

# Sandpiper

## March Worship Schedule

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



## Cross the Jordan

Transitions are rarely fun, comfortable, or easy. I remember when I graduated from seminary, my first church was in Illinois. I was faced with a geographic transition (from Ohio to Illinois), a workplace transition (from Bob Evans to Buffalo Prairie), a job transition (from Shift Leader to Pastor), and even a setting transition (from suburb to *very* rural). Nonetheless, it was weird to write about three different letters of resignation, stepping down from various roles in order to move into what God had next for me. Letting go of yesterday in order to embrace tomorrow is never easy.

This is a big part of what God is telling Joshua and the Israelites in our new sermon series, simply called, "Next." Just as God is

calling Middle Sandy into what is next for us, he also tells each of us to let go of yesterday in order to embrace what he has for us today and tomorrow. Embracing tomorrow takes courage, which is why God tells Joshua and the Israelites to "be strong and courageous" four times in Joshua chapter one, alone. So, why do we choose our "stuck-ness", our comfort, and our sin over the fullness of life that God has for us. To put it simply, it's because we like our sin. After all, isn't gossip, lust, greed, and (you fill in the blank) enjoyable in the moment? Isn't it fun, until it hurts someone? Isn't it fun, until it snaps back and hurts us? The beauty of Christ is contrasted with the ugliness of sin, yet we continually choose sin. One of my favorite sections in our Westminster Confession of Faith is in chapter 13 on sanctification, which says, "The old sinful nature retains some of its control in body, mind, and spirit. And so a continual and irreconcilable war goes on in every believer. The old nature tries to get its way in opposition to the Spirit, and the Spirit fights to assert its authority over the flesh." Isn't that exactly how we feel? It's like the old cartoon with the angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other shoulder whispering into our ear which way we should go. The problem with the illustration though is that God and the devil are not equals. Thus, the victory is already ours, we simply need to have the courage and strength to follow God through the "irreconcilable war" that the Confession speaks of. Therefore let us move forward with strength and courage, regardless of what temptations come our way. In other words, let's cross the Jordan and move into the Promised Land.

# Sands Through the Hourglass...

The green and white sands in the March Hour 🕒 Glass tumble through to tell us: "Read the Bible as if God were speaking to us," HE IS!

The Elaine Freshley Wagner family, husband Ronnie, children Pam, Randy, Andy and Amy and their families, are all so appreciative for the Middle Sandy family because of all the love, support and efforts bestowed upon them with the passing of their devoted Janet Elaine.

Anyone who has attended this church during the last 80 years knows of Elaine, who became a communicant member 74 years ago. She had a generous giving heart: for years she was pianist and secretary for both Sunday school and VBS, organizer and director of the youth choir, member and officer for PW, the founder of the hard tack candy project, a participant with the Chimers, the funeral dinner organizer, provider of sweet treats for the youth for years, an unselfish financial supporter. She enjoyed serving with Ronnie as greeters before the worship services and then visiting with folks afterward. Many of her anonymous acts of kindness and encouragements she accomplished were labors of her love.

Three women plus one fellow assistant -- working three hours --- and the MS nursery was completely cleaned and sanitized! There are some directions for those wanting to donate items for the preschool youngsters' room: give nothing that requires batteries, no small toys--- too easily swallowed, nothing with sharp edges or are broken or

not clean. In the room there is a variety of wonderful large, clean, child-safe toys. Once an item is donated, it is the policy of MS that it becomes the property of the congregation, so thank you all.

Do you like free-bees? During the recent cleaning out of the church building, items that are no longer needed or used were put on the stage in the fellowship hall so--Go--Look--Take--Leftovers will be removed from the premises---😊---

Presbyterian Women's Association is assisting the Homeworth Community group's fundraiser for the Jackaki family, whose mother recently passed away. A donation sign-up sheet has been placed in the vestibule listing items for their raffle container. The gifts are due to the church by March 13th.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 3rd. So, during these six weeks before Easter, will we decide to "give up something" or "take on something" or both? Many will be encouraged if our "take on" for others will include prayers, both with and for them, cards, calls, visits, goodies, hugs,--- any acts of love🥰 and caring🙌.

Here is an help for you, if you like me, have trouble in the correct spelling and usage of affect and effect. Remember the word RAVEN. Notice the A comes before the V, so affect is a verb. Now notice that the V comes before the N, so effect is a verb. That's today's lesson-😊

Two homeless fellows are sitting on a park bench talking, when one says,  
"I had it all...a nice wife, a house in the  
"burbs," a luxury car,,,  
Then I went to the gas station for a  
fill-up....."

# 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 & Reinhild Sydnor (ministry to refugees in Lille, France and Malta)

## **Birthdays**

### Name - Date

A.J. Tharp - 1  
Eric Hampe - 1  
Myah Handy - 1  
Dillon Kidd - 3  
Brienne Harrold - 5  
Jim Humphrey - 7  
Andy Wagner - 14  
Sydney Rice - 17  
Lindsey Rice - 17  
Sheila Williamson - 21  
Jane Stryffeler - 24  
Karen Rice - 25  
Vanessa Emmons - 25  
George Bush - 30  
Isaac Slingerland – 31

## **Anniversaries**

### Couple – Date

Steve & Jodi Snyder – 3  
Jim & Linda Wallace – 4

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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).

# SESSION



## Notes

The meeting was opened with prayer, and devotions entitled “The Duck and The Devil”.

The new members, Cindy Blendebacher, Myah Handy, Cameron Matz, Sandy Matz and Kim Shefelton were examined and approved for membership.

Time was then spent in prayer.

The next steps moving forward with information from Noah Schumacher were discussed. These included sacred cows, different worship options, moving forward with evangelism, and what is next?.

The pastor led worship/preached 4x, did Thursday night prayer time, made flock list contacts with non-members, made 2 home visits, 4 ministerial lunches/coffee, lunch with 3 members, attended John Vandevort's funeral (relative of Sandy Matz), and is continuing with his education.

It was asked if the nominating process could be started sooner so that Elder training could be completed sooner. This will be looked into.

An outside auditor checked on the existing playground. Hartville Playground has negotiated a lower price for the playground available through the end of February. Local business leaders will be contacted about donations. Discussed looking into filling the area to raise it up.

The new website will be up and running soon.

Plans are in place to begin the food pantry/blessing box.

The committee chairs were asked to have work days to clean each room in the church. The dates decided on were the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays in February, that would be the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DUMC Breakfast

The Damascus United Methodist Church breakfast will be on Saturday, March 19 from 7:00-1030am.

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### 2022 Mission Trip

#### June 26 – July 2

The Summer Mission Trip is ON for 2022!!!! The monthly community breakfast resumed last June, and it has been a great success. The support by our church and the community have been overwhelming. Our group will be traveling to Jackson, Ohio to work with Jackson are ministries. NO firm cost has been determined for this summer's excursion, but we are sure to keep it affordable, even with rising costs. Prayerfully consider coming along on the trip and sharing your talents. The Mission Trip is a fantastic experience that will change your life forever. We take any youth or adult from 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up. There is something for everyone to do or help with! WE NEED YOU! If you are interested in going, please let Dorothy Burbick know. There will be a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at Damascus United Methodist Church.

