



# Middletown Press

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

## Coming Events:

### November

- **11/6 Be the Church Sunday**
- **11/10 CEF Banquet—if interested contact Chriss Benson**
- **11/18-20 Alive -Youth Rally Conference in Ocean City, MD Cost \$175 Sign up now!**
- **11/20 NO Pancake Brunch –Youth away**
- **11/21 Prime Time Plus**
- **11/24 Thanksgiving**
- **11/27 Turkey Bowl**

### December

- **12/3 MCW Advent Communion Breakfast**
- **12/10 Cookie Walk**
- **12/18 Children's Christmas Party**
- **12/19 Prime Time Plus**
- **12/24 Christmas Eve Services**
- **12/25 Christmas**

### Looking Ahead

1/7 Upward Games Begin  
1/8—2/5 Souper Bowl

### Sundays

**Sunday School 9 AM**  
**Coffee Fellowship 10 AM**  
**Worship 10:30 AM**  
**Youth Group 6:30 PM**

## Be the Church Nov 6

“On Sunday, November 6 Middletown Presbyterian Church will experience a “Be the Church” opportunity. This year we will continue with our regular Sunday School and Worship schedule followed by a variety of Mission activities — including an Aid for Friends cook-in, packing Operation Christmas Child boxes, knitting and crocheting for charities, etc.

Sermons and Scripture	
11/6/16 – “Be the Church” Sunday	– Matthew 12:1-14
11/13/16 – “Christ the Servant”	– Philippians 2:1-11
11/20/16 – “Christ the King”	– John 18:28-38a
11/27/16 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	– “Wonderful Counselor”
12/4/16 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	– “Mighty God”
12/11/16 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	– “Prince of Peace”
12/18/16 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	– “Everlasting Father”
12/24/16 – Christmas Eve – 6 PM	– Children’s Nativity
8:30 PM	– “Emmanuel”
12/25/16 – Christmas Sunday	– 10:30 AM – “Unto Us a Child is Born!”

## Thanksgiving Worship

A worship service on Thanksgiving Day is a long tradition at Middletown. Over the years the reading of the President’s Proclamation has been made by the following:

1873 - 1913 James W. Howarth  
1914 - 1948 J. Oscar Howarth  
1949 - 1967 George W. Wood  
1968 - 1971 Clarence Bonsall, Jr.  
1972 - 1980 Paul Weaver  
1981 - 1995 John Habbersett  
1996 - 2003 Jay Baker  
2004 - Ward (Rusty) Abrams

Join us on Thursday, November 24 at 9:30 AM to give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives.

## Annual Turkey Bowl

Come one, come all. Whether to play or to cheer. Youth and Adults are challenged to an annual rivalry on Sunday afternoon, November 27 at 2:00 PM on the Indian Lane field. After the friendly game a light supper will be enjoyed by all back at the church at 4:00. (Losing team cleans up.)

## Christmas Eve Services

<b>6:00 PM</b>	Family service with Celebration Band
<b>8:30 PM</b>	Traditional Service with chancel choir and ensemble

## Deacons Doings

*A Thanksgiving prayer:*

*For each new morning with its  
light,*

*For rest and shelter of the night,*

*For health and food,*

*For love and friends,*

*For everything Your goodness  
sends. - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

There are many people in our community, including senior citizens, mothers, fathers, children and others, who are in dire need of food. So please, prior to this Thanksgiving holiday, generously donate cans of food items...beans, fruit, vegetables, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, soup, sweet potatoes, tomato sauce, instant potatoes, pasta, etc., and bring these items to the narthex. These foods will be delivered to our needy friends. Thank you for your generous giving!

*So give freely to those who are  
needy. Open your hearts to  
them. Then the Lord your God*

*will bless you in all of your  
work. He will bless you in eve-  
rything you do. Deuteronomy 15:10.*

The church is in need of volunteers who would be willing to drive the church van on Sundays, serve as head ushers and/or help with the sound and video systems at our church services. If you can assist in any way, please contact Deacon Bob Curtis. If you are able to provide transportation for our Donald and others who may need rides to church, please contact Deacon Charlie Bowen in this regard.

As you are aware, we have handicap supplies on hand and we are now in need of crutches. If you are able to donate crutches, please get in touch with Deacon Carl Hughes.

