

Sandpiper

May Worship Schedule

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



Without Ceasing

One of the shorter verses in the Bible is 1 Thessalonians 5:17, which simply says, “pray without ceasing.” Sounds pretty difficult to do, right? What other ways would you react to it? Maybe you think, wouldn’t it be nice to have the time to do that? Or, what about my family, my work, my hobbies, my life? Or maybe you think that sounds like a boring life. Regardless, Paul tells us to do it. So, how do we do it? Why do we do it? Is it really possible to do this?

The monastics (people who live in monasteries) aim to make every moment of their life an offering up of prayer. They even tend to have repetitive work that allows them to pray while they complete their daily work. But we’re not monastics. We’re a little

more, dare I say, normal? You see, Paul isn’t teaching us a spiritual practice to be observed so much as the Christian life to be lived. In other words, we shouldn’t take these three words as an expectation to do nothing except for intercessory prayer all day and all night. Instead, Christ should be the center of our lives and our focus. This isn’t rearranging the chairs, submitting prayer all day for reading scripture all day. Instead, our lives are centered on Christ when our lives wholly reflect the life that Christ provides. Colossians 3:23 (ESV) says, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” Thus, each moment of the day where we work diligently is a moment that is offered to the Lord. The same could be said for integrating Christ into our family life, our church life, and even, the life we live when no one else is looking.

John Stott writes that the word, “Christian” only shows up three times in the Bible, but the phrases, “in Christ,” “in the Lord,” and “in him” show up 164 times. Our union with Christ, which is symbolized by baptism and occurs at conversation, is a vital piece of the faith. Therefore if we are united with Christ and have a relationship with him, doesn’t it also make sense that we think about and pray to him regularly? It’s similar to a relationship with a person, except that the other person won’t get annoyed when you bug them, text them, and call them throughout the day. Jesus actually encourages it! So, how are you doing with “praying without ceasing?” Does your union with Christ feel more like you’ve been ghosting him for far too long? What if you committed today, this moment, to renewing your communication with Christ?

Sands Through the Hourglass...

The advancing multicolored sands in the
May hour 🕒 glass
depict the dedicated efforts of the
bicentennial committee members.

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Jane Stryffeler. Jane became a member of Middle Sandy in 1954, and faithfully worshiped with the congregation until her illness made her physical presence impossible. Jane is survived by three daughters and two sons. In the past we mourned with her in the loss of her husband Norman, son Edward and his wife Kris, and her daughter Ruth Ann Pagnucco. The celebration of her life will be held at MS at noon on April 30th.

Sympathy is also offered to Jim Humphrey and his sister Jessica in the passing of their mother Bonnie Riddle Humphrey. She was a Homeworth resident all of her life, and the wife of Dick Humphrey.

Do you have Sunday, June 5th circled on your calendar? It is the day to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Middle Sandy Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Three events are in the planning process: worship service at 10 a.m., lunch following worship and a 1:30 program of memory sharing of people, places and events associated with M S through the the years.

Vicki Smith is requesting that your RSVP response be given or phoned (330-525-5271) or (330-205-1240) to her by the May date on your invitation card.

Flowers will be purchased to decorate the building. These can be given in memory or honor of your loved ones. A donation of \$5.00 and the name(s) of those to be recognized are to be given to Cindy Stryffeler Blendenbacher, chair of the floral committee, by May 22nd. Cindy will be the greeter for May, so her presence will be easily accessible. The

honorees' names (but not the donors' names) will appear in the bulletin for the 200th.

Linda McQuilkin is heading the lunch committee. Donations from the congregation will be requested. Later in May a sign-up sheet will be circulated for your contributions.

If you have any memorabilia to share for the anniversary celebration, it would be appreciated. Be sure your name is on the item(s).

In review: The extremely inspirational Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday was well attended. Worship leader Sharon Davies was assisted by several participants, as the scripture, various items and candles depicted the meanings of the Last Supper meeting of Christ and his disciples. In addition to the Easter Sunrise "He Is Risen--He Is Risen Indeed" response of the worshipers, Pastors Marc Shefelton and Paul Bozman led in devotionals with congregational singing. It was wonderful to again be able to celebrate the service and the very tasty breakfast with our friends from Reading Church of the Brethren, as had been done before the pandemic. Thanks to Sharon Davies, Lynn Kidd and all the others who donated the wide variety of delicious foods. It would be remiss if the choir members, along with Linda McQuilkin and B.J. Willis would not be thanked for their preparation and singing of the Prelude for the morning worship service.

Here is a suggestion to the owners of the "green book" AKA 150 Years with Middle Sandy Presbyterian Church: take some time between now and the June 5th celebration to read about the early years about the area and of the Middle Sandy Presbyterian Church's history. Enjoy.

As you get older, stay positive.
For example, the other day I fell down the
stairs.

Instead of getting upset, I just thought,
"Wow that's the fastest I've moved in years-!"

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 82nd 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. 1st 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

Debbie Socotch – 1
Susan Schopfer – 3
Joyce Cameron – 4
Steve Snyder – 5
Rachel (Gimmi) Gamble – 12
Karen Legros - 26

Anniversaries

Couple – Date

Leonard & Anna Mapes - 10

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.

Happy



HOW MUCH DOES A PRAYER WEIGH?

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store.

She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work. They had seven children and they needed food.

John Stevensen, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store.

Visualizing the family needs, she said: "Please sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocerman that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocerman said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" Louise replied, "Yes sir." "O.K." he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the grocerman and the

customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The grocerman staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it."

The customer smiled and the grocerman started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more.

The grocerman stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in Your hands."

The grocerman gave her the groceries that he had gathered and placed on the scales and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store.

The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to John and he said. "It was worth every penny of it."

It was sometime later that John Stevenson discovered the scales were broken: therefore, **only God knows how much a prayer weighs.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DUMC Breakfast

The Damascus United Methodist Church breakfast will be on Saturday, May 21 from 7:00-10:30am.

Ashland University Choir

The Ashland University Choir is on tour this spring, sharing their joy of music so close to Middle Sandy. They will be at the North Georgetown First Brethren Church, Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00pm.
