



MIDDLESETTLEMENTS METHODIST CHURCH October 2026 NEWSLETTER



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

—Hebrews 12:1

We love Halloween at Middlesettlements – with such a wonderful history of saints and such a lovely graveyard next door, we'd be crazy to not! If you're new to Middlesettlements and aren't sure about the connection between church and the holiday, we'll be talking about it in church on Sundays in October!

As a short introduction to tide you over, the name tells the story: All Hallows Eve was the night before All Hallows Day (November 1st). "Hallow" basically means "holy": we use it all the time when we pray the Lord's Prayer and say "hallowed be thy name." So on All Hallows Day, which is also known as All Saints Day, we remember the holy people of the church who have gone before us. All Hallows (Saints) Day was the Church's response to the unsaved peoples around them being fascinated and terrified by death. "Worried about death?" the Church asked. "Let me tell you about the Lord who has defeated death! And let me tell you about those who have faced death with no fear thanks to their trust in Jesus!"

The Church began to celebrate All Hallows (Saints) Day with All Hallows Eve as the vigil held the night before—like Christmas Eve for Christmas Day. Just like Christmas Eve helps us prepare for the celebration of Christmas Day, All Hallows Eve helps us prepare for All Hallows (Saints) Day. Of course, All Hallows Eve is long to say, so people shortened it. People dropped the "all", and then shortened evening to "e'en" instead of "eve", and then they just made it all one word: Hallow-e'en...or as we like to spell it, Halloween.

With this history in mind, Halloween is the perfect opportunity to celebrate and testify about the good news of Jesus. Specific ways for you and/or your family to celebrate might include:

- Attend church this month! All month long we'll be looking at "Spooky Stories"—stories with witches, zombies, and demons. If you're scared already, God wins every time!
- Read some bible verses about Jesus triumphing over death: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, John 5:21-29, John 6:27-40, and 1 Corinthians 15 are good places to start. Journal and share about what our hope in Jesus means for the future!
- Choose a Christian item that a deceased loved one used in their faith and use it to spur on your faith! You might read from a favorite book/devotional/bible passage or their bible that you've kept, serve in a way that they loved to serve, eat their favorite dish and say a prayer of thanksgiving, and/or tell others about how you saw Jesus in your loved one's life.
- Set out pictures of favorite bible heroes or members of the Church Triumphant near wherever you eat. Let it be a meal reflection/conversation as you consider/share what it is you're inspired by. If you've got kiddos, encourage them to place pictures of Christians who inspire them too!
- Celebrate and give thanks this month for all of those who helped lead you to the Lord, whether by their faithfulness 2500 or 5 years ago. Enjoy the "treats" as you celebrate their birthday into eternal life—and be encouraged and challenged by their example of faithful discipleship.

Happy Halloween!

Pastor Magan

Faithfulness

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

Attendance

Attendance	S.S.	Worship	
September		Morning	MorningView
6	63	93	21
13	74	104	10
20	67	112	11
27	57	100	9

Septt	Designated Budget	Undesignated Budget	Total Budget
6	\$9,316	\$425	\$9,741
13	\$3,871	0	\$3,871
20	\$2,569	0	\$2,569
27	\$13,755	0	\$13,755

Budget amount needed for 2026: \$182,715

Budget amount received in 2026: \$269,737

Designated Budget

(100% of your gift will support Middlesettlements Methodist Church.)

Undesignated Budget

(10% of your offering will be tithed to the United Methodist Church.)

September

Louisville Christian Assistance Center: \$350

Evangelism/backpack: \$247

Costa Rica (Lewis): \$1407

"Remember the Church in your will."

Donations Needed @ LCAC

The Louisville Christian Assistance Center (a multi-denominational organization of volunteers that helps Blount County Residents in need) is requesting coat donations to stock up for winter. Now's a great time to clean out your closet and donate!

Weekly Wednesday Night Choir

(Wednesdays 6:45-7:45 pm)

We'd love to have you join this ministry in leading our church in worship – a choir helps the whole congregation sing with joy!

