

# Sandpiper

*April Worship Schedule*

**Sunday School at 9:00am  
Worship at 10:30am**



## Your God Is Too Small

Ukraine has become the latest episode of, "Why God?" God, why are civilians allowed to suffer because of the evil desires of one man? God, why is food, prescriptions, and other necessities allowed to run short when the people in need of them did nothing to bring this invasion on themselves? God, why was a school, a hospital, and apartments buildings allowed to be bombed when the people in them were innocent? In the classical book, "Your God is Too Small," J.B. Phillips writes, "There is...no easy answer to the evil and suffering problem and no easy road to its solution. But Christ tackled the matter radically and realistically by winning the allegiance of a few men and women to a new way of living...They were to be the spearhead of good against evil."

The spearhead of good against evil is far too often seen as God "doing the best that he can" amidst a world of overpowering evil forces. Isn't that what we are tempted to believe about God? He's a good guy doing his best in a tough situation.

In writing about this God C.S. Lewis writes that, "we want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven — a senile benevolence who, as they say, 'liked to see young people enjoying themselves,' and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, 'a good time was had by all.'" That's not the God of the Bible though. The Bible teaches us that we worship a loving God who offers mercy, demands justice, and provides for those who follow him. Question 4 of our Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, "what is God?" The answer is, "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." This question by itself helps us to remember that God is all powerful. God is unchangeable. God is wise, holy, and good. Thus, we know that he is working all things towards his glory and our good. Therefore, let us trust in his power and wisdom, even when it feels like the world is spiraling out of control. This helps us to process world events, but it also helps us to handle the small things in our day to day lives. Jeremiah 10:10 says, "But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation." Is your God too small? That means your understanding of God isn't the God of the Bible.

# Sands Through the Hourglass...

The golden sands in the April Hour 🕒 Glass  
tumble lively to tell us,  
"Winter has packed and gone.  
The leaves are wiggling out of the  
tree branches  
and the golden tassels are falling from  
some tree limbs  
like they are shedding their fur."

Save the date: Sunday, June 5th. 🗓️ On  
that day the 200th Anniversary celebration  
of the Middle Sandy congregation will be  
celebrated. The committee is planning a  
worship service, a meal and an afternoon  
program and remembrance time. Some of  
you may have photos, old bulletins or news  
articles you would be willing to share.  
Please put your name on them so they can  
be returned to you. Items can be put on the  
counter in the parlor.

Diane Sanor, we miss you at MS. She  
continues to "fight" her three most serious  
health issues which keep her at home, except  
for her visits to the Alliance Hospital three  
times a week.,hoping to cut the visits to  
two. There dosages are checked. Looking  
out Diane's window at home is a joy for her  
because of the many visits from birds at the  
feeders. Recently a large, colorful, rather  
rare pileated woodpecker has been a  
frequent guest at the feeding station. Diane  
says, "Thank God for eyes to see Your  
wonderful creation."

Updates about college students find  
Shannon Wolfe graduating from Geneva  
College and hanging up her basketball shoes  
after 13 years on the hardwood, She  
received the PAC award in basketball.

Shannon is a certified EMT and will  
continue in the medical field. She majored in  
biology, chemistry and minored in  
physiology. Thomas Mason joyously will  
remain at OSU for the next four years. He  
will study at the OSU Medical Center and  
Nationwide Children's Hospital for his  
doctorate degrees in internal medicine and  
pediatrics. Mary Mason continues her  
studies and running indoor track at Mount  
Union. Jeff Legros drives daily to his classes  
at Akron U. God's blessings to all of these  
young people as they continue in times of  
worship and Bible study that they learned at  
MS.

Karen Rice is taking on the project of  
updating the names, addresses, phone  
numbers and e address of MS folks. The  
2016 directory contains many present day  
errors. She will ask for corrections, print the  
new information and distribute the copies to  
us for future references. Thanks, Karen.

Applause, clap, clap to Dave Socotch for  
installing grab bars in the restrooms. Also, to  
George Bush for acting as substitute  
custodian. So many members deserve thanks  
for the "behind the scenes" acts performed,  
or the "in front" ones of faithful choir  
members and Linda and B.J. for Easter  
Sunday. "Faith without works..." Thanks to  
all.

Marlington Dukes junior Elizabeth  
Mason was named to the All District  
basketball first team in Division II. Great  
effort!

The are many tombs in this world that  
contain the bones of famous people.  
But His tomb is famous for what it  
does NOT contain.  
This is further evidence that he really  
DID RISE from the dead.!

# OUR PRAYER CONCERNS



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:**

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

## **Military Service:**

Brian Burbick (Back in Yokosuka, Japan after 6 month deployment)  
Garrett Floyd (A specialist in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne at Fort Bragg in NC, Sarah Mason's fiance)  
Eric W. Hampe (Home in Louisville)  
John Hampe (Home from Okinawa Japan)  
Ryan P. Lee (National Guard)  
Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Teddi Ferguson Lee (Ryan Lee's wife) Assigned to the Army Inspector General-Ohio Army National Guard  
SPC Joe Smythe (Ft. Benning Georgia)  
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 & Reinhold Sydnor (*ministry to refugees in Lille, France and Malta*)

## **Birthdays**

### **Name - Date**

Mary Mason – 2  
Dave Socotch – 3  
Bailey Pierce – 4  
David McCain – 6  
Sharon Davies – 20  
Michelle Slingerland – 22  
Michael Emmons – 23  
Sheryl Mason – 29  
Eleanor Carver – 30

## **Anniversaries**

### **Couple – Date**

Dave & Debbie Socotch – 6  
Jim & Joyce Cameron – 22  
Jeff & Cori Sands – 29

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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).



**Christ  
the Lord  
is Risen  
Today!**

**SESSION**



## Notes

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions.

The webpage update has been completed.

The pastor led worship/preached 6x, led Thursday night prayer time, made flock list contacts with non-members, made 3 home visits, 2 ministerial lunches. He is currently taking Ministry in Context class and Acts & Church Revitalization Study. He moderated the session meeting, led the playground community meeting and attended 2 continuing education events. There will be a Gideon speaker on Sunday, April 3 in Pastor Marc's absence.

Property Committee reported that the boiler room floor has been painted. They are getting a quote for a hot water tank. They are using a service to supply paper towels and toilet paper.

Worship Committee is looking for a different person to tune the organ. We will be using greeters beginning in April. Activity packs were made for kids who are in worship.

The Lions Club has relinquished control of the playground equipment but will continue maintaining the pavilion and restrooms.

The playground project meeting went well. The consensus seemed to be for metal structures.

The next steps for work with Noah is to have some kind of community activity/prayer walk, clean up day around the community.

By approved motion the office computer and printer will be replaced.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DUMC Breakfast

The Damascus United Methodist Church breakfast will be on Saturday, April 16 from 7:00-1030am.



Maundy Thursday service with communion will be at 7:00pm, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Middle Sandy. We will be doing Stations of the Cross Tenebrae Service.

The Good Friday Service will be at Beloit Friends Church, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. There will be both in-person and live stream on Beloit Friends facebook page.

Sunrise Service will be at Middle Sandy beginning at 7:30am with breakfast to follow at 8:00am. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for food donations for the breakfast.

Easter worship will be at the 10:30am time at Middle Sandy.



The Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday,  
April 16<sup>th</sup> at Middle Sandy at 1:00pm.