

Sandpiper

November Worship Schedule

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



GOING TO GOD

It was *finally* going to happen. For 5 hours on November 2, 2016, my beloved Cleveland Indians played their hearts out against the Chicago Cubs. It was a game for the ages. A World Series title had eluded both teams for decades. Finally, it was going to happen. Finally, this was our year. Then the infamous rain delay happened in the 10th inning, and the rest is history. My beloved Indians lost, and the Indians would never again compete in the World Series. Terry Wardle teaches on how life is a series of ungrieved losses. And yes, on November 3rd, 2016, I was grieving. We had done so well with so little. We had gone so far. We had nearly clinched our first title since 1948. Then it was all over.

Now I'll say what you're probably thinking. A favorite baseball team losing a

world series is nothing compared to the losses that *really* hurt. Take a moment and think through ways that you live out of the wounds of the past. There's a particular style of car that would trigger bad memories because someone who drove that kind of car hurt me. Perhaps you respond emotionally (or with a lack of emotion) because of an experience you've had in the past. Kim and I recently went on a pastor/spouse retreat. While I was there, I realized how much stress and tension I was carrying around in my physical body due to stressors in life. The spiritual, emotional, and physical parts of us are interconnected and affect one another. Fortunately, we have a loving father we can run to. Romans 8:14-15 says, "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship."

When we go through loss, we can run to our father. We can grieve to him and work through what weighs us down. One of the questions that should challenge us though is, what losses have we experienced that we haven't sufficiently grieved? What are the losses we carry around with us that impact our relationships with others? To put it more simply, what is on your heart that you need to lament to the Father, knowing that he hears your prayers and cares for you? A baseball team losing a world series probably isn't. As 1 Peter 5 says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

Sands Through the Hourglass...

The orange and yellow sands slide down the November hourglass to remind us: "Now thank we all, our God, with hearts and hands and voices."

Do you realize that April 1, 1821 and November 10, 1821, were important dates for the Middle Sandy Creek Congregation? On April 1 seven persons received communion and their children were baptized. On November 10, "the church was regularly organized by the Rev. Joshua Beer...six families and nine members enrolled and elected two ruling elders." (from The Years with Middle Sandy) Those of you have the green history book, dust it off and read more of our past. Ironically, November 10, 1942 was the birth date of John Freshley, a Middle Sandy member who was ordained at MS as a Presbyterian pastor in 1967.

Having shared the above, it is 200 since MS was officially organized. Perhaps a celebration is in order, just a special recognition of MS's congregations being a beacon in the community. The observance would not have to be outlandish, perhaps a special recognition worship service, a carry-in meal and a time of fellowship when memories can be shared. Who will volunteer to "get the ball rolling"? Let Pastor Marc or an elder (who may volunteer) know.

November is a busy month for the MS congregation. On the 7th a worship service in remembrance of those who have passed on in the last two years will be held with family members invited. A soup lunch will follow.

November 10th, MS is 200 years old.

November 13th several members of MS will journey to Northpark EPC in Wexford, PA to participate in the opportunity to learn how to talk about the gospel in everyday conversations. A signup sheet is in the vestibule for those wanting to attend.

November 14th, the Operation Christmas Child boxes are due at the church.

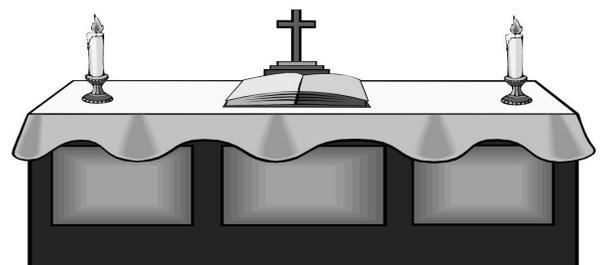
November 17th, PW will host the Knox Senior Citizens for their annual Thanksgiving noon meal. This group has been hosted from at least since 1996, which is as far back as Eileen Ickes' meal recording book goes. Helpers for the 36 guests were Eileen, Ruth Ann Stoffer, Helen Scott, Dorothy Smythe, Carolyn Slingerland, Joyce Cameron, Marjorie Smith and myself...memories.

