

Sandpiper

April Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:30am

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



Word From the Pastor

Renewed Vision For Middle Sandy

To build relationships with un-churched people by serving and loving them with the hope that some might be saved

Serving as your Transitional Pastor has been a great joy! It was an encouragement for me to meet with many of you when I first arrived to listen and learn about your perspectives of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the church. The past couple of months have been a time of moving into the work of seeking a renewed vision for Middle Sandy. Where does King Jesus want this church to go and build relationships with people by serving and loving them with the hope that some might be saved? How is this church best gifted by her Lord to seek out, love, and serve

people in our community? What can we do in our community as God's people that meet real needs and genuinely express God's love and care for our neighbors?

I have formed a Vision Team that consists of three members from Middle Sandy: Pam Miller, Sharon Davies, and Lynne Kidd. We have begun to meet, pray, and have lots of discussion about a renewed vision for Middle Sandy. I am calling upon this church body to commit to regularly pray for our Vision Team as we seek to discern the Lord's vision for this church. When we are in agreement to what that might be, we will submit this to the session of the church. They will then prayerfully discern if it is indeed the Lord's will.

A quick word about vision from the Proverbs:
18 Where there is no prophetic vision the people are discouraged, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Proverbs 29:18

The vision I am talking about is closely tied to the Great Commission. Jesus commands the church to go and make disciples. We are trusting for the Lord to give us a vision of one specific opportunity in the community, one felt need, or one particular group of people. We greatly desire to know where God wants us to go.

The proverb says that without this type of vision the people are discouraged. I don't know about you but I want to be in a church community that is encouraged! This vision needs to be from the Lord and it needs to be specifically clear. It needs to be so compelling that everything that we do must be tied to it. We must see our part to play in it. When we identify it and begin to take the steps necessary to accomplish it, encouragement will be the unavoidable outcome! May the Lord give us a renewed vision for Middle

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- **Article Deadline Note:**
Please turn in any articles or announcements for the Sandpiper to Carolyn Slingerland by the **22nd of each month**. You can e-mail them to middlesandy@frontier.com.

Sands Through the Hourglass...

The sands in the April hour glass are dampened by the showers that bring the beauty of Easter flowers to us in April and May. Praise God for eyes to see !

John Williamson extends his sincere gratitude to members of the congregation for their prayers during his surgery and healing.

During Carole Mathey's preparing to move to 2271 Judy Rae Ave. at the eastern edge of Alliance, (and now has moved), she came across some information she thought MS members would like to know. First was that the pipe organ was dedicated "To the Glory of God" on March 12, 1995. She found the following dates and names of the ministers who have served at MS since 1945:

'45-51, Thomas Holmes;
'51-58, Donald McGarrah;
'59-64, Robert Swanson;
'64-65, R.H. Sales (interim);
'65-68, Robert Palisin;
'68-71, William Woodall (interim);
'71-May-Aug., John Jones;
'73-78, Cletus Baker;
'80-86, Steven Mock;
'86-87, Lynn Shetzer (interim);
'87-89 Richard George;
'90-93 Robert Neill;
'94-95 Jack Dawson (interim);
'95-2014, Thomas Sawyer;
'14-'18 Tracy Edwards;
'18-19 Eric Phillips (transitional).

Some have inquired why there was a ribbon on the cross on the communion table during Advent and Christmas. What better gift have we, who have given our lives to Jesus received, than His gift for our

salvation to us: His life on the "Cross of Christ I Glory"?

EASTER---

"He lives ! He lives ! Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives! He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."



Holy Week Services

There will be no Maundy Thursday Service at Middle Sandy this year.

West Branch Ministerial Association's Good Friday Service will be at Damascus United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunrise Service at Reading Church 7:00am with breakfast following the service.

Easter Worship at Middle Sandy
Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:30am



In Our Prayers

Birthdays

Name - Date

Mary Mason – 2
Dave Socotch – 3
David McCain – 6
Sharon Davies – 20
Jaime Socotch – 22
Michelle Slingerland – 22
Michael Emmons – 23
Elaine Wagner – 27
Sheryl Mason – 29
Eleanor Carver – 30

Anniversaries

Couple – Date

Dave & Debbie Socotch – 6
Jim & Joyce Cameron – 22
Jeff & Cori Sands – 29

And when you
see clouds
upon the hills,
you soon will
see crowds of

Daffodils!



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:

Dorothy Smythe (Brookdale - Salem)
Tim Hume (blood disease treatments)
Diane Sanor - (foot surgery)

Military Service:

Brian Burbick (Navy - NY)
Chad & Christina Gimmi (4823 Unit D Thomas Paine Circle, Scott AFB, IL. 62225)
Eric W. Hampe (Ohio Army National Guard, Stow, OH)
Jason Snyder (Ft. Drum, NY) (Carole & Don 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 B. (*EPC missionaries in Asia*)
Abe & Diane Bible (*Missionaries to the Ukraine*)
Lisa Smith (Indianapolis)
Paul & Reinhild Sydnor (*ministry to refugees in Lille, France and Malta*)

In Nursing Homes or Home-bound:

Pauline Martin (*Crandall Medical Center*)
Dorothy Smythe (*Brookdale, Salem*)
Dorothy McKinley

SESSION



Notes

The Berry Festival will be June 7 from 4:30-7:00pm. Discussed ideas for what the committee could do such as a weekly craft day at the pavilion for children, a three day music camp, CPR class and/or self defense class. Sharon Davies will have a children's church lesson on Easter Sunday and would like a helper.

Monthly water testing is still being done till further notice from the EPA. A five door policy will be written and communicated.

Holy week services were discussed. The Worship Committee is looking to help with the Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter theme is "Jesus Is Alive".

Dave Socotch gave his report on the cost of replacing the sign out front with an LED church sign. The costs varied from \$14,881-\$22,847.

Dave has met with someone on replacing the locks on the church.

The Transitional Pastor's terms of call were reviewed and discussed. Several changes were made and will be retyped for Pastor Eric to sign.

There was no update from the Pastor Search Committee.

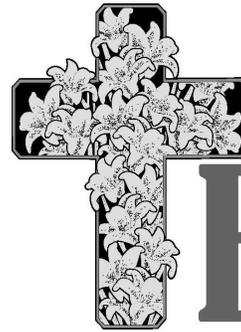
FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR



Singspiration

April 28th

at Reading Church



Easter

It's not about the bunny
It's about the Lamb

Hallelujah

CHRIST
IS RISEN!

