



Our Light

www.umcmiddlebury.org

The MIDDLEBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter

January/February
2015

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.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

We will be having our next quarterly **ALL-CHURCH MEETING** on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at Noon after the worship service. Agenda items will be -- a financial update, a report on the results of our small group meetings and a recommendation from the Coordinating Committee regarding pastoral coverage as we continue to redefine the ministry of our church. As has become the tradition, a light lunch will be available. We hope you can attend.

MUMC ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR JAN-FEB

10:00 A.M. every Sunday

DVD Series- **THE LIVES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS**

Jan 11 - Clare of Assisi	Feb 8 - Thomas More
Jan 18 - Catherine of Siena	Feb 15 - Martin Luther
Jan 25 - Bernardino of Siena	Feb 22 - John Wesley/ the Origins of Methodism
Feb 1 - John Hus and the Hussites	

This series includes excellent introductions/lectures into the lives of famous and to many not so famous Christians. How have Christians responded to the gospel over the last 2,000 years? Emphasis is placed on how their lives were changed more than on what they wrote. Come to a class and be inspired by what you hear. We try to leave some time for discussion---material suitable for age 12 and above. Get acquainted with what your fellow parishioners are thinking and why. Preparation before class is not necessary.

MIDDLEBURY UMC PRAYER LIST

- Joann D, after the recent loss of her caregiver
- Betty H, with ongoing health issues
- Pauline O, who is in Rutland receiving rehabilitation after two recent falls
- Leonard and Connie W, with ongoing health issues
- Gerry & Shelby D, who have been unable to get to church
- Jim & Janet H, who have been unable to get to church
- Doris S, a resident of Helen Porter
- Bob W, a resident of Helen Porter
- Mary W and her son, Tracey, both struggling with health issues
- Clay, our old friend
- Students at Middlebury College
- Sue and Tom C's friend, Robbie, who has recurrent breast cancer
- Lydia J's brother, Bob B., with ongoing health issues
- Willie G's mother, Ruth, after a second fall and surgery, and her family who is helping to take care of her
- Justine B in a time of illness, and Carl who is taking care of her
- Pat L in a time of illness, and Richard L who is helping to take care of her
- Joyce S's cousin, Charlene
- Joyce M who has a broken shoulder after a recent fall

TENDING THE FIRE: DEVELOP WISE, RESILIENT LEADERSHIP

No one has to tell you that this is a hard time to lead the church: congregations are worried; money is tight; leaders are stretched thin. The old ways don't work, and the best new practices aren't clear. How can you become the leader your church needs?

Tending the Fire gives clergy and lay leadership solid tools to skillfully manage the ongoing chaos of life and leadership. You'll understand how to address your church's complex dynamics, managing yourself and leading your church effectively and courageously.

Tending the Fire will be offered at the Essex Center UMC in Vermont on February 3-5, April 14-16, and May 26-28 2015.

For more information or to register, contact Barbara Lemmel (barblemmel@mac.com or 802.881.3267).

If you need financial assistance to attend, Elders and full-time Local Pastors may apply for a Ministerial Education Fund grant through the Board of Ordained Ministry; part-time Local Pastors or Local Pastors not eligible for MEF grants may contact Cathy MacGovern at Preachers' Aid Society (cmacgovern@preachersaid.org or 413-523-2276).

KIDS4PEACE CAMP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Ready to be a peacemaker? Make new friends? Change the world? Youth from Vermont are invited to participate in the Kids4Peace New England Regional Camp at Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, NH and Rock Point School in Burlington, VT. The summer program takes place August 12-23, 2015.

Applications are available for campers (6th graders) and counselors (10th-12th graders) [DETAILS>>](#)

THE DISTRICT NEEDS YOU!

The District Committee on Finance and Mission Share Relief has room for more members. This team pays attention to the financial well-being of our churches and serves as a resource for churches that may be struggling to pay mission shares and other obligations. You do not need a financial background to join this group – just a heart for helping. This committee also sponsors stewardship events in the district such as the recent visit by Ken Sloane and the upcoming workshop by Scott McKenzie. They meet about 4 times a year.