We thank the congregation for your wonderful and generous support throughout the year. Your contributions make it possible for us to reach out to sup-

port community charitable organizations, needs within our church and special requests. We are so grateful!

Every Christmas season the deacons present our staff and our shut-in friends with poinsettias. It is a way to thank our staff for their work and dedication throughout the year and also to let our shut-in friends know they are not forgotten.

The Christmas season is a time of great joy for all Christians, but as indicated above, we are especially concerned about our less fortunate neighbors, so please kindly continue to donate the non-perishable food items listed above. Thank you!

May the love and peace of this joyous Christmas season surround you throughout the year! "Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!"

Merry Christmas!

## Upward Basketball and Cheerleading

By the time you read this the cheerleaders and basketball players have been signed up, assigned to teams or squads, attended skills and drills nights to refresh their playing skills and are awaiting a call from their coach and the arrival of their new uniform. It is all very exciting and our church is blessed to be able to offer this sports ministry to the community. God has provided for eleven years of Upward!

There is still much to do before the first games on January 7, 2017. Kids can still sign-up so invite any you know. Coaches and assistant

coaches need to be recruited and trained, as do referees. The Prayer Partners are busy supporting the ministry and snack bar volunteers are gearing up.

You could help in so many ways large or small, one hour, one Saturday or one season. Would you like to be part of Season Eleven's excitement as children have fun, learn skills for sports and values for life?

For more information contact Don Heilala by email [donheilala@aol.com](mailto:donheilala@aol.com) or contact Chriss Benson at Middletown Presbyterian Church 610 565-4080 [chris@middletown.org](mailto:chris@middletown.org).

## Activities and Events

### Aid for Friends

Aid for Friends will hold a cook-in on November 6 as part of the Be the Church activities in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Please bring a main dish to feed 10-12 people. We need to replenish our supplies of cooked rice, pasta, noodles, frozen vegetables, canned fruit, applesauce, cookies, tea bags, snack or sandwich bags, foil sheets or canned gravy. Contact Bob or Carol Curtis for more information.

### Sticks 'n Strings

A prayer shawl, colonial shawl, a baby gift, a baby blanket, various other projects for you or a charity. Join the festivities on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30PM in the A1 Boardroom. Stop by and sit for awhile – with or without handwork.

### The Youth Thank YOU

A dedicated group of people on the Youth Team are responsible for planning the activities, classes and events for our youth. They met monthly to plan and carry out the various activities. To accomplish this fundraisers are organized from time to time to raise money for the events. The congregation can also purchase Giant gift cards every month from Sheila Schreffler to help fund our youth activities. Donations from the Pancake Brunches are designated for the Summer Mission Trip.

The youth and the Youth Team are grateful to the congregation for supporting them throughout the year and one of the ways the youth will show their appreciation is by raking the leaves at the church on November 12.

### Prime Time *Plus*

November 21 is our next Prime Time *Plus* and a celebration of Veterans. All Vets get a special free lunch to thank you for your service to our country. We have entertainment by the Lima Estate Barber Shop Quartet. Come and bring a Vet on Monday, November 21 at noon in Martin Chapel.

December 19 will be a time to celebrate Christmas. We will sing Christmas carols and enjoy a lunch prepared by Prime Timers.

See you on Monday, December 19 at noon in Martin Chapel. Bring a friend!

### Financial Stewardship Report

In November, you determine the ministry of the Church through your financial commitment. What you are willing to give determines much of what we can do. And like anyone's budget, there is never enough, especially in challenging economic times.

November is a month when we think about what we are thankful for. We look at the blessings we have been given. But we also think about how we can give to be a part of what God is doing, especially in the ministry of Middletown Church.

As you consider what you can offer to God remember also to seek God's leading in how He wants you to use the gifts and talents He has given you—be intentional in finding a place where you can serve and grow and thrive here at Middletown.

Beginning Sunday, December 4 until Sunday, January 8, 2017 the weekly Offering Envelopes will be on the tables in the back of the Sanctuary. They will be in alphabetical order. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, please call Tana (610-565-4080) and let her know. Also, anyone picking up someone else's envelopes – let the office know.

## City Team Turkeys

As CityTeam prepares to make its annual Thanksgiving feast to feed 200 and deliver 1,000 food baskets, they have asked us to provide frozen turkeys. Perhaps, you will earn a free turkey at the supermarket that you could donate.