Weekly Wednesday Night Dinner

Welcome to Dinner, Church! Middlesettlements Methodist hosts weekly dinners every Wednesday night beginning at 5:30 pm. *If you're willing to provide a dessert, sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office* (office@middlesettlements.com).



Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

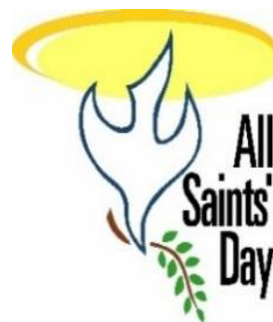
October 3—Jane Story
 October 4—Mason and Jackson Marler
 October 10—Declyn Milligan
 October 13—Kate Keylon, Karissa Marcum
 October 14—Dora Hooks
 October 15—Chris Keylon
 October 20—Lowell Sneed
 October 24—Rachel Ammons, David Lewis
 October 25—Corey McAmis
 October 26—June Love-Shaw
 October 30—Heath Rogers
 November 7—Lily Keylon

October Anniversaries

October 1—Ian & Grace Reilly
 October 2—Jared & Melissa Duckett
 October 4—Jason & Magan Stubblefield
 October 8—John & Margie Davis
 October 11 Ryan & Morgan Spurgeon
 October 16—Justin & Megan Marcus
 October 18—Joe & Ann Smith
 November 5—Mark & June Shaw

Wednesday Night Fall Break: October 7

All Wednesday night activities will be off for fall break on October 7. We'll pick back up with our regular schedule the next Wednesday, October 14th!



All Saints Services

November 1

If you have lost a family member since last year's All Saints Service and want to honor their memory on All Saints Sunday, notify Joyce Overton (865.705.6990 or tnauntjo@gmail.com). Your

loved one's name and photo will be lifted up during the Sunday service on November 1. The deadline to provide a picture is October 31.



FALL FUN EVENING

FIELD OF DREAMS

**SUNDAY
OCT. 18** **5:30-7:30PM**

**MENU: CHILI
HOT DOGS
SMORES**

****Annual chili cookoff! There will be voting & prizes! Please sign-up on the information booth in the narthex.**

**PUMPKIN PAINTING
(BYO PUMPKIN, WE'LL PROVIDE PAINT SUPPLIES)**

INFLATABLES

**ALL AGES
WELCOME,
FREE**



**Church
Texting
System**
Please join
if you
haven't
already!



Text "connect" to [865-800-3644]

You'll receive:

- Event reminders
- Service updates
- Weather cancellations

OR Scan this QR code, and it will connect for you. (That is all that is required; you won't need to enter any information.)

The Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jane Story, 407 Old Glory Rd., Maryville. Carol Forcum has devotion. Our mission emphasis for October is the Pregnancy Resource Center. Suggestions: diapers, wipes, and \$10 gift cards. As always, we welcome new members and visitors.

MIDDLESETTLEMENTS METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES SEPT 20, 2026 -CALLED MEETING

Attending:

Joyce Overton, Starla Davis, LeAnne Moore, Keith McAmis, Kathy Puckett, Magan Stubblefield, Brenda Crisp, David Lewis, Bridget Jenkins, John Davis, Josh Marler, Kate Keylon, Sam Love, Steve Carico

Sam Love presented information on the state of the church building roof. The life of the current roof is about one more year. The west facing side needs replaced. To prevent any leaking problems from developing, Sam proposed replacing the roof now and also replacing the roof on the Sunday School building. He has some estimates of which the best price is \$37,750. He has been consulting with Steve Carico for recommendations on reliable roofers. David Lewis reported that funds are available to cover the cost.

Josh Marler made a motion to have the roof replaced at a cost of up to \$38,000. Joyce Overton seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Kathy Puckett



Costa Rica 2027

Please pray about being on our team! The dates will be March 13-20, 2027. Dates may vary by a day. If you are considering going, go ahead and get your passport! The cost is around \$1700 per person. If you have questions, please contact Karen Lewis.

Church Gear!

Our church is celebrating 230 years! We will do another online store like we did last year. Stay tuned for the website to order. It will be posted on Facebook and printed in the bulletin for 2 weeks.