November 21st will be the PW's annual Thank Offering service, led by the women of the congregation. The guest speaker will be Amy Kavanaugh, Crisis Outreach Coordinator from Christina House in Lisbon, which the congregation has supported for years. The Thank Offering monetary gifts and donations of diapers and personal hygiene items will all be gifted to Christina House.

November 25th is Thanksgiving.

November 28th is the first Sunday of Advent, so perhaps trim-a-tree and decorate the sanctuary will take place.

Criticism is the occupational hazard of leadership.



Come Worship With Us



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:

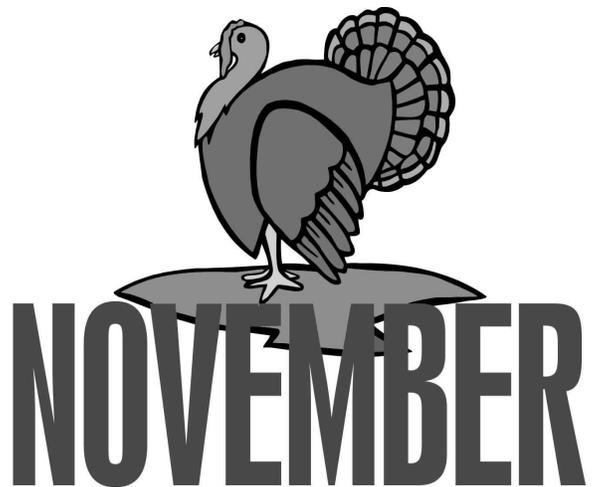
Tim Hume (blood cancer treatments)
Diane Sanor (auto immune disorder)
Carter Schopfer (Joe & Susie's grandson)
Jane Stryffeler (health issues)
Elaine Wagner (cancer)

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

Ron Wagner – 5
Linda Wallace – 10
Amy Wagner – 11
Barbara Bansbert-Schied - 13
Jacob Rice – 19
Linda McQuilkin – 22
Pat Tuel – 22
Tom Sawyer - 24
Gary Davies – 25
Rachael Emmons – 26
Leonard Mapes - 27

Anniversaries

Couple – Date

Phil & Linda McQuilkin – 14
Donald & Bonnie Riddle – 22
Gary & Sharon Davies – 29

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.

SESSION



Notes

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions from Joe Schopfer.

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- 2 home visits, 1 hospital visit, 2 lunches with members and 5 ministerial lunches. He is working on the Doctor of Ministry Program (Church Vitality) currently taking Homiletics II (preaching) course and a church & sacraments class.

The Finance Committee reported that we were about \$14,000 below our budget.

The annual congregational meeting will be November 28 for the purpose of electing elders to the class of 2025 and to elect a Nominating Committee for 2022.

Property Committee reported that the window wells were cleaned and that the boiler inspection passed.

The Worship Committee discussed the Memorial Service Sunday on November 7th and the soup lunch that will be served following the service.

Several quotes were received on the playground equipment project. It was reported that the metal equipment would last about 50 years and the vinyl covered would last about 30-40 years.

The Search Committee is reviewing our Church Information Form (CIF) and our website.

The Christmas Trim-A-Tree dinner and program will be November 28 (first Sunday of Advent) beginning at 6:00pm. We will have an appreciation dinner for the Trustees, business owners, community group, and the firemen.

It was reported that the nativity scene needs refurbished. Also the Barnhart stone needs refurbished as well and Larry's name added. The pastor's list also needs updated.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6:30pm.

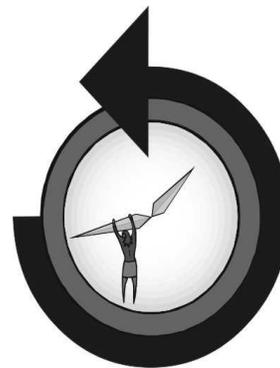
ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Call System

Middle Sandy has now started a new messaging system for our church family. It is a wonderful way for anyone to send out a message to our whole congregation or specific committees. Letting everyone know about activities, events and health issues about our members will be quick and easy way to relay that news. New technology for our little, country church will take some getting used to but I think it will be a wonderful tool to share news. It will take several attempts and trials to figure out the specifics. So please be patient. There will be some upcoming meetings to show everyone interested in learning the One Call System.