District Superintendency Committee: Members of this committee include clergy and lay people, and they support the ministry of our district superintendent by being eyes and ears on the district. They also provide input in decisions about the location of the district office and parsonage. When there is a change of district superintendent, this committee arranges for farewell and installation celebrations. There are several openings on this committee for clergy and lay people.

Equalization Members for 2015 Annual Conference: There are still several openings for lay equalization members of conference. Equalization members participate as full members of conference.

This year's annual conference will be Thursday, June 18 – Saturday, June 20 in Manchester NH at the Radisson Conference Center. [Click here](#) to learn more about Equalization Members.

Youth, as young as 12, can be equalization members. Youth and young adults have a reduced registration fee.

If you are interested in going but don't want to go alone, recruit another church member and have them contact the District Office about being an equalization member, too.

To express interest or inquire about any of the above groups, please contact Brigid or Evie in the District Office: 802-878-1245, gmdsvt@comcast.net

UMW NEWS

December found the UMW packing tins of cookies and fruit for our congregation's shut-ins. We also packed tins for Laurie and Gus, Jill and her family, the nurses and the recreation leaders at Porter Nursing Home. We wanted to thank all those who make our shut-ins lives a little happier.

Our January meeting will be on January 19th at 2pm at Mimi's house. At this meeting, we will be planning our new year's donations. We will also discuss a plan to have a UMW Sunday Service sometime in February.

Our February meeting will be Monday, February 16th at 2:00 pm at Mimi's house.

SPIRITUALITY GROUP NEWS



During December the group read and discussed a study about Advent. At our January meeting on January 6th we had a festive brunch celebrating the 12th day of Christmas.

Awesome foods and decorations were enjoyed by all at the home of Eileen Rinker.

At our next meeting on January 20th at 1:30 at Mimi's we will choose a study for Lent.

Our February meetings will be on Feb.3rd and the 17th.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE

On Wednesday night, January 14 @ 7:00 P.M the **Praise and Worship Service** will resume. The format will be the same as in the fall but is subject to modification depending on what the group who attend would like to do. We will take some time to discuss what changes could be made to make the sessions most valuable to the group. Bob Bushman from the E. Middlebury Church has agreed to lead the devotional period that night. Please reflect on how we can make this a time of spiritual enrichment. We appreciate your participation and input.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS (sharing an article from the E. Midd UMC Newsletter)



“Margaret Wesley, of Middlebury, has been a devoted volunteer at Porter Medical Center for the past 25 years, serving a grand total of 3,292 hours during that time! She has willingly worked wherever they needed her, her duties ranging from clerical to pastoral, however her favorite job has been as Activity Aide at Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehab., where she currently serves as chief Bingo Caller! Marg has also been a dedicated member of the Porter Bone Builders group and is presently the Leader of the strength training osteoporosis-prevention class. Thank you, Marg, for your positive approach, your thoughtful manner, and your inspiring dedication to helping others.”

--And we, your Middlebury UMC Family, ditto these comments and are thankful for your many dedicated years of service to our Church!!!

CHURCH SUPPERS RESUME AFTER HOLIDAY HIATUS

Our **Chicken and Biscuit Suppers** will resume on Sunday, **January 25 from 5pm-6:30pm**. The February Supper will be on Sunday Feb 22 from 5pm-6:30pm. These informal dinners give our church members a wonderful opportunity to mingle and share fellowship time with a diverse group of people, many of whom live in our immediate neighborhood. The main purpose of this activity is to open our church to members of the community who wouldn't be likely to attend a Sunday Morning service. We offer free meals to anyone who is not able to donate to the cost of food preparation. Even with the free meals we are able to generate a significant amount of revenue to support our church programs. If you haven't attended any of these suppers in the past, why not make a resolution to come to at least one church supper in the next couple of months. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

