



Middletown Press

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Coming Events:

November

- **11/5 Aid for Friends**
- **11/12 Be the Church Sunday**
- **11/19 Pancake Brunch**
- **11/20 Prime Time Plus**
- **11/23 Thanksgiving**
- **11/26 Turkey Bowl**
- **11/26 Advent Family Time**

December

- **12/2 MCW Advent Communion Breakfast**
- **12/3 Beautiful Feet Dance Presentation**
- **12/9 Cookie Walk**
- **12/17 Children's Christmas Party**
- **12/18 Prime Time Plus**
- **12/24 Christmas Eve Services**
- **12/25 Christmas**

Looking Ahead

1/6 Upward Games Begin
1/7—2/4 Souper Bowl

Sundays

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

Be the Church Nov 12

On Sunday, Nov. 12 from 9:00 AM to noon we will experience a "Be the Church" opportunity.

This year we will host a special meal packaging event to put together over 10,000 Meals to feed school children in developing areas of the world AND pack Christmas Boxes for children.

There will be a brief time of worship at the end of the event followed by a light lunch. Over lunch participants can discuss the devotional thought "What if Worship is more than what we do in the sanctuary on most Sunday mornings?"

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 26 at 2:00 PM on the Indian Lane field. After the friendly game we will join the Advent Family Time and enjoy a light supper back at the church.

Advent Family Time

Sunday, November 26, marks the beginning of Advent, when the church begins to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Join your church family for a time of crafts, carols and a light supper in Fellowship Hall from 4:30-6:30PM.

Free Movie Night 11/3

The Lego Batman Movie is a 3 D computer animated superhero comedy film. The story focuses on the DC comic character Batman as he attempts to overcome his greatest fear to stop the Joker's latest plan.

Everyone welcome. We provide free snacks but we would like you to bring a canned good to help provide Thanksgiving Dinner for the needy.

6:30 PM Bring a friend!

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 23 at 9:30 AM to give thanks to God for the

Christmas Eve Services

10:30 AM Family service with interactive Nativity
8:30 PM Traditional Service with chancel choir and ensemble

Deacons Doings

Warmest thoughts and best wishes to our church family for a wonderful Thanksgiving! Let us always give thanks to God for his many blessings!

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess. 5:18.

As you are aware, many in our community, including the elderly, families with young children, and others, are hungry each day. Many of you have been faithful in providing food items and we again ask you to please celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday by donating generously to City Team, non-perishable food items such as cans of beans, fruit, vegetables, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, soup, sweet potatoes, tomato sauce, bags of potatoes, etc. Please drop these items off in our narthex and they will be delivered to our needy friends. In addition, Christmas will be here soon and we ask for your continued support in donating food items, such as those mentioned above, at that time.

If you are able to do so, we would

appreciate it if you could volunteer your time to provide transportation for people who cannot drive to church services. Please contact Deacon Charlie Bowen if you can help in this way. Thank you!

And, in December, the deacons wish you the comfort of His love, the joy of His salvation and the peace of His presence this Christmas season! For those of you who are experiencing sadness, loneliness, and health problems, especially at this time of the year, know that God understands and cares for you. "Scripture doesn't tell us that God wipes away our sadness and worries in this life, but it does tell us that God is faithful and will comfort us."

We will be giving our staff, in appreciation for their dedication to God and to the congregation, Christmas poinsettias. We will also be giving poinsettias to those who have lost loved ones and to our homebound friends as well.

If you are considering purchasing gift cards for those on your Christmas list or for birthdays and thank

you gifts, please buy them through the church. Some of your favorite stores listed on the order forms, which are available in the narthex, give the church a percentage of the cost of the gift card and this, of course, is of benefit to the church. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Gemsheim, Joan Davis, or Linda Fox.

The year 2017 is coming to a close and we would like to express to the congregation how much we appreciate the support you have always given the deacons for our ministry. As you are aware, your donations make it possible for us to help so many in need, including community charitable organizations, the recent hurricane victims, needs within our church, and special requests. What you do for us comes from your hearts and we want you to know how grateful we are for your gifts.

We wish our church family a blessed Christmas! "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." Luke 2:10.

"God bless us every one!"

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading—Season Twelve

God continues to make it possible for MPC to offer sports ministry to the families of our Community and we are excited to have the twelfth season underway.

November is the month when children in each age group are offered two free nights of skills and drills time in the gym to have fun, get acquainted and brush up on their basketball. By the end of November, teams are formed and coaches will welcome their team members.

The league director is busy forming teams, recruiting and training coaches and ordering uniforms and equipment. Cheer squads are being formed and they begin learning their cheers. We know the colors are Carolina blue and white this season. In December teams hold practices the first two weeks of the month. Life skills being taught this year are on the virtues of courage, patience and kindness.

The first games will take place on Saturday, January 6, 2018 in the Indian Lane Elementary school gym. Come see over 200 kids having fun between eight AM and three PM. Do you know that Pastor Doug gives a devotion for the spectators at half-times seven times every Saturday? These devotions reflect on the three virtues of the season and the Gospel. Families are reached as well as children in this league.

