friday: *It is finished.* April 14
12 pm, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Per tradition, our congregations will join with other Christian congregations in town to observe the events leading up to and including Christ's death. This service, jointly led by participating area clergy and laity, will include scripture, preaching, singing, silence, and prayer. We will gather in the sanctuary via the front entrance to the church.

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil: *Pray without ceasing.* April 14-15
1 pm Friday - 1 pm Saturday, Fellowship Hall

In observance of the time in between Christ's death and resurrection, the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 1 p.m. on Friday to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Quiet music, books, etc. will be provided for those who wish to read or listen to music during their prayer time. There will be a sign-up sheet listing the times of prayer in one-hour increments on the ushers' table at the church. Sign up for a time—one hour or more—that works best for you. Contact Don Jochum, Lay Leader, for more details. The goal is to fill these twenty-four hours with prayer. We will be inviting United Methodist friends from area congregations to join us in this vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY: *HE IS RISEN!* APRIL 16

6 am Sunrise Service, Youngman Field, Middlebury College
6:30 – 8 am Pancake Breakfast, Weybridge Congregational Church, UCC
10:45 am Family Worship, Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

On Easter morning, we will begin by greeting the sun at Youngman Field as we celebrate the rising Son. Our UCC brothers and sisters in Weybridge will welcome us to breakfast after the service. We will then meet for a special worship and celebration beginning at 10:45 am at Middlebury UMC. All families and friends are invited to participate in this extraordinary worship.



WORSHIP & PREACHING SCHEDULE

March 26- 4th Sunday of Lent Jill C. Robinson
UMCOR Sunday, Communion

April 2 -5th Sunday of Lent Jill C. Robinson

April 9 -Palm/Passion Sunday Jill C. Robinson

April 13 -Maundy Thursday
7 p.m. Vergennes UMC Jill C. Robinson
or
7 p.m. Middlebury UCC Andy Nagy-Benson

April 14- Good Friday
12 p.m., St. Stephen's Area Clergy

April 14-15, Saturday - Prayer Vigil Don
Jochum, 1-1p.m.

April 16- Easter Sunday
6 a.m. Sunrise, College Area Clergy
10:45 a.m. Middlebury UMC Gus Jordan

April 23- Festival of God's Creation *TBD*
April 30 -Native American Ministries
Jill C. Robinson, Communion

BECOMING A MEMBER OF MIDDLEBURY UMC

If you are not yet an official member of the Middlebury United Methodist Church and would like to know more about what this can mean for you, contact Jill at rev.jill.colley.robinson@gmail.com. Your congregation will be receiving new members on April 9, Palm Sunday during morning worship. With God's blessing, the joyous welcome that was once offered to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem will be extended to those who welcome the sanctuary in a new way that day.



Church Membership

*Establishing Roots in
a faith community!*



God Hears Prayer

PRAYER CONCERNS

Joann D who is unable to attend church

Betty H with ongoing health issues

Scott N after recent hospitalizations

Mimi H's granddaughter, Anina, who is receiving cancer treatment

Mimi H's grandson, Oliver, who is hospitalized

Tom C's cousin who is undergoing chemotherapy

Sue C's friend who has had a recurrence of cancer

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

Sue T who has not been able to get to church

The Wesley family after the loss of Marg and John

The family of Margaret R after her recent death

Bonnie T A's daughter, Davey, who is hospitalized after a recent stroke and surgery

Ted Wesley and family after the loss of his wife, Jean

John D as he relocates to CT to live near family

All who are living with and being treated for cancer

Friends at East Middlebury UMC

Students at Middlebury College, especially after the recent protests on campus

ALL-CHURCH MEETING

The quarterly all-church meeting of the Middlebury United Methodist Church was held Sunday, March 5. Members and friends attending were Bonnie Totten Adkins, Lee Adkins, Don Sundstrom, Norma Duclos, Joyce Sargent, Lydia Johnson, John-Eric Robinson, Chelsea Robinson, Isaiah Robinson, Margaret Klohck, George Klohck, Mimi Hardy, Pauline O'Brien, Sue Leggett, Sue Colley, Tom Colley, Julie Coons, Carmen Jochum, Don Jochum, Eileen Rinker, Don Rinker, Emmy Alford, Ann Rowell, Len Rowell, and Rev. Jill Colley Robinson. Don Jochum called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m.

