



Middle Settlements United Methodist Church

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The
Season
of
Lent



**NEWSLETTER
2024**

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:16-20*

You've heard by now of the liturgical year – the calendar of God's story that the Church keeps to celebrate and remember God's work and our invitation into it. There's Advent & Christmas, Lent & Easter, Pentecost, All Saints...and there are also saints' days. The Bible tells us that all who confess Christ are saints—people who are being made holy by Jesus. Traditionally, when saints die, their lives and the example of their faith are remembered on All Saints (& All Hallows Eve) as well as the anniversary of their death. We can do this for the anniversaries of our loved ones who have gone on in faith and we can do this for famous examples of the faith from around the world. Some of our oldest saints' stories have gotten wilder the longer they've been around, but that's no problem. These stories aren't scripture, they're the Christian version of Batman that encourages us to be bold and faithful. March has one of the most famous - St. Patrick – and we get to celebrate his day together this year on Sunday, March 17th.

From Little Way Chapel's Lenten Guide: "St. Patrick was born off the coast of northwestern Britain around 390 AD, into a family of Christians--his grandfather was a priest, and his father was a deacon. When Patrick was sixteen, he was captured by a band of Irish pirates and carried off

to Ireland where he was forced to work as a shepherd. After six years in captivity, Patrick escaped and caught a ship back to Britain, where he entered into holy orders and eventually became a Bishop. At some point after his return, Patrick had a vision of an Irishman named Victoricus, who beckoned him to "come back and walk among us." Patrick took this as a sign from God that he was to return to Ireland--this time not as a slave, but as a missionary, preaching the Gospel to the very people who had enslaved him."

There are many ways to celebrate and give thanks for St. Patrick's work in the Kingdom of God. This month, read St. Patrick's story/biography and consider who God might be calling you to forgive and offer the hope of Jesus. Be challenged by a faith that would obediently return to a land of captivity in order to spread the gospel! It's also a good month to search for shamrocks (**three-leaf clovers**), which St. Patrick used to teach about the doctrine of the Trinity, and ponder the mystery of One God in Three Persons. If you're looking for St. Patrick's Day earrings (ha!), here's your reminder that we wear three-leaf clovers in honor of the Trinity, not four-leaf clovers, which symbolize luck.

Another way to celebrate is to pray St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer, traditionally attributed to St. Patrick. Here's the most popular section:

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend or stranger.*

Amen.

Pastor Magan

Faithfulness

"I will support the church with my presence, prayers, gifts, and service!" (Membership vow)

January	S.S.	Worship	Offering
7	65	121	\$7,657
14	76	110	\$3,361
21	Snow Day		
28	65	106	\$4,040
February	S.S.	Worship	Offering
4	77	110	\$9,294
11	72	115	\$5,869
18	80	130	\$2,952
25	76	122	\$2,735
Morning View Sunday Evening Worship Attendance			
1/7	19	2/4	30
1/14	15	2/11	15
1/21	Snow	2/18	14
1/28	19	2/25	19
Budget amount needed for 2024: \$39,112			
Budget amount received in 2024: \$35,908			
Louisville Christian Assistance Center: \$350			
Evangelism/backpack: \$80			
Lenten Special Offering: \$70			
Youth: \$20			
Nurture Committee/luncheons: \$100			
"Remember the Church in your will."			



Birthdays in March

March 2—Eunice Greer
 March 3—Paula Kleinhans
 March 7—Will Carico
 March 8—Penney Rogers, Alex Watkins
 March 13—Pam Carico, Jason Martin
 March 15—Caitlyn Jennings, Jack Loveday
 March 16—Laverne Carpenter
 March 17—Alex Caldwell, Andrew Lewis
 March 20—Chip Smith
 March 24—Jackson Gregg, Leslie McAmis
 March 25—Tyler Hill, Lucas Nguyen
 March 27—David Wells
 March 28—Ty Lawhorn
 April 3—Maggie Patterson
 April 7—Ethan Davis

Anniversaries in March

March 9—David & Karen Lewis
 March 21—Bill & Laura Floyd
 March 22—Chris & Julia Keylon
 April 3—Steve & Dee Carpenter



Children Leading Worship, Palm Sunday (March 24)

On Palm Sunday,

children are invited to help open Worship by waving palm branches! Palm-waivers will need to be in the narthex a few minutes before the service begins. All children are welcome.