Your support and help would be greatly appreciated. There is always a need for prayer partners, snack bar helpers, referees, coaches and assistant coaches. If you can help one hour, one week or all season, please contact Chriss Benson 610 909-6216 or Don Heilala donheilala@aol.com.

Tell family, friends, co-workers and neighbors about Upward. It is never too late to join a team and it is a really fun way to pass the winter months!

Activities and Events

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.

Dance Ministry Program

Sunday afternoon, December 3, 2017 at 3:00 pm The Beautiful Feet Dance Ministry from Calvary Chapel in Chadds Ford will be performing selections from Handel's Messiah choreographed by Valerie Henry a professional dancer from the Washington DC area. This unique presentation has been done internationally and is sure to be a blessing. Tickets are \$15.00 and \$10.00 for seniors and students. Please see Jan Wooden for information.

The Youth Thank YOU

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 11.

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.

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.

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.

Prime Time *Plus*

November 20 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. Come and bring a Vet on Monday, November 20 at noon in Martin Chapel.

December 18 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 18 at noon in Martin Chapel. Bring a friend!

Watch for information about a trip to Sight and Sound to see the *Miracle of Christmas* in December!

Sermons and Scripture

11/5/17 - What if God wanted to communicate with you?

11/12/17 – Be the Church Sunday

11/19/17 - What if God could heal/fix you?

11/26/17 - What if the Bible is the Word of God?

Advent Series: What the World Needs Now...

12/3 – "... is HOPE"

12/10 – "... is PEACE"

12/17 – "... is JOY"

12/24 - "... is LOVE" (10:30 AM)

"... is GOD" (8:30 PM)

12/31 "... is the CHURCH?"

Offering Envelops

Beginning Sunday, December 3 until Sunday, January 7, 2018, the weekly Offering Envelops 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, if anyone is picking up someone else's envelopes, let Tana or Heather in the office know.

Kidz Good News Club

Elijah is best known as a man of prayer. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. The prayer that accomplishes things and gets God's ear, is the outflow of a vital relationship with God. We are helping the children at Kidz good news club to have a vital relationship with God. We meet on Thursdays at 3:30-4:45 each Thursday thru March.

Children's Christmas Party

The Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday morning, December 17. 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 19. Thank you so much for your support!

Annual Cookie Walk

December 9 beginning at 9 AM will be our 12th 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 8. If you have any questions or can help on Friday or Saturday please contact Carol Curtis at (610) 566-7274.

Opportunities to Serve

Head Ushers

Your Worship Committee is looking for volunteers for Head Usher duty for 2018. We schedule the Head Usher for two weeks at a time (consecutive Sundays) to open the church and to greet our congregation. Head Ushers line up individuals to assist with the offering and ensure that our members and guests have a comfortable worship experience. Please contact Jim Sredenschek at jsredenschek@aol.com if you are able to help!

Greeters

The only qualifications for being a greeter is a smile and a handshake. If you are up to that, please consider joining the "greeter team" and welcome visitors and members on Sunday mornings. Contact Linda Fox for more information.

City Team Turkeys

CityTeam prepares to feed 200 and deliver 1,000 food baskets for Thanksgiving and so they 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 11. Our youth and others plan to leave MPC at 8:30 AM on Saturday, November 18 to help deliver food boxes

Aid for Friends

Aid for Friends will hold a cook-in on November 5.

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.

MCW Advent Communion Breakfast

Saturday, December 2 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 the shelter for Christmas and to the women served by the Center Foundation in Media.

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 7 through February 4. Join us in this fun and exciting effort to make a difference in alleviating hunger in our community.

We need the following items to pack in the purses:

- Kleenex packs
- travel or hotel sized soap
- shampoo
- lotion
- calendars
- tooth brush and paste
- mints or gum
- change purse

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 1 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 12 to receive your adoptee by November 19. All gifts must be received at the church by December 6.

Also, we will be having a wrapping party at the Village in December.

Purchase Gift Cards

Now is the season for giving...and if you are thinking of purchasing gift cards for those on your Christmas gift list, consider buying them through the church. Each place of business gives the church a certain percentage of the cost of the gift card so not only do you get to check someone off your gift list but the church benefits, too.

Order forms are available in the Narthex and in the church office. Orders need to be in by **November 12** and the cards will be here by Thanksgiving. Any questions, see Joan Davis, Janet Gemsheim, or Linda Fox.

Look for the specific date in the Sunday Bulletin. All are welcome to join us.

Toy Offering: Unwrapped gifts will be received on December 10 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.

