

Sandpiper

December Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:30am

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

From the Pastor

Where does God want us to go?
Who does God want us to unconditionally love?

As your Transitional Pastor I have been laboring to understand better, "Where are we at as a church?" I have done this by listening and asking a lot of questions. What are our strengths? Our Weaknesses? Our Opportunities? Our Obstacles or Threats? I want to commend the many of you that provided your perspectives and answers to these questions. Thank you for trusting me enough to share those in confidence with our session. Pray for our session as they begin to hear and process these things over the next months.

During the month of December I will be asking some of you to be on a Vision Team. The Vision Team will spend time together praying and seeking to hear from God where He wants us to go and who He will want us to unconditionally love in our community as His church. We will spend time together, learn together, grow together, and listen together until we believe that we have rightly heard from God and have discerned

His will for this church. At that time we will present this new vision to the session for their prayerful consideration. When all are in agreement and unified with a new vision, we will present this to the congregation.

More than ever this is a time to pray! Pray for our elders. Pray for the vision team that will be formed. Pray for them individually and for their families. Pray for patience. Pray for faith. Pray for discernment. Pray for wisdom. Pray for direction. Pray for unity. Pray. Pray. Pray!

I hope you are excited to see great things over this next year! It is such an exciting time in the life of this church community. Continue to pray for yourself and your church to know God more, know God's heart (for the lost) more, and to know God's love more!

With Love,
Pastor Eric

• **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 tumbling through the December hourglass express

"Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

The members of the congregation extend our sympathy to Rob, Lynne and Dillon Kidd with the recent passing of Rob's father, Robert "Bob" Kidd.

Joy will fill the lives of 114 boys and girls somewhere around the globe because of the generosity of members of Middle Sandy. Joy was expressed by the workers at the Beloit Friends Church when Diane and Roger Sanor delivered the "most outstanding, well filled" Christmas boxes for transport to their next destination. Many thanks goes to Diane and her hubby for the year-long efforts with the project. Pat Tuel has volunteered to assist her, along with Linda Stout. None of the boxes could have been filled, however, without the generous donations of many in the MS congregation. Joy!

Grandparents like to share the joy that their grandchildren bring to them. Grandma Elaine Wagner related that Brynn Guist, who is a sophomore at Muskingum, received the following honors for her volleyball playing skills: Honorable Mention for her team efforts, 1st place for total blocks, 4th place for kills, and 4th place for block percentage per set. The team

came in second in the OAC. Congratulations, Brynn.

The joy that Rich Rinehart shared was about his three granddaughters, Zoey, Emili and Sydney, who, we at MS, still miss. Using buckeyes from the tree in their front yard, the girls, using yarn, made many necklaces to help supporters cheer on the OSU Buckeyes. The girls, along with their grandpa, took them to the sale at Rogers, where they sold them for around \$150.00! Grandpa was most proud because the girls donated all of the money to St. Judes Hospital to help give joy to children there. What an act of giving and sharing that was, girls!

We will greet our many college students as they worship with us during their Christmas breaks. My joy comes from the privilege of teaching all of them in the junior Sunday School class--great bunch of kids--Brynn Guist, Thomas and Sarah Mason, Aaron Tharp, Shayna Sands, Karli Schopfer, Joey Smythe and Shannon Wolfe. Some of them attend services often because of their being in the area: Dillon Kidd, Lindsey and Sydney Rice and Alec Schopfer.

If you need a grin, the following was given to me for just such a purpose....A feisty 70 year old woman had to call a furnace repairman. After a quick inspection the man put some oil into the motor and handed her a bill for \$70. for the labor. "Labor charges!" she exclaimed. "It only took you five minutes." The repairman explained that his company had a minimum one-hour charge on every house call. "Well, I want my remaining 55 minutes of labor," the lady responded, and she handed him a rake. The repairman spent the next 55 minutes (not so joyfully!) in her yard raking and bagging her leaves.

A joyful challenge for us today is to hear the Christmas story as if we were hearing it for the first time.



DECEMBER

Name - Date

- Aaron John Tharp, Jr. - 3
- Susan Hume - 6
- Thomas Mason - 7
- Jim Wallace - 10
- Lynne Kidd - 11
- Don Bandy - 13
- Wendy Weese - 18
- Jason Snyder - 19
- Joey Bush - 23
- Joe Freshley - 25
- Chelsea Tharp - 26
- Steven Legros - 27

Anniversaries

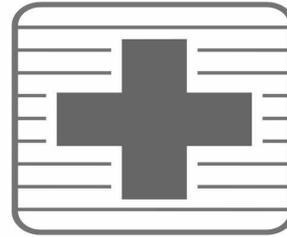
Couple - Date

None



A special thank you to Dennis Rice & Bill Smythe for removing the leaves from the church yard and parking lot. Great job guys! Thank you!

in our



prayers

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)
- Dorothy McKinley (broken foot)
- Diane Sanor - (foot blood clot)

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



ADVENT GREETING!

Our annual Trim-A-Tree dinner and program will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 6:00pm with a casserole supper and entertainment provided by “The Town Sound”, a barbershop chorus who have been together for 25-30 years and our own Jim Hanna sings in this group. Then we will sing carols as we decorate the tree.

Christmas Eve



We will be having and EARLIER Christmas Eve service this year, at 9:00pm. Christmas Eve's cantata will be “Forever God is With Us” with narrations by Pastor Eric. We will once again have candlelighting during Silent Night.

Thankoffering Sunday

If you missed the church service on November 11, you missed a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our veterans, learn some history of Veteran's Day and hear Eleanor Carver tell about her memories of life in Homeworth during World War II. She recounted about needing stamps to get sugar, gas and other items that were in short supply during the war. Chocolate was not available and if you could get candy like a Payday bar that we know of today, that was a real treat. There was a sign at the square that had the names of those from Homeworth who were serving in the war in any capacity. Using pictures to help tell her story that were projected onto a large screen helped us all understand this time of life in our little town.

A big thank you to all who donated to the Military Family Center in Louisville that is operated by Pegasus Farms and supports veterans, active duty military, first responders and their families. We collected \$567 for this worthy cause. Our people in this church are so generous and the Presbyterian Women thank you.

After the service, a soup lunch was held with chicken noodle, stuffed pepper and broccoli cheese soups along with hot chicken sandwiches and a delicious assortment of cookies for dessert. About fifteen of our friends from Reading Church joined us for lunch. It will be their turn to have soup lunch on December 9. Only a few went in October, so let's make an effort to at least match their 15 to go to Reading on December 9 after the worship service.