

Middletown United Methodist Church, 924 Middletown-Lincroft Road, Middletown, NJ 07748

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Worