

# Sandpiper

## February 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

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Transitional Pastor these past five months. Transitional ministry has three objectives. The first is to help the leadership understand where the church is at as a result of its recent transition in pastoral leadership. Is the church healthy? Is it accomplishing its mission? Is it inclining or declining? Are there changes that need to be made? What do the leaders really think? What does the congregation really think? Is there sin that needs to be addressed? In what ways do people need to heal or forgive? A SWOT analysis is what I have done to gather the necessary information to help get at these questions. I began working August 19, 2018, and started interviewing the elders and multiple people on the ministry committees of the church for almost four months. I also gave everyone in the congregation an opportunity to share by completing a survey that was placed in the bulletin last November and placed back in my church mailbox. I asked in confidence everyone's thoughts on the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) of Middle Sandy EPC. An excellent percentage of people have given their input and the elders have been given the SWOT Analysis Report that I prepared during the month of January 2019.

My next step is to help the elders process the SWOT Analysis findings and to form a Vision Team from members of the congregation. The Vision Team will spend time together praying, understanding the SWOT analysis, gathering information about our community, and seeking to discern God's will for how Middle Sandy EPC can reach, serve, and love the men, women, boys, and girls of our surrounding community. Our goal is to form a vision statement that is from the Lord that will help the leadership focus all the ministries of the church to work together to carry out reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Once the Vision Team is formed we will announce the members to the congregation so that you can commit to pray for them as they do this important work for the church. The team will submit this vision to the elders for their consideration and approval in the upcoming months.

The final step of the Transitional Pastor is to help the church form a Pastoral Search Committee and work with the committee to help it do the work of pursuing a new Senior Pastor that can lead the elders and church into its next season of ministry. The earliest that the session will form this committee is late February 2019.

This is going to be an exciting year for Middle Sandy EPC! Thank you for your constant encouragement and support. You make serving you a great joy and delight!

With Love,  
Pastor Eric

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- **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).

# Sands Through the Hourglass...

The sands toppling from the hour glass this February are reaching out in deep Christians love.

Middle Sandy friends are reaching out in sympathy to Bob Wagner and Doris' family in sincere, caring sympathy.

Doris was a faithful, giving and dedicated member of our congregation for years. We have missed her presence for quite some time because of her health issues. The many who attended her memorial service observed evidence of love toward her and her family.

Two of our college students reached out in service to folks south of the border during their Christmas break. Shayna Sands traveled to Ecuador with the Med Life Group. During her trip she traveled by bus for five hours up to a mountain village clinic. She assisted doctors with patients, a dentist with a tooth extraction, and worked with pharmacists. She was able to teach the locals some basic health care, including instruction children how to brush their teeth. She has caught the travel bug and desires to do more traveling, but presently, she will continue her studies at Bowling Green to become a Physicians Assistant. Thomas Mason, a first year medical student at Ohio State reached out to people in Honduras. He, along with a small group of medical and pharmaceutical students from OSU traveled to different clinics in Honduras. They were not much more than school houses. They gave basic check-ups and medicines, which were samples donated to them for their trip. One day Thomas was with pediatrics, so he saw only children as his patients. The OSU outreach goes twice a year for one week, where they observe people living in circumstances that were almost unbelievable. Thomas' future as a physician will probably be in internal medicine or primary

care. We at MS can reach out to both Shayna and Thomas with our prayers.

The Mission Trippers will again reach out to folks in Camden, New York for the third time. All during the year they are busily working to raise funds to support their cause and pay their expenses. Of course, we are aware that Pastor Eric reaches out to us as he travels from near Pittsburgh to guide us as our transitional pastor. Perhaps volunteers will reach out locally as the Shine project continues this summer. For the past few months we and the Reading Brethren congregation have reached out in hospitality as we host each other for soup lunches. (They will be the hosts on February 10<sup>th</sup>.) Prayerfully, during Vacation Bible School many Homeworth and Knox Township area children will be reached with the good news of Jesus and his saving grace, and they will become part of God's family.

Brian Slingerland has reached out to Middle Sandy with his creation gift: a large designed wooden cross. To view the cross, leave the front of the sanctuary by the right hand door and look to your right, or as you descend the steps, look upward: "In the cross of Christ I glory..." Thanks Brian!

Again, prayerfully as we reach a time when a pastoral search committee is selected, our church family will know we are forged by the fires of God's love. We will vow to have a deep commitment to support the decisions made on our behalf, as we practice the biblical truths and values we have faithfully learned through the years.

Charles Keeting wrote, "People are very open minded about new things---as long as they are exactly like the old ones"---Oooops, is he talking about me?





## **Birthdays**

### **Name - Date**

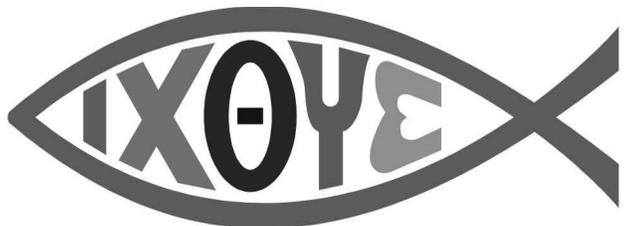
Don Riddle – 3  
Chad Gimmi – 4  
Bonnie Riddle – 12  
Sarah Mason – 13  
James Syme – 18  
Tim Hume - 18  
Cam Weese - 19  
Terry Slingerland – 27  
Jeff Sands – 27  
Brian Rudolph – 27

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## **Anniversaries**

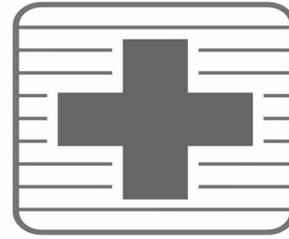
### **Couple - Date**

John & Sheila Williamson - 14



**CHRIST IS LORD!**

**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