

Sandpiper

January Worship Schedule

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



Within and Without

I'm awful at it. It's true. Dennis Olkholm writes, "listening requires a degree of silence - both within and without." We live in a noisy world. Smartphones beep. TVs blare. But the silence that Olkholm is discussing isn't simply the noise of the world around us, it's also the noise within us. That disagreement we had last night weighs on our minds today. The presentation we are preparing for tomorrow we simply cannot get off of our minds today. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Noise pulls us from prayer. Stillness can feel elusive. Even when in quiet places, our minds race. As elusive as quiet is, inner stillness is even more elusive.

James 3:8-10 tells us, "no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." Cornelius was a Novice (think of this as a person on the way to becoming a monk) in an Greek Orthodox monastery. I asked him about how he was able to develop friendships with the other monks at a place that values silence. He reminded me that they do not discourage all talking, but rather, excess talking. Thus, they are still able to communicate and even form relationships with one another. The quiet of the monastery is an opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to avoid that stupid things we say that we later wish we could take back. In silence and inner stillness, we open ourselves to the work of God.

Noise lets us avoid the deeper murmurings of our hearts. In stillness, we not only hear the "still, small voice" of God, but also our own deep thoughts. Stillness helps us get a gauge on how our soul is doing. Stillness fosters prayer and intimacy with God. There's another aspect of silence that is important in relationships? As we listen to people, we can quickly jump to preparing our response, rather than truly listening. In these moments, let yourself be silent, vocally and internally, in order to truly receive what the person is saying. This is a season of anticipation for the year ahead. It's a time for New Year's resolutions and goals for 2022. Well, what if you add in a goal of being present, listening well, and experiencing a healthy stillness before God.

Sands Through the Hourglass...

The January 2022 snow flaked shaped ❄️ sands in the hour ⌚ glass encourage:

May your heart ❤️ overflow with Jesus this year.

Ah, a new year with new undertakings to be initiated. The Session approved the forming of a committee to plan for the 200th celebration of Middle Sandy as a congregation. (We were 200 on November 10, 2021). It will not have to be an extravagant affair, but one for the gathering of folks to reunite, praise God for His guidance and share memories of Sunday School classes, VBS, YF, choir Ladies Aid and Missionary Society, Canfield Fair tent, hard tack candy making, and so on and so on. Members met at Middle Sandy Creek Presbyterian Church, Middle Sandy Presbyterian Church, Middle Sandy United Presbyterian Church, Middle Sandy Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and Middle Sandy Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Let me know by January 16th if you would like to participate in organizing the celebration, which will probably held after Easter. Thanks.

Countless hands in applause 🙌 are extended to dedicated musicians Linda McQuilkin, B.J. Willis. and the choir members and Pastor Marc for the inspirational Christmas Eve candlelight service. The poinsettias, which enhanced the beauty of the sanctuary, were purchased with funds from Presbyterian Women 🙌. That means many of you helped raise the money, which was made possible by serving dinners to several groups. Even though Diane and Roger Sanor's physical presence has not been evident, as they have not been able to attend worship services because of health issues, their craft items presents were quite visible. 🙌 Many gathered to decorate throughout the building, using many of the items Diane had made in the past years. Now, a time needs to be set to put the decorations away carefully. Also, those behind-the-scene

members 🙌 who put the outdoor manger scene in place, planned the Trim-a-Tree evening and he who declutters the building since no custodian has been hired...thanks. Apologies if someone has been left out of the 🙌

Congratulations to two of Scott and Sheryl Mason's girls. Mary is now freshman at UMU. In the fall she was awarded the Pro Hall of Fame Excellence Award for her combined academic and athletic accomplishments as a Marlinton student. She was the 2021 class Valedictorian and had a 4.0 grade point average. Mary was a four letter recipient in tennis (Elizabeth's doubles' partner), basketball and track. She volunteered in various community activities, and also included the fact that she is an active member of MSEPC, most often present with her family in the balcony with the videos.

Elizabeth is a junior at Marlinton and was featured in a recent Alliance Review article as the Aultman Alliance Community Hospital Athlete of the Week. Most of the report focused on her skills in basketball, but also cited her accomplishments in tennis (with Mary as her doubles' partner), and track. Not to be outdone by her other three siblings, Elizabeth also maintains a 4.0 grade point average. The reporter wrote that she praised her parents and siblings for being so helpful in her early years and they continue to be supportive. She is also a MS balcony worshiper.

A reminder: there are three Sunday School classes to which you are invited. One meets in the fellowship hall, one in the parlor and one in the classroom at the left of the sanctuary. Your class choice is optional. The study time begins at 9:00. A teacher for younger children is also prepared to welcome them.

Do you have something to share in the Sandpiper? Let me know--😊--

Prayer for the New Year
Abba Father, we praise your name.
Forgive us for yesterday's sins.
Grant us the needs we have today.
Fortify us to resist tomorrow's temptations.
In gratitude and praise, Amen

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)
Elaine Wagner (cancer)

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)
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

Joseph Smythe – 2
John Hampe - 4
Dorothy Burbick – 10
Darlene Martin – 25
Barb McCain – 31

Anniversaries

Couple – Date

None

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.



New Year's Blessings

SESSION



Notes

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions from Joe Schopfer and devotions were led by Barb McCain.

Pastor Noah Schumacher of Compassion Church in Canton was a guest at the meeting and shared about his church's journey to health and vitality.

Pastor Marc let worship/preached 4 times, and led Thursday night prayer time. He made flock list contacts with non-members and made pastoral care contacts- 1 home visit, and 1 hospital visit, 2 ministerial lunches and 3 church member lunches. He has completed advanced preaching practicum course and sacraments class.

An inspection of the playground is being planned and it will give us a breakdown of the issues with the playground.

The Search Committee is finishing work on the new website.

An appreciation dinner is being planned for possibly February for the Homeworth Community group, area businesses, trustees, etc.

There will be 5 new members joining the church on January 24, Sandy Matz, Cameron Matz, Myah Handy, Cindy Blendenbacher and Kim Shefelton.

Eleanor Carver will be working on our 200th anniversary celebration in 2022.

We will begin a food pantry cabinet. It's placement is yet to be determined. The next Session meeting will be Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:30pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mariners SS Class

The Mariners Sunday School class will begin a study by David Jeremiah in January. This Bible study is call "Slaying the Giants in Your Life – You can Win the Battle and Live Victoriously". Throughout this study we will look at the lies of fear, loneliness and failure that Satan uses to try and keep us from fulfilling our potential in Christ. Through the feelings of anger, guilt and jealousy he tries to cloud our vision and distort our focus on our great reward. We will also look at the giants of discouragement, worry, temptation, resentment, doubt and procrastination that hold us back from living our best life God has an answer and a word for every giant we will possibly face. In this study Dr. Jeremiah will equip us with Scripture specific to defeating each giant so that we may each walk in victory as a follower of Christ.

So is you are facings some of these giants in your life, please join us in the parlor starting in January as we study how to defeat the giants.

Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting in January will be on the 24th for the purpose of presenting the 2022 budget and the year end reports.