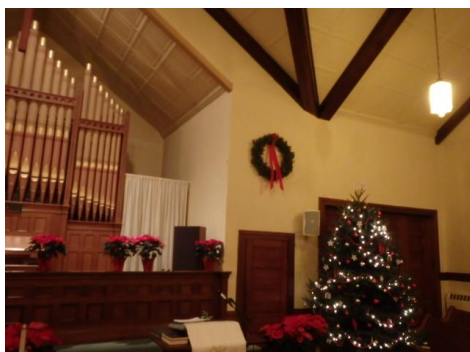
CHURCH KITCHEN RENOVATION OFF TO A GOOD START

Except for a few pieces of back splash, the first phase of our church kitchen renovation is complete. If you haven't had the opportunity to see the new Formica counters, please stop in and take a look. I think you will agree that the new counters make a big difference in the overall appearance of our kitchen. Our next step is to repair and repaint the wood cabinets to match the countertops. If you are interested in working on this phase, please speak to any members of the board of trustees. We can certainly use your help !!! We are still working on a reasonable plan to bring more hot water into the kitchen for the purpose of improving kitchen sanitation.

Eventually the board hopes to have the walls repainted and the flooring replaced. Volunteers are welcomed to help with all phases of this renovation project.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 19	2 pm	MUMW @ Mimi's House
January 14,21,28	7 pm	Praise & Worship Service @ Church
January 20	1:30 pm	Spirituality Group @ Mimi's House
January 25	Noon	All Church Meeting in the Fellowship Room
January 25	5-6:30 pm	Chicken & Biscuit Supper @ Church
February 3	1:30 pm	Spirituality Group @ Mimi's House 1:30pm
February 14	8 am	UMM Breakfast @ Church
February 16	2 pm	UMW @ Mimi's House
February 17	1:30 pm	Spirituality Group @ Mimi's House
February 18		ASH WEDNESDAY
February 22	5-6:30 pm	Chicken & Biscuit Supper @ Church



MIRACLE ON PLEASANT STREET

It was two weeks nigh Christmas
And all through the church
Not a pine bough was placed
Nor a skit line rehearsed.

The Christmas Tree lay
On its side on the floor,
And the overhead light
Was burned out by the door.

Three jolly old elves,
Volunteers said to be,
Set the trunk in the bucket
And lined up the fir tree.

A little bit left,
No a little bit right.
At last it was perfect
And it made a fine sight.

They then set to wiring
To hold it in place.
Quite soon it was anchored
And wired and braced.

But what of that light
Near the door by the tree.
Perhaps we can fix it
They shouted with glee.

They ran for the ladder,
Sixteen feet I am told;
Just tall enough
To get a fair hold.

The light globe was hanging
Just beyond Donald's eye,
As he climbed up the ladder
And reached for the sky.

The ladder then twisted
And rocked on the floor.
Eileen tried to stop it,
But it only rocked more.

Tom then ascended
The ladder's back side
To reach for the globe
Since the stays had been pried.

Eileen began screaming,
But by now twas too late.
The globe was descending,
And the elves met their fate.

As the vessel came down,
It smashed the dead light,
And a shower of glass
Floated down - what a sight!

The globe was deflected,
On its course to the ground,
Off the ladder, elf shoulder,
And the pew it had found.

When it hit the hard floor,
It rolled on its side.
The elves all agreed
It had had a rough ride.

But wonder of wonder
Not a scratch could be found.
A miracle, yes,
Let the heavens resound.

Now all is restored
And back in its place,
And Christmas is here,
Full of love, peace, and grace.

Can a lesson be learned
From this jarring event?
Should three Methodists appear
Near your church in Advent,

Just shoo them away,
Though they mean good intent,
For the Lord only knows
That they weren't heaven sent.

By Tom Colley

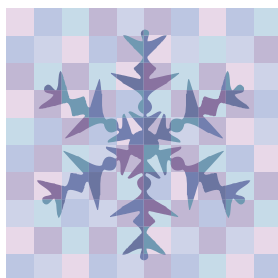
Editor's note: Thank you elves – we appreciate all you do and we are glad you are OK!

If you would prefer to get this newsletter by email 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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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2015**



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The newsletter of the
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