

Sandpiper

September Worship Schedule

Sunday School begins September 12
Worship at 10:30am beginning
September 12



Does Faith Work?

Afghanistan, Haiti, Wildfires, the Delta variant, and....who knows what else will hit the headlines between you reading this and me typing it. Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the headlines? Do you ever wonder if there will ever be a break from the pain, turmoil, and violence? Some have even predicted that we are in the end times (which, we sort of are, when you consider that Jesus tells us in Revelation 22:12, "Behold, I am coming soon." 2,000 years later we "soon" means for God's timetable.) One of the common passages to reflect on in these times is Psalm 91. It starts with, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." God is our refuge and fortress in trying times...isn't he? Do you ever feel like no amount of Bible reading or prayer will release the sense that the storm is overwhelming? Do you ever feel like the storm lingers, despite God's promises or the presence of the Holy Spirit? To put it simply, does faith *actually* work?

Craig Groeschel says, "Peace is not found in the absence of a storm, peace is found in the

presence of God." We might be tempted to judge the effectiveness of faith by its ability to remove the storm. We want faith to transition out of the storm and into a place of comfort. But is that biblical? Look at Job. Job remained faithful to God as he lost his sons and daughters, his wealth, and his health. Nonetheless, he remained faithful to God. Look at Paul. He says in 1 Corinthians, "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches." Then look at two millennia of Christian martyrs. Did their faith fail because they went to their death for their faith? What about current persecuted Christians? We can think of North Korea, China, and now, Afghanistan. Is their faith failing because God does not remove the storm from their life? Of course not. So what is the answer?

The answer is that God never calls us to an easy and comfortable life. Instead, God gives us his promises. He gives us his Spirit. He helps through the storm, but he may not remove the storm. "Peace is not found in the absence of a storm, peace is found in the presence of God." So instead of thinking about getting out of the storm, what if we instead started to ask ourselves, what is God doing within the storm, through the storm? What if we looked at how God continues to mold us and to use us for his glory? After all, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" Let us trust him to carry us through the storm and form us in the likeness of Christ.

Sands Through the Hourglass...

The sands flowing through the September
hour 🕒 glass chirp out:
Asters deep purple. A grasshopper's call.
Today it is summer. Tomorrow it is fall.

It is hard to understand why some one is taken from us in death, but we can find comfort in knowing that each one was a special part of our lives. That is true for us at Middle Sandy with the passing of Terry Slingerland. Often working behind the scenes, things got done: the Nativity scene appeared each December, the lawn mower fixed, church attendance recorded each Sunday. We thank God for Terry's gift of service. Sympathy offered to his family: Carolyn, Brian, Michelle, Issac and Linda for their loss.

Thinking of the Slingerlands, I recall that Terry and Carolyn lived in the MS manse, (the name given by Presbyterians of the home for the pastor), when they were first married in 1969. Rev. Robert Palisin had accepted a pastorate in East Liverpool. The home was empty, because the interim pastor, Rev William Woodall, had his home in Leetonia. In 1971, Rev. John Jones became the MS pastor, but the manse, located across from the former church building and which is now occupied by the historical society, was not suitable for him and his family. So a nearly completed home on Homeworth Road was purchased for them, but he left MS quickly after serving only three months!

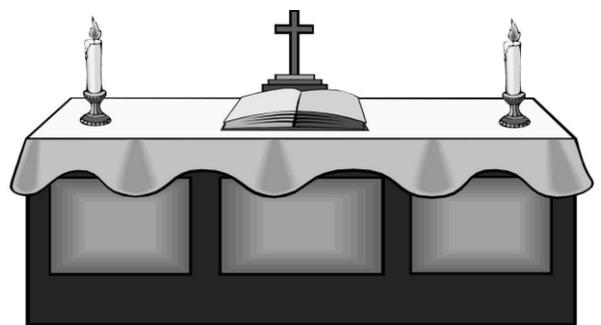
The Homeworth Road manse was occupied by pastors until it was sold and a manse for Pastor Tom Sawyer was bought on Cherry Street in Homeworth. After the Sawyers retired and Tracy Edwards became the pastor, the Cherry Street manse was sold. The Edwards chose to buy a house and receive a housing allowance. So it remains, MS owns no manse as it has for many, many years. Now if any errors are found in the above two paragraphs, let me know so corrections can be made.

