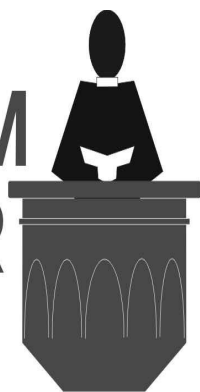


# Sandpiper

## September Worship Schedule

**No Sunday School  
Worship at 9:30am**

## WORD FROM THE PASTOR



### A New Thing

Some people love fall. It's the season for the leaves changing, pumpkin spice coming back to Starbucks, and football season begins (or for baseball fans like myself, it's time for the playoffs!). Others, aren't big fans of fall. The days of being outdoors in beautiful weather are coming to an end. For kids, it's back to school time, which they generally don't look forward (and I've heard unsubstantiated rumors that the same is true for teachers). Others don't like it because it's a step closer to the freezing cold of winter. For me, I've always felt mixed emotions about fall.

The mixed emotions about fall can be transferred into our feeling about life in general. Have you heard the analogy of life as a roller coaster? You have your emotional ups and downs, and it is all a part of life. But Rick Warren has compared life to being closer to a set of train tracks. On one rail is the good in life, and on the other rail is the bad, at the same time. If you sat down to think about where things are for you, you could probably name some good things and some bad things, going on at the same time.

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Remember not the former

things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." These words were as an encouragement for God's People in preparation for them to be taken away in exile to Babylon. When God's discipline came upon his people, he was preparing them to live among a foreign people and to anticipate their eventual return to the Promised Land with the support of the Persian King, Cyrus. Similar to fall, good and bad were in store for God's People. They would be conquered and taken to a foreign land. But behold, God was to do a new thing. A good thing. Something that would show God's hand in the life of God's People, even through an empire that did not honor or worship God.

Just as God was about to do a new thing then, he desires to do a new thing now in the life of our church and in our individual lives. He ends the verse saying, "I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." In these challenging times, we know that our God is above all the created powers in this world. Therefore, let us look to what God desires to do in us and around us.

---

## Session Minutes

Pastor Marc reported leading worship/preached 4 times, and led Thursday night prayer time. He made flock list contacts with non-members and attended 3 lunches and 1 home visit. He has finished "Exploring the Missional Church" course and is almost finished with the "Problems of Pain" course.

Christian Education Committee has a phone meeting where it was decided that there would be no Sunday School classes in the fall for the first quarter. The nominating Committee has asked Barb McCain to go back on Session for another 3 years and she has accepted.

The Search Committee had an interview with a perspective pastor. EPC General Assembly is September 17-18 and will be all virtual. George Bush & Vicki Smith were the commissioners for the Presbytery meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

# Sands Through the Hourglass...

The sands in the September hourglass might be moving for you either smoothly or jarringly because of the many continuing changes in your lives. So, if you seem to be at the end of your rope, ask God for a knot.

It is so beneficial for those of us who have made the choice to be worshipping in person with others in the Middle Sandy sanctuary. Health safety is important for those of you who choose to worship via Facebook. Prayerfully all will soon be able to "gather together and ask the Lord's blessings". Tough times don't last; tough folks do!

I praise God for eyes to see the many most gorgeous sky/blue/pink sunsets during the last weeks. Only Painter God's brush could create such beauty! I'm blessed that the fields across from me are full of short soybeans and not tall corn stalks!

The Alliance Review's "Past in Review" column from 75 years ago, August 11, 1945, reported that "Rev. Thomas G. Holmes from Newport, Kentucky will become the minister for both the Homeworth and North Benton Presbyterian Churches. Rev. Harold Merchant who served the Homeworth congregation from 1942-1945 has moved to Mars, Pennsylvania".

Congratulations to Alec Schopfer who aced his first hole-in-one at Westville Lake's 130 yard No. 6 hole in early August in the Wednesday Night's Men's League. Yes, his feat was witnessed by three golf buddies.

Jim and Linda Wallace have left Homeworth--- 😞, but they relocated only a couple miles north at 2255 Homeworth Road, Alliance--- 😊. Their phone number remains the same. Down-sizing from a larger lovely larger home to a lovely modular home was a several months' chore, but they are settled in and enjoying a more relaxing life style.

The often foggy mornings at the end of the summer are here...a reminder of the Canfield Fair days. Many of us remember those many trips to our popular food stand for fair attendees. The money

raised helped to fund the new (present day) church building which was estimated to cost \$175,000-\$200,000. The 2.36 acres of land upon which the church is located was deeded to the MS congregation on January 15, 1962 by Ralph and Frances Grimes for \$10.00....quite a bargain !