Thank Offering Service

Presbyterian Women will have our Thank Offering Service on November 21st, and will have Amy Kavanagh, who is the Crisis Outreach Coordinator from Christina House speak that morning. We hope you will join us to hear about one of our local Missions. Christina House is a Domestic Violence Shelter that provides emergency shelter, case management, counseling, legal advocacy, referrals and safety planning, crisis outreach and transportation for women and children. We hope you will join us to hear about this mission. We will be collecting diapers and personal hygiene items if you would like to donate. We will also take up a collection that Sunday. You can make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.



**End of
Daylight
Savings...
FALL BACK!**

November 7



And All The
Time God Is Good

Session Minutes

SESSION



Notes

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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How to Find Us On YouTube

Feeling sick on Sunday? Out of town on vacation? Worried about COVID? You can watch Middle Sandy EPC's live stream on YouTube in addition to Facebook! Here's here. One way is to type in https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr3i_NM1RNyOSphMbo3wECg?view_as=subscriber or go to www.youtube.com and search for Middle Sandy EPC. Please note, you will not find it if you type in variations such as Middle Sandy Church, Middle Sandy Presbyterian, etc. The live stream is also continuing to be shown on the Middle Sandy EPC Facebook page.

Church & the Coronavirus

I recently saw a meme aimed at pastors that said, “And just like that, we all became televangelists.” Well, we can be thankful that we have options for worship and other church functions that we didn’t have in the past. To that end, churches across the country are wholly moving their worship and small groups online. Here are a few ways that we are looking at ministering during this pandemic.

1. Facebook Live Worship – Please “Like” Middle Sandy EPC on Facebook so that you can follow the various posts, Live videos, and worship we will be doing. The goal is to not only stream Sunday mornings on here, but also include updates and other information about the church and community. Sunday mornings may simply include announcements, prayer, and a message. Details are still getting worked out, and we hope to improve upon this week by week.

2. Weekly Prayer Time – While the nation is battling the Coronavirus, we’d like to have a weekly Facebook Live prayer time on Facebook Live where we offer up prayers for our nation, our community, and our church.

3. The Sandpiper – Will be mailed for now in order to minister to our flock while we are

apart.

4. Giving – Thank you to those who have generously mailed in or dropped off your tithes and offerings! In order to encourage your faithfulness in giving and to support the mission, two self-addressed, stamped envelopes have been included here. We pray that this helps you to give thanks to God and to trust in him through your continued giving. As Corinthians 9:7 says, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

5. Flock Lists – For several years now, the Session has divided the congregation up into “flocks” to follow-up with and to pray for. These lists have become even more vital as the Coronavirus continues to spread. If you haven’t already, you will be hearing from one of your elders in the coming days. Please thank them for their ministry in challenging times.

6. Celebration! – The Session and I have been discussing how we can celebrate the end of the Coronavirus at our first Sunday back. If you have ideas for how we can do this, please email or call us. We want it to be a Sunday morning to remember, and an opportunity to invite people from the community to celebrate with us!

7. Projects & Other Opportunities at Church – Your staff and elders are hard at work throughout this crisis. We are using this as an opportunity to get additional cleaning and other projects done, as is possible with only a small handful of people (1-4) at the church at a time.

When This is Over,
may we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.
When this ends,
may we find that we have become
more like the people we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

By Laura Kelly Fanucci

Announcements



Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:30am

DUMC Breakfast

Don't forget the breakfasts at Damascus United Methodist Church on the third Saturdays of each month. Breakfast is served from 7:00-10:30am.

Brothers In Christ

(Men's Ministry Group)

Men of Middle Sandy

Come for a night of fellowship

Friday, July 12th at 7:30pm.

We will be showing a movie and snacks will be provided. After the movie we'll have a time to get to know each other better. Come and experience a new adventure and learn how important men really are.

in our



prayers

Child Care available during the Worship Service for ages infant through 5 years