Congratulations to Andrew and Sydney Rice Shutler II 💕 who were married at MS on Saturday, August 21. Congratulations, best wishes and God's blessings to the newlyweds.

Robb Kidd and his Plymouth Prowler certainly made some kids happy who visited the Carnation Days car show. As kids viewed his Prowler, they received a toy car 🚗 from Rob, and he received 😊😊 from them. Happy times abound!

The freezer in the MS kitchen has a few words for Dave Socotch, "Thank you. thank you, for making me comfortable again after defrosting me. The weight of all of that ice inside me made me miserable! Now I feel sooo good, and can serve you much better-- 😊."

A grudge--😡--is too heavy a load to carry, so get rid of it !!--😊



Come Worship With Us



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 cancer treatments)
Diane Sanor (auto immune disorder)
Carter Schopfer (Joe & Susie's grandson)
Jane Stryffeler (health issues)
Elaine Wagner (cancer)

Military Service:

Brian Burbick (Yokosuka, Japan)
Garrett Floyd (A specialist in the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg in NC, Sarah Mason's fiance)
Eric W. Hampe (Home in Louisville)
John Hampe (Okinawa Japan)
Ryan P. Lee (National Guard)
Jason Snyder (Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX.) (Carole Mathey's grandson)
Jon Pagnucco (Jane Stryffeler's grandson) – Navy (Alexandria, VA)

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*)



SEPTEMBER

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

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.

SESSION



Notes

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions.

Pastor Marc let worship/preached 4 times, led Thursday night prayer time, and attended RLP prayer time. He made flock list contacts with non-members and made five pastoral care contacts, five lunches with church members, made five home visits and one hospital visit and two ministerial lunches as well. He is working on the Doctor of Ministry Program (Church Vitality) and has completed the Monastic Spirituality Study and will be taking an advanced preaching class and a class on church and sacraments in the fall.

Sunday School will begin again on September 12 with a coffee hour before from 8:30-9:00am and our worship service will go back to 10:30am that same day. Vicki Smith will be the youth teacher as needed. There will be 2 adult classes: Mariners and Scott Mason's class.

The Nominating Committee is working to fill the Elder positions that will be needed. Pastoral Concerns Committee reported that the baby bottle project brought in over \$600 for the Alliance Pregnancy Center.

Updated quotes for a vinyl vs metal playground equipment was reviewed. The Homeworth Community Group will be included in this also. It will be called "The Homeworth Community Playground".

The church pays the taxes and insurance on the pavilion. The Lions Club needs to help with the clean up for events held there.

The one call system will be implemented soon and Amy Wagner will take charge of it.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School will be starting up again on September 12th with a coffee hour before from 8:30-9:00am. Everyone is welcome!

We will have 2 Sunday School classes for adults. One will be taught by Scott Mason. It is a video series about the history of the Bible narrated by Ray Vander Laan. The second class will be lead by Pam Miller. She will be leading us through Romans.

There will also be a class for children. It will be lead by Vicki Smith.

We hope to see you there!

We will be holding a combined memorial service for loved ones lost over the past year on the first Sunday in November (November 7). If you know someone to honor, please contact Marc or the church office.

There will be a new members class starting up September 12 during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Marc.

We are still looking for a janitor. If you or someone you know is interested please contact the Property Committee.



And All The
Time God Is Good

Session Minutes

SESSION



Notes

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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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 or go to 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.

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*

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.

Brothers In Christ

(Men's Ministry Group)

Men of Middle Sandy

Come for a night of fellowship

Friday, July 12th 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.

in our



prayers

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