November 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Colonial Dancers	2 8:00 AM Wolves 3:30 PM Good News Club 8:00 PM NA Group	3 8:00 AM Wolves 6:30 PM Family Movie Night 8:00 PM NA Group	4 3:45 PM Youth Fall Festival with RWO
5 COMMUNION SUNDAY Daylight Savings Time Ends Youth Yard Work 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 2:00 PM Aid for Friends Cook In	6 8:00 AM Wolves 8:00 PM NA Group	7 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM The Quilters 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM NA Group	8 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	9 8:00 AM Wolves 3:30 PM Good News Kidz Club 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Group	10 8:00 AM Wolves 5:00 PM Coffee House at 'The Rock' 8:00 PM NA Group	11 2:00 PM Leaf rake at MPC/Pizza
12 BE THE CHURCH	13 8:00 AM Wolves 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting 8:00 PM NA Group	14 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM The Quilters 3:00 PM Children's Ministry Meeting 7:30 PM Delco Cruisers Car Club 8:00 PM NA Group	15 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Colonial Dancers	16 8:00 AM Wolves 3:30 PM Good News Kidz Club 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Group	17 8:00 AM Wolves 8:00 PM NA Group	18 8:30 AM Deliver Turkey Baskets-City Team 3:00 PM Girl Scouts
19 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 11:30 AM Pancake Brunch-following the worship service 2:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 6:30 PM Youth Group Bonfire	20 8:00 AM Wolves 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus 8:00 PM NA Group	21 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM NA Group	22 8:00 AM Wolves 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	23 Holiday - Office is Closed 9:30 AM The Worship Service 8:00 PM NA Group	24 Holiday - Office closed 8:00 AM Wolves 8:00 PM NA Group	25
26 HEALING SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 2:00 PM Turkey Bowl 4:30 PM Family Advent Activity & Meal	27 8:00 AM Wolves 8:00 PM NA Group	28 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:15 PM Lydia Circle 8:00 PM NA Group	29 8:00 AM Wolves 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Upward Coaches 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study	30 8:00 AM Wolves 3:30 PM Good News Kidz Club 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM NA Group		

December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 AM Wolfs 6:00 PM Dress Rehearsal Calvery Dancers 8:00 PM N/A Group	2 8:30 AM Help with Advent Breakfast 9:00 AM Advent Breakfast
3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 3:00 PM Calvery Dance 6:30 PM Youth Group	4 8:00 AM Wolfs 7:00 PM Youth Ministry Team 8:00 PM N/A Group	5 8:00 AM Wolfs 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM The Quilters 8:00 PM N/A Group	6 8:00 AM Wolfs 4:00 PM The Village Christmas Party 7:30 PM Colonial Dancers	7 8:00 AM Wolfs 3:30 PM Good News Club 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM N/A Group	8 Cookie Walk Set-Up 8:00 AM Wolfs 8:00 PM N/A Group	9 9:00 AM Cookie Walk 2:00 PM Media Chamber Chorale
10 Children's Christmas Party 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 6:30 PM Youth Group	11 8:00 AM Wolfs 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting 8:00 PM N/A Group	12 8:00 AM Wolfs 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM The Quilters 3:00 PM Children's Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Delco Cruisers Car Club 8:00 PM N/A Group	13 8:00 AM Wolfs 7:00 PM Upward Coaches Training 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	14 8:00 AM Wolfs 1:00 PM I & S Meeting 3:30 PM Good News Club 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM N/A Group	15 8:00 AM Wolfs 8:00 PM N/A Group	16 8:30 AM Building & Property Work Day
17 Youth Group Christmas Party 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 11:30 AM Pancake Breakfast following the worship service 2:15 PM Boy Scouts Cub Pack Meeting	18 8:00 AM Wolfs 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus 8:00 PM N/A Group	19 8:00 AM Wolfs 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM N/A Group	20 8:00 AM Wolfs 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Colonial Dancers	21 8:00 AM Wolfs 3:30 PM Good News Club 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM N/A Group	22 8:00 AM Wolfs 8:00 PM N/A Group	23
24 10:30 AM Children's Christmas Service 8:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Christmas Service	25 8:00 PM N/A Group	26 8:00 AM Wolfs 9:30 AM The Quilters 8:00 PM N/A Group	27 8:00 AM Wolfs 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	28 8:00 AM Wolfs 4:30 PM Trevoze Group 6:30 PM Hand Bells Practice 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM N/A Group	29 8:00 AM Wolfs 8:00 PM N/A Group	30
31 9:00 AM Combined Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service						

Middletown Presbyterian Church

273 S. Old Middletown Rd.

Media, PA 19063

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Permit No. 3

Or Current Resident

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/middletownpres

Middletown Presbyterian Church

Look inside and join us for:

- **Be the Church**
November 12
- **Thanksgiving**
Day 9:30 AM Service
- **MCW Advent**
Breakfast
December 2
- **Cookie Walk**
December 9
- **Christmas Eve**
10:30AM 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: tana@middletownpres.org
Chriss Benson, Children's Ministries Director	
Steve Jones, Youth Director	
Janet Wooden, Music Director	
JoAnne Gallagher, Treasurer	
Tana, Office Administrator Heather, Karpo, Part-time Office Assistant	
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