Maundy Thursday Dinner Church: Thursday, March 28th Dinner 5:30 pm; Service 6:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)

On Maundy Thursday, the church remembers Jesus' last night before

his arrest and crucifixion. On that evening, Jesus broke bread with his disciples and gave them the "new commandment" to love one another. Maundy Thursday's name comes from both the original day of these events (Thursday) and from the Latin phrase for "new commandment" (*mandatum novum*). In other words, Maundy Thursday is "new commandment Thursday." Our service this year will take place in the Fellowship Hall, at table, as we remember that Last Supper and break bread together in holy communion.

Good Friday Service: Friday, March 29th 8:00 pm (Sanctuary)

Good Friday marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Although Good Friday is one of the saddest days of the Christian year, we call it "good" because we believe Jesus' suffering and death were not in vain but served to liberate humanity from the power of sin. We both give thanks and grieve for Jesus, the slain Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Join us as we proclaim the crucifixion story through scripture, song, and candlelight.

Sunrise Service: Sunday, March 31st 7:00 am (Field of Dreams)

Our annual Sunrise Service will be at 7:00 am Easter Morning at the Field of Dreams (2508 Middlesettlements Rd). If the weather is good, services will be held at the top of the hill – feel free to drive all the way to the top, where there is plenty of parking available. If the weather is bad, the service will be held at the pavilion.



Pregnancy Resource Center

Lenten Mission Emphasis 2024

Save your change or cash and put it in one of the baby bottles placed around the church. If you want to give a one-time donation anytime during Lent, please mark your donation - "**Lenten Mission Emphasis**" in the memo line on your check. Since 1986, the Pregnancy Resource Center of Blount County, Tennessee has helped women cope with unplanned pregnancies and consider their options in a compassionate and supportive environment.

The United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 pm at the home of Kate Keylon (925 Mildred, Alcoa). The Mission Emphasis for March will be Pregnancy Resource: suggestions are diapers and wipes which are mostly requested in addition to baby hygiene items like baby lotion, baby shampoo, and baby wash. Pastor Magan will have our devotion.

2024 Hands-On Mission Project

Zimbabwe Holston Annual Conference

Unlike school supplies, food items have expiration dates. Be sure to check the dates and ensure they do not expire until 2025 to cover transport time and have a useful life for the people in Zimbabwe.

The Smoky Mountain District has been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets for the 2024 Holston Annual Conference Hands-On Mission Project. Note: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. The **\$5.00** is to be on top of the bucket (please do not put money in the bucket!). The deadline to turn it in is Sunday, May 26.

Canned Meat (Ham, Tuna, or Spam-one 2-lb size or two 1-lb sizes)

1 bag self/rising corn meal (plain) (4-5 lb.)

1 2lb. bag dried beans

1 bottle of cooking oil (48 oz. or less)

1 box powdered milk (56 oz. or less)

1 2lb. bag rice

Pack in a NEW 5-gallon bucket with a lid.

Easter Mission Opportunity

Easter season is coming; we want the children we sponsor at MSES to have some special items to take home the Thursday before Easter. If you feel led, please buy ALL 5 items listed and double bag them in 2 plastic grocery bags. Tie it up! **We need 36 bags from our Church!** Immanuel UMC is providing 20.

Teamwork is a blessing! **Bags are due Sunday,**

March 24. Please put them on the stage in the fellowship hall. Please sign up on the signup sheet on the informational desk in the Narthex. If you don't have time to shop, you can always donate and mark **Easter bags** (on your check).

1 Cake mix & icing/a box of Debbie Cakes *{if you can find the Easter/spring variety, that would be great}*

1 Canned ham (**NOT refrigerated**)

1 box of powdered potatoes

1 large can of corn/ 2 small (not gallon)

1 large can of baked beans or green beans/2 small (not gallon)

-Karen Lewis (865.705.5775)

Day trip to Biltmore to experience the Chihuly Glass Exhibit.

The Nurture Committee is planning a day trip to Biltmore this Spring on Saturday, June 1. We need to start planning now so that we can secure transportation and get a group rate for the tickets. This is a special time at Biltmore, you will get to experience the Chihuly Glass Exhibit. Google this event and view the pictures. There are different options for tickets.

Option #1 Biltmore house and grounds & Chihuly Exhibit = \$146.59

Option #2 Biltmore Gardens and grounds (not the house) & Chihuly Exhibit = \$99.44.

This price would include transportation but not your 2 meals. At this point, we are just trying to get an idea of how many would be interested, no money is due now. Please sign up on the clipboard, on the information booth, in the narthex, and mark if you prefer option 1 or 2. Once we get an idea about how many people would like to go, then we will give more details and a due date for money. If you have questions please see Karen, Megan M, or Dora. Sign up by March 10 if you are interested.



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10, 2024. Do not forget to set your clock ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday.



EMERALD SAILS

5 MEMBER MALE ENSEMBLE

**SATURDAY NIGHT
CONCERT
MAR 23 6PM
MIDDLESETTLEMENTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

After the concert, we will have a
DessertBar/Ice Cream social in the
Fellowship Hall.

Costa Rica Mission Trip Update:

Please pray for our 15-person mission team. We will be leaving on March 10 and returning on March 17. We will be riding with Dotson Memorial on their bus to Atlanta and flying with them as well. We will change planes in Panama and then head to Costa Rica. Here are some things that we need for our VBS team. Large round balloons, face paint, crayons. If you would like to donate any of these please give them to Karen L, Deonna W, or Megan M before March 4. Thank you for your continued support!



Easter Celebration
March 31

9:30 a.m. Breakfast
(in the Fellowship Hall)

10:00 a.m. Egg Hunt in
the Graveyard



The Children's Department will be accepting candy donations until Palm Sunday (for our egg hunt). There will be a bin in the Narthex.

If you would like to volunteer to help during our celebration, please use the sign-up on the informational desk.

*Please come celebrate.
Laverne Carpenter's
90th birthday.*

*Join us on Saturday, March 16
from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
at Morningview Village.*

*Cake, cookies, and beverages will be
served.*

*Please, no gifts, just let Laverne enjoy
your company.*

Middlesettlements United Methodist Church
2729 Middlesettlements Rd.
Maryville, TN 37801
Return Address requested



Melinda Andes, Organist
Robby Clemens IV, Associate Worship Ministry Coordinator
Rev. Susan Groseclose, UMC Deacon
Kate Keylon, Student Ministry Coordinator
Joyce Overton, Secretary
Rev. Magan Stubblefield, Pastor
David Wells, Worship Ministry Coordinator

Upcoming Events

March Altar Flowers – UMW

- March 3, **3rd Sunday of Lent**
- March 3, Blessing of Costa Rica Mission Team
- March 5, 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (Blanche Class)
- March 10, **4th Sunday of Lent**
- March 10, Daylight Saving
- March 10 -17, Costa Rica Mission Trip
- March 13, Spring Break – Wednesday activities canceled.
- March 17, **5th Sunday of Lent**
- March 23, Emerald Sails (Robby Clemens singing group)
Afterward – Dessert Bar in Fellowship Hall
- March 24, **Palm Sunday**
- March 28, **Maundy Thursday Dinner Church:**
5:30 Dinner 6:00 p.m. Service (Fellowship Hall)
- March 29, 8:00 p.m. **Good Friday Service** (Sanctuary)
- March 31, 7:00 a.m. **Sunrise Service** (Field of Dreams)
9:30 a.m. Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10:00 a.m. Egg Hunt (Graveyard)
9:30 p.m. Sunday School (for those not participating in the Easter celebration at 9:30 a.m.)
10:30 p.m. **Easter Sunday Worship**

★★ **OUR** ★★
MILITARY When our church family military is deployed or in school, they love to get mail. Below is Heath's address, please send a note of encouragement.

SR Rogers, Heath G.
PO Bx 700 #68
Groton, CT 06349

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our church family for your love and support during this difficult time. We are grateful for your prayers, cards, and the wonderful meal provided. The body of believers has fulfilled His purpose of encouragement to our hearts!

We love you all.

Cindy, LuJean, and LeAnne

Thank you to our amazing church family for their compassion and sweet support of our family at the news of our father's passing. Your precious prayers, caring cards & delicious dinner (feast) provided such comfort to us all. It is truly a blessing to belong to the Middlesettlements Church family. We love you all.

Kate, Jenna, Lindsay & Heath

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to **Cindy Alloway, LeAnne Moore, LuJean Buckner, and their families** at the unexpected death of their father, **John Charlton**.

Middlesettlements Memorial Fund



Write on your check to whom the memorials are for and put them in the mailbox for Memorials outside the Church office, put in the offering plate, or mail them to the Church.