SALE OF PARSONAGE: Closing for the sale of the parsonage was held January 6. The sale price was \$217,500.00; the net proceeds were \$205,331.65. After subtracting \$3,201.47 for our costs, the remaining \$202,130.18 was used to open a capital improvements account with the United Methodist Foundation of New England. This money can be used only for capital improvements or for the purchase of another parsonage. We have retained a right of way to the north basement entrance (the double glass doors). The church retained Ren Barlow to do the legal work pertaining to the sale; Attorney Barlow very generously performed his services at no charge, a savings to the church of \$4,643.00.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016: The 2016 income/expense report was distributed and discussed. Our income was \$77,914.54; our expenses were \$63,025.71; our surplus was \$14,883.83. The Arnold Fund which had been invested with Schwab was transferred to the United Methodist Foundation of New England, and we added \$25,000.00 to the fund to partially replace some of the money we have withdrawn from it in past years.

FUTURE PASTORAL CARE: Since Jill will become our new District Superintendent as of July 1, the Coordinating Committee recommends we continue with a quarter-time pastor, plus a minister of congregational care. Larger time commitments from a pastor mean larger expenses (housing, health care if $\frac{3}{4}$ time or over, pension if $\frac{1}{2}$ time or over). Our congregational profile was forwarded to Brigid about 3 weeks ago. We have no candidates yet. The Coordinating Committee will keep the congregation posted as soon as they receive any information.

WEBSITE: We are looking for someone to keep our website updated. Emmy suggested hiring a college student. Don and Carmen Jochum will follow up on this.

OTHER BUSINESS: Don Rinker thanked the Coordinating Committee for their dedication. The Coordinating Committee would like to start looking for replacements to serve on the committee.

There being no further business, Don Rinker made a motion to adjourn; Joyce Sargent seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Rinker - Recorder

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

There will be a service of remembrance and celebration for Marg Wesley on [Sunday, April 2](#) at 1 p.m. at Middlebury UMC. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. There will not be any calling hours.

TRUSTEES

FINANCIAL REORGANIZATION INFORMATION

One of the elements of stewardship in the church is the financial solvency of the church. With this stewardship goal in mind, the Resources Team and the Trustees have reorganized our investments into four accounts.

The Mozambique account, the Arnold Memorial Fund, The Middlebury United Methodist Endowment account, and the Capital Expenditure account are now centralized with the United Methodist Foundation of New England. The financial goal is to develop a positive monetary return for the church's assets in a safe financial environment.

The Capital Expenditure Account was opened with the money we received from the sale of the parsonage. This money may be used for future expenditures on improvements in the church. This money cannot be used for pastors' salaries or benefits, or other salaries related to the operation of the church. When improvements are being considered, we will seek input from the members of the church.

As always, the financial independence of the church is of utmost importance. Our solvency allows us to help many people, locally and globally, as we continue our mission of doing God's work in helping others.

Don Rinker, Trustee Treasurer

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Our group resumed meeting March 21 after a winter break. We will continue to read "My Grandfather's Blessings" as a group. Other special events we are looking forward to in the spring are a talk by Jill about the many different types of crosses people wear and a day trip to the Weston Priory.

Spirituality meets at Mimi's house at 1:30 on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Our spring meetings will be on April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16 and June 6.

MISSION WORK IN MOZAMBIQUE

If you follow the lives of these two friends, you already know that Jeremias was transferred to a ministry situation in Zimbabwe last fall through the Board of Global Ministries that he decided not to pursue. Instead, he and Ilda decided to stay in the Chicique area where she continues to work at the hospital that Jeremias had previously administered, and where Jeremias is now raising chickens and pigs. Last month, a cyclone hit the Chicique area and did damage to their home and new business.

If you would like to give financial support to help Ilda and Jeremias with the repairs they must now make, make a check payable to "Leon Adkins" and the amount will be sent to the Franca bank account in Chicique. Lee will use a money transfer process which was successful when he sent money to them in November. You will get a receipt from Lee.

Our congregation continues to send money to the Chicique Hospital which also sustained damage in the cyclone. You can continue to do so by supporting our church through your giving.

-Lee and Bonnie Totten Adkins



MISSION WORK AT HOME



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our UMW group has a huge hole in it with the death of Marg Wesley. She will long be remembered and it was a blessing having her as our President and Treasurer for 40 years in both roles. There will always be an empty seat at our meetings and an empty chair at the Rummage Sale checkout table.

The UMW meets the third Monday of each month, except for the summer, at Mimi's house at 2 p.m. Our remaining meetings are April 17, May 15, and June 19. Our June meeting will be held at the Compass store in Brandon, off Arnold District Road. We will have lunch at their café and a short business meeting.

The UMW is always looking for new members. We are a small but hard-working group. For further information about the UMW, please feel free to contact our president, Mimi Hardy, at 388-6016.

Our **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE** will be **FRIDAY, MAY 12** 9 AM - 5 PM with the **BAKE SALE** from 9 AM – 1PM

SATURDAY, MAY 13 will be Bag Day from 9AM – noon(fill a large grocery bag for \$2.50).

We have been blessed this year with a tremendous amount of donations of jewelry, new merchandise and new women's clothing in the larger sizes. We have already received many other items and are hoping for more in the upcoming months. Donated items are always welcome!

In order to properly display all the jewelry and new items this year, we are going to use the Fellowship Room upstairs, along with all the downstairs rooms. This means we are going to need more help in putting out items, and especially on the days of the sale, May 12th and May 13th. Set up for the sale will begin Monday May 8.

Please call Mimi Hardy at 388.6016, or Joyce Sargent at 388.7573 if you can help us out in any way.



INFORMATION FROM THE CONFERENCE

UMCOR SUNDAY – MARCH 26, 2017

TOGETHER, WE REACH CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DEVASTATION IN THE WAKE OF DISASTER.

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

So don’t be fooled by the word committee.

Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do.

When You Give You Equip Christ’s Body to Serve in His Name

That’s because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**). In fact, it’s your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

With Your Gifts the United Methodist Church Can Keep Helping.

FESTIVAL OF GOD'S CREATION

The United Methodist Church designates one Sunday each year, preferably the Sunday closest to Earth Day (April 22), as a Festival of God's Creation, celebrating God's gracious work in creating the earth and all living things. Many congregations recognize the day in worship; others have special events or projects to observe it....

Genesis says it was God who created the very first Earth Day: "The second day God said, 'Let there be space to divide the waters into two parts.' And it was so. God called the space Sky. 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place and let dry land appear.' ... God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:9-10, New Revised Standard Version

On April 22, 1970, the United States began celebrating Earth Day annually, creating a movement that now motivates people around the world to use the day to consider the planet, demonstrate their love for it and enact ways to protect it. Organizers anticipate more than one billion people around the globe will take part in events this year engaging in environmental issues.

The General Board of Church and Society works with ecumenical partners through Creation Justice Ministries to rally Christians on behalf of protecting God's creation.

The United Methodist Church is among 37 national faith bodies, including Protestant denominations and Orthodox communions, as well as regional faith groups, and congregants working with [Creation Justice Ministries](#) to protect and restore God's Creation. Resources to mark Creation Justice's Earth Sunday (the same day as Festival of God's Creation) can be found at www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday.html....

Adapted from an article by Jeneane Jones posted at www.umc-gbcs.org on April 14, 2016.

Native American Ministries Sunday is April 30, 2017

One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people "pale as birch" crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them "The Black Book." However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus.

Today Native Americans—with many unique languages, many unique cultures—honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

Supporting the Ministry of Christ Among Native People

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations—like New York’s Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska’s Native American Sacred Winds congregation—to worship and serve as only they can.

This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

Our Giving Allows Native Americans to Encounter, Worship and Serve Jesus

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Dr. Richard Twiss, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, asked:

“Will we be allowed to develop new ways of doing church that honor God’s purposes for the creative expression of our cultures? Will new ministry partnerships and coalitions form? Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration and release?”

Say yes.

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



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