Bring your frozen turkeys to the kitchen in Fellowship Hall before Saturday, November 19. Our youth and others plan to leave MPC at 8:30 AM on Saturday, November 19 to help deliver food boxes

## Children's Christmas Party

Since the pageant was postponed, the Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday morning, December 18. All children are invited to celebrate Jesus' birthday in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM to 11:30PM. We will have a light lunch, a birthday cake for Jesus and special activities.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Our partner in outreach, Chester Eastside Ministries, is so appreciative of the food and items we give them every week. They prepare special baskets at Thanksgiving. Various churches provide different food items for the baskets and they have requested the following items from us:

- Box or bag of stuffing
- Canned Green beans
- Canned Sweet potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Bag of potatoes

You may put these items in the large box in the Narthex marked for Chester Eastside by Sunday, November 20. Thank you so much for your support!

## Annual Cookie Walk

December 10 beginning at 9 AM will be our 11<sup>th</sup> Cookie Walk. We need members of the church and community to donate at least 15 dozen **HOMEMADE** cookies to sell at the Cookie Walk. People will be able to fill a box with whatever kind of cookies they want and the \$15 they pay for the box of cookies will benefit Children's Ministries.

What kind of cookies do we want? – Any variety of homemade cookies. They can be drop, cutout, decorated or bars. Any cookie that looks and tastes deliciously irresistible is welcomed.

Please drop off cookies in Martin Chapel on Friday, December 9. If you have any questions or can help on Friday or Saturday please contact Carol Curtis at (610) 566-7274.

## New Part-Time Director of Youth

We are so pleased and happy to announce our new Youth Director, Steve Jones. Steve almost needs no introduction as he grew up at Middletown Presbyterian and he and his lovely wife, Abby, volunteered to help with the Youth Group last spring.

Steve was an active member of Youth group (and Adventure Club) when he was a teen. After graduating from Penncrest, Steve attended Messiah College and graduated in 2011. It was at Messiah that Steve met his wife, Abby. Abby has

graced us with her delightful singing at Easter worship and at the MCW Advent Breakfast last year. In August they welcomed a baby girl into the family.

We welcome Steve into leadership at Middletown and are so excited to be working with him. Please take the chance to say Hi and introduce yourself if you don't know him. You will soon learn what we on the search team learned, he's a great guy with a heart for ministry, youth, people and the Lord.

## MCW Advent Communion Breakfast

Saturday, December 3 is the annual Women's Advent Communion Breakfast for all the women of the church and their friends. The breakfast begins at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.

During the year many women put aside money to commemorate blessings in their lives. This Thank Offering will be received at the breakfast. (Make checks payable to Middletown Church Women.)

In addition, we will fill new purses with toiletries, useful and frivolous items, and a small Bible. These will be given to Domestic Abuse in Media for their residents in the shelter. Their children will pick one out for their mom for Christmas. The extras will go to other domestic abuse victims not in

### January Means Souper Bowl

Every January is a time to bring in food to help stock local food closets—to reach out and help to care for those of our local community who are in need. So get ready to clip coupons, seek out the best prices and may the challenge be met.

We will have 5 weeks for collecting food, beginning January 8 through February 5. Join us in this fun and exciting effort to make a difference in alleviating hunger in our community.

the shelter for Christmas and to the women served by the Center Foundation in Media.

Donations of the following items would be appreciated: chapstick, small Bible, calendar, pens, mini flashlights, umbrellas, candy, gum, Kleenex, scarves, toothpaste and

brushes, shampoo, nail file, nail polish, small mirror, hairbrush, scarves, gloves and anything else you can think of.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$8.00 and will be sold prior to the breakfast and at the door. Please let the church office know by December 2 if you are planning to attend.

## Brighten A Child's Christmas

There are various opportunities for you to help make a child happy this Christmas.

**Adopt a Child:** Again this year the *Adopt a Child* program will focus on the Village (formerly Children's Presbytery Village). You will still be able to request a specific number, gender or age of any children if you wish. You may also adopt a whole family, parents included. If you don't have time to shop you may make a monetary donation. With the money that was donated last year we were able to adopt a whole family and six additional children. We'd love to be able to do that again.