Hear ye! Hear Ye! 🗳️ Women of Middle Sandy -- Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to vote that was granted to you 100 years ago on August 18, 1920. It was then that the 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote. It was a long hard struggle, and we are privileged now to vote because of dedicated women who worked long and hard to be successful in their venture.

The Mason girls have had a busy summer preparing for school events. Both Mary and Elizabeth are on the Marlinton tennis team. Elizabeth also plays a drum 🥁 in the marching band.

Grandma Carole Mathey reports that her grandson Jason Snyder has come to Ohio from New York to get his dog, who is now permitted to be with him. Jason is on his way to Fort Bliss in El Paso for a year's duty with the 1st Armour Division at the Texas base.

As I watched Through the Decades a few evenings ago. I was reminded of one of the biggest challenges in my teaching career--teaching the metric system. Some of you might remember that back in the mid 1970's the United States was urged to change and use the metric system of measurements, like most of the world used. After a couple years and countless hours of my preparing many ways to instruct the 5th graders about the new system, the push to accept metrics was dropped, except for pop bottles and a few other items-- 😞 -- Today the US is only one of the three nations worldwide that does not use the metric system!

The new unusual school year is upon us. We ask God's blessings upon those who must make important decisions for the opening of all schools. Not only must students and teachers rely upon God's wisdom and guidance, but also parents and all school employees,

By the way, if you think all of your problems are behind you, chances are that you are driving a school bus--🚌--

## *Announcements*

### **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are still needed for our new audio/visual systems. Not tech savvy? No problem! Please contact Pastor Marc if you are interested.

---

There was a non-church member at the church on August 10th who later tested positive for COVID. In light of this, the person was asked to stay away from the church for the time being. Numerous sources have said that chances of catching COVID from touching surfaces is low, and the longest it can remain on surfaces is 72 hours. Therefore, the passage of time from Monday, August 10th, to worship on Sunday, August 16th ensures that no particles remained. However, for the safety of our worshippers, the Session has had the church thoroughly cleaned and sanitized in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Health, twice. Marc has tested negative for COVID. Carolyn is self-isolating and currently displays no symptoms. Nonetheless, this situation reflects the importance of the numerous steps taken to ensure your safety while at the church.

---



*We encourage you to send a card or letter to one or two each month. Addresses are available in the church directory or in the church office.*

### **Continuing health needs:**

Tim Hume (blood disease treatments)  
Carter Schopfer (Joe & Susie's grandson)  
Elaine Wagner (cancer)

### **Military Service:**

Brian Burbick (Navy - NY)

Eric W. Hampe (Iraq)  
Ryan P. Lee (National Guard)  
Jason Snyder (Ft. Drum, NY) (Carole Mathey's grandson)  
Jon Pagnucco (Jane Stryffeler's grandson) - Navy (Alexandria, VA)  
John Hampe (Marines)

### ***Our Missionaries - for Holy Spirit protection and great perseverance in their work.***

Jeff & Natasha Bain (*EPC missionaries in Asia*)  
Abe & Diane Bible (*Missionaries to the Ukraine*)  
Lisa Smith (*at home*)  
Paul & Reinhild Sydnor (*ministry to refugees in Lille, France and Malta*)

---



### **Birthdays**

#### **Name - Date**

Samantha Snyder - 3  
Cathy Cibella - 9  
Eric Hampe (Jr.) - 14  
Diane Sanor - 17  
Logan Miller - 23  
Kalob Wilson - 23  
Pam Miller - 25  
Dennis Rice - 25  
Scott Mason - 30

### **Anniversaries**

#### **Couple - Date**

A.J. & Jenny Tharp - 15  
Ron & Elaine Wagner - 27  
Larry & Pam Miller - 27

# Steps for Reopening

1. Communion will be done with individual packets of bread and juice. And yes, I also didn't know that you could buy these before COVID-19. The packets come with a cup of grape juice wrapped in plastic with a communion wafer on top, also wrapped in plastic. They will be set on the table in the narthex to be picked up when entering the sanctuary. This will prevent spreading COVID (or other germs for that matter!) in the passing of the communion plates. If you have questions, Session members have already used these individual packets for communion at a recent Session meeting.
2. The offering will be taken through plates set out in the back. You can still drop your offering through the week or mail it in. Similar to communion, this will prevent transmission through passing the offering plates.
3. We ask all to wear masks for worship. If you do not have one, masks will be available in the narthex.
4. The microphone will not be passed during the prayer time. I will summarize each praise and request when it is offered for those who unable hear without amplification.
5. Bulletins will be on the back table along with copies of the Sandpiper and Our Daily Bread.
6. During summer months, Middle Sandy has traditionally switched to a 9:30 worship time with no Sunday school or choir. When we return, this will be the time and set up for this summer as well.
7. Please sit every other pew to ensure proper social distancing. Every other pew will be roped off to assist with this.
8. Additional sanitizing has been ongoing since the shutdown, and this will be done in the sanctuary, restrooms, and other areas on

- a weekly basis when we return for worship.
9. Following the service, rows will be dismissed back to front. Please wait after the service to be dismissed according. If you desire to fellowship, please do so outside.
10. The service will continue to be abbreviated. As social distancing and other steps are lifted as the pandemic slows down, we will switch to our usual worship format.
11. Finally, we hope to continue live streaming worship and are currently looking into options, since the current streaming setup is not conducive for in-person worship.

---

## How to Find Us On YouTube

Feeling sick on Sunday? Out of town on vacation? Worried about COVID? You can watch Middle Sandy EPC's live stream on YouTube in addition to Facebook! Here's here. One way is to type in [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr3i\\_NM1RNyOSphMbo3wECg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr3i_NM1RNyOSphMbo3wECg?view_as=subscriber) or go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Middle Sandy EPC. Please note, you will not find it if you type in variations such as Middle Sandy Church, Middle Sandy Presbyterian, etc. The live stream is also continuing to be shown on the Middle Sandy EPC Facebook page.

---

### **Article Deadline Note:**

*Please turn in any articles or announcements for the Sandpiper to Carolyn Slingerland by the **22<sup>nd</sup> of each month. You can e-mail them to [middlesandy@frontier.com](mailto:middlesandy@frontier.com).***

***In Nursing Homes or Home-bound:***

# *Church & the Coronavirus*

I recently saw a meme aimed at pastors that said, “And just like that, we all became televangelists.” Well, we can be thankful that we have options for worship and other church functions that we didn’t have in the past. To that end, churches across the country are wholly moving their worship and small groups online. Here are a few ways that we are looking at ministering during this pandemic.

**1. Facebook Live Worship** – Please “Like” Middle Sandy EPC on Facebook so that you can follow the various posts, Live videos, and worship we will be doing. The goal is to not only stream Sunday mornings on here, but also include updates and other information about the church and community. Sunday mornings may simply include announcements, prayer, and a message. Details are still getting worked out, and we hope to improve upon this week by week.

**2. Weekly Prayer Time** – While the nation is battling the Coronavirus, we’d like to have a weekly Facebook Live prayer time on Facebook Live where we offer up prayers for our nation, our community, and our church.

**3. The Sandpiper** – Will be mailed for now in order to minister to our flock while we are apart.

**4. Giving** – Thank you to those who have generously mailed in or dropped off your tithes and offerings! In order to encourage your faithfulness in giving and to support

the mission, two self-addressed, stamped envelopes have been included here. We pray that this helps you to give thanks to God and to trust in him through your continued giving. As Corinthians 9:7 says, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

**5. Flock Lists** – For several years now, the Session has divided the congregation up into “flocks” to follow-up with and to pray for. These lists have become even more vital as the Coronavirus continues to spread. If you haven’t already, you will be hearing from one of your elders in the coming days. Please thank them for their ministry in challenging times.

**6. Celebration!** – The Session and I have been discussing how we can celebrate the end of the Coronavirus at our first Sunday back. If you have ideas for how we can do this, please email or call us. We want it to be a Sunday morning to remember, and an opportunity to invite people from the community to celebrate with us!

**7. Projects & Other Opportunities at Church** – Your staff and elders are hard at work throughout this crisis. We are using this as an opportunity to get additional cleaning and other projects done, as is possible with only a small handful of people (1-4) at the church at a time.

**When This is Over,**  
may we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

**When this ends,**  
may we find that we have become  
more like the people we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way—better  
for each other  
because of the worst.  
*By Laura Kelly Fanucci*

# *Announcements*



**Sunday School 9:00am**  
**Worship 10:30am**

---



on March 21<sup>st</sup>  
from 4:00-7:00pm  
at Middle Sandy EPC

## *Reminder:*

# Notes

## **Brothers In Christ**

(Men's Ministry Group)

Men of Middle Sandy

Come for a night of fellowship

**Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.**

We will be showing a movie and snacks will be provided. After the movie we'll have a time to get to know each other better. Come and experience a new adventure and learn how important men really are.

---

## *DUMC Breakfast*

Don't forget the breakfasts at Damascus United Methodist Church on the third Saturdays of each month. Breakfast is served from 7:00-10:30am.

## *Spaghetti Dinner*

The Homeworth Community Group is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner

**in our**



**prayers**

Child Care available during the Worship Service for ages infant through 5 years