Middlesettments Memorial Fund

Make a check payable to MMC and, in the memo, write who the memorials are for. Then put them in the mailbox for Memorials outside the Church office, in the offering plate, or in the mail to the Church

*Given in memory of **Peggy Gilbert**
by Donna Sweitzer*



FAIRPARK HEALTH REHABILITATION

TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

For 2026 (date to be announced)

Please help us support **Fairpark Health Rehabilitation**

Trick or Treat Trail by donating candy if you can!

Your **support is very much appreciated** and will help make this a fun event for everyone.

Please place your candy donations in the large tub located in the Narthex.

Thank you for helping make this event a success!



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

The deadline to turn in your shoebox is Nov. 1.

Don't forget to include your \$10 with your box. Please include cash or a check made out to the church.

We are excited to be involved in the Shoebox ministry again this year. This ministry has been serving children in need for many years. This is an excellent way to share God's love with children. The deadline to turn in boxes will be no later than November 1. If you have questions, visit www.samaritanaspurse.org. If you are excited about the shoe box ministry but prefer not to shop, please consider donating \$25 (by October 30) to the evangelism team. This ministry is such a blessing! Drop your check or cash in the offering (or mail it to the church) with "Shoebox" in the memo.

Suggestions on what to PUT in Operation Christmas Child Shoebox and what NOT to put in.

Most recommended items to pack in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox:

A plastic cup, a real teaspoon, and a washcloth (because they may not have one)

School supplies – small chalkboards with chalk, pencils, pencil sharpener, scissors, crayons

Toys – soccer ball with pump and needle (I always pack an extra needle), girls like soccer balls also, dolls, small cars for boys, etc.

Non-liquid hygiene items only– New rule for this year: no bar of soap, toothbrush (no toothpaste), and a toothbrush holder.

Clothing accessories – dresses, tops, shoes, shirts, socks, gloves, scarves

Fishing Hooks – Fishing kits that will hold a 30-pound fish, and several different-sized fishhooks. A large pack can be shared in a couple of boxes. A sinker so the light line will sink below the surface where fish swim, and a bobber/ marker. Walmart clearance sells these for under \$1.50. I would include a fishing kit in the 10-14-year-old boxes.

A Small Sewing Kit – This can become an income for a family (Older girls).

Playing Cards or other small brain games

Girls: Hair Bows, Bracelets, Barrettes, etc.

A personal note from your family – if you include your name and address, your child may write back to you!

Boys and girls love harmonicas.

Items that should not be included in your shoebox:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; no food; liquids **or lotions** – these can spill and get all over the other items. Also, avoid medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers, and aerosol cans.

Advent Devotionals

Preparations for Advent are already gearing up – including for our own in-house Advent Devotional! Advent means "coming" or "arrival," and the season of Advent is a time of looking forward to the *advent*—the coming or arrival—of Jesus. Advent invites us to both remember how Jesus has come to us before—how as a baby "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"—and how Jesus will someday come again in glory.

As we prepare MMC's 2026 Advent Devotional, we are looking for authors! If you would like to write an Advent devotion, please contact Pastor Magan at pastor@middlesettlements.com or 865.300.1831. Thanks!

Help - tell us your Christmas traditions/recipes!

In our annual Advent Devotional, we love to include MMC-family Christmas traditions, memories, menus, and recipes. Please send in some/all of the following information to help us out! Submissions can be placed in the box outside the church office door or emailed to pastor@middlesettlements.com.

- A favorite Advent/Christmas tradition for me/my family is...
- A favorite Advent/Christmas memory for me is...
- A favorite Advent/Christmas Middlesettlements Methodist Church memory for me is...
- A favorite Advent/Christmas recipe is...

Nursery Worker Schedule		
DATE	Sunday School 9:20-10:20	Worship 10:20-11:40
1 st	1. JJ Wells 2. Patti Moore 3. VOLUNTEER NEEDED!	1. JJ Wells 2. Jenna Rogers 3. VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
2 nd	1. Carol Forcum 2. VOLUNTEER NEEDED!	1. Staci Martin 2. Jason Martin 3. Brenda Crisp
3 rd	1. Ann Connatser 2. Kathy Puckett	1. Ryan Spurgeon 2. Morgan Spurgeon 3. Kim Spencer
4 th	1. Kay Long 2. Judy Cohan	1. David Lewis 2. Chris Keylon 3. VOLUNTEER NEEDED
5 th	1. Heidi Clark 2. VOLUNTEER NEEDED	1. Patsy Webb 2. Carolyn Moore 3. VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Bible Study Opportunity

Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted

Has your life been interrupted lately?

Interruptions, most unforeseen, constantly enter our lives. Some catch us off guard and throw us for a loop, while others we take in stride. We can't escape life's interruptions, but we can change our perspective on them and what they mean. As we delve into the study of Jonah, we will find that what we view as an interruption may actually be God's invitation to a life much fuller than we can imagine.

This class will begin on Wednesday, October 14th, from 6:00-6:45 following the Wednesday night meal. Each week you will work through your study guide at home in preparation for the 20-30-minute video and discussion the following Wednesday. Due to the length of the videos and our allotted time of 45 minutes, we will be dividing some of the videos and weekly studies in half so that we have more discussion time. As a result, the study will run on Wednesdays for 8 weeks through December 9th, then resume on January 13th, 20th, and 27th for the remainder of the study.

Be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can order your study guide. You may also order the study guide yourself by checking the "order myself" line on the sign-up sheet. If you have questions, see Cindy Alloway or Pastor Magan.

Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer books are \$25.99 (also includes video codes). Books will be available for you to purchase at the church or order on your own at Amazon/books.



Upcoming Dates ~ October

10/4 - Sun - No Morningview - Fall Break

10/7 - Wed - Fall Break - No Wednesday night activities

10/11 - Sun - Confirmation Class (Lesson 2) -
Youth Room 4-5pm
(for those who were absent 9/27)

10/14 - Wed - Bible Study - Youth Room - 6-7pm

10/18 - Sun - Confirmation Class (Lesson 3) -
Youth Room 4-5pm
Fall Festival at FOD at 5:30pm

10/21 - Wed - Bible Study - Youth Room - 6-7pm

10/25 - Sun - Confirmation Class (Lesson 4) -
Youth Room 4-5pm

10/28 - Wed - Bible Study - Youth Room - 6-7pm

Save the Date

Hearts on Fire - November 20 - 21, 2026 - Pigeon Forge
Deadline to sign up is 10/14



2729 Middlesettlements Rd
Maryville, TN 37801

Return Address Requested

Staff

Melinda Andes, Organist
Starla Davis, Student Ministry Co-Coordinator
Kate Keylon, Student Ministry Co-Coordinator
Karissa Marcum, Pianist
Josh Marler, Church Media Coordinator
Joyce Overton, Secretary
Rev. Magan Stubblefield, Pastor

Upcoming Events

Altar Flowers for October- Brenda Crisp

October 13, 6:30 p.m. Women's circle, home of Jane Story

October 18, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Fall Festival, Field of Dreams

October 20, Charge conference (Middlesettlements)

Altar Flowers for November – Rose Marie Class

November 1. All Saints Day (Morning worship)

November 10, 7:00 pm, Council Meeting (Blanche Meeting)

November 11, Holiday VBS

November 17, 6:30 p.m. Women's Circle (home of Pastor Magan)

November 20-21, Youth – HNovember 22, 9:30 a.m.

Missionary Breakfast – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. **Homecoming Service**

6:00 p.m. **Potluck Dinner & Decorate for Advent**

December 5, Jams & Bread to Homebound

December 9, Last Regular Fall/Winter Wednesday Night

December 16, Last Fall/Winter Choir Practice

We need your help! We will be hosting a Holiday VBS on November 11th and need volunteers. This outreach event that we host at MMC is greatly appreciated and much needed for working parents in our community! If you are available to help, please see Kate or Starla to sign up for a time slot. Thank you so much!