Please submit requests by November 13 to receive your adoptee by November 20. All gifts must be received at the church by December 7.

Also, we will be having a wrap-

ping party at the Village on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 1:00 PM and all are welcome to join us.

**Toy Offering:** Unwrapped gifts will be received on December 11 for City Team's Children's Christmas party.

Suggested items: Board games, Playdough, Art supplies, books, Hair accessories, Puzzles, Infant toys, Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Photo albums, Picture frames, Dolls (of all ethnic types), Kids video movies, small games, Watches, Balls, Frisbees, Baseball caps, Legos, Trucks/cars, Gloves/scarf sets.

Again, if you don't have time to shop and would rather make a monetary donation, we would be happy to shop for you.

Any questions please see Tim or Misti Love or email [love10@comcast.net](mailto:love10@comcast.net).





# November 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM Youth Ministry	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Colonial Dancers	<b>3</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group	<b>5</b> 7:30 PM Mayer's Small Group
<b>6</b> Be the Church Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Youth Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 3:00 PM Children's Ministry	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 3:00 PM Children's Ministry 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	<b>10</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:00 PM CEF Fundraiser Banquet 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 2:00 PM Youth Leaf Rake & Cook-out
<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Youth Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 12:00 PM Prime Time 7:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Colonial Dancers 7:30 PM Upward Coaches Training	<b>17</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>18</b> ALIVE Youth Conference 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group	<b>19</b> ALIVE Youth Conference Turkey Delivery - City Team 8:30 AM B & P Work Day 6:30 PM Samson at Sight & Sound 7:30 PM Mayer's Small Group
<b>20</b> ALIVE Youth Conference NO Youth Group today 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 2:30 PM Cub Pack Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice 7:15 PM Lydia Circle	<b>23</b> NO Adult Bible Study today 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	<b>24</b>  9:30 AM Worship Service	<b>25</b> HOLIDAY - Office is closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> ADVENT BEGINS Healing Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM Annual Turkey Bowl	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study			

# December 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group	<b>3</b>  9:00 AM MCW Communion Breakfast 7:30 PM Mayer's Small Group
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Youth Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM Youth Ministry Meeting	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Upward Coaches training	<b>8</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Cookie Walk Set up 7:30 PM Seeing Eye Puppy Club	<b>10</b>  9:00 AM The Cookie Walk
<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Youth Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 3:00 PM Children's Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM Delco Cruisers Car Club	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	<b>15</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group	<b>17</b> 8:30 AM B & P Work Day
<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's Christmas Party 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Cub Pack Meeting 6:30 PM Youth Group	<b>19</b> 12:00 PM Prime Time Christmas Celebration	<b>20</b> NO Session 9:30 AM The Quilters	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 3:30 PM Good News Club 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  6:00 PM Children's Nativity Service 8:30 PM Candle-light Service
<b>25</b>  Healing Service NO Sunday School Today 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Christmas Day Worship Service	<b>26</b> HOLIDAY- Office will be closed	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice 7:15 PM Lydia Circle	<b>28</b> 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	<b>29</b> 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Middletown Presbyterian Church**

273 S. Old Middletown Rd.

Media, PA 19063

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Media, Penna.

19063

Permit No. 3

Or Current Resident

**Find MPC Online:**

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**Middletown Presbyterian Church**

***Look inside and join us for:***

- **Be the Church**  
***November 6***
- **Thanksgiving**  
***Day 9:30 AM Service***
- **MCW Advent**  
***Breakfast December 3***
- **Cookie Walk**  
***December 10***
- **Christmas Eve**  
***6:00 and 8:30PM***

Douglas McPheeters, Pastor	Office Hours Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Phone: 610-565-4080 Fax 610-565-4306 Email: <a href="mailto:tana@middletownpres.org">tana@middletownpres.org</a>
Chriss Benson, Children's Ministries Director	
Steve Jones, Youth Director	
Janet Wooden, Music Director	
JoAnne Gallagher, Treasurer	
Tana, Office Administrator	
Jane Evans, Cemetery Administrator	
Janette Weldon, Wedding Coordinator	
Gary Wooden, Sexton	
<i>In case of an emergency or if you know of someone in the hospital, please contact the church office 610-565-4080 during business hours or call the Pastor at 302-762-0851.</i>	

Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM  
 Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 AM  
 Youth Group 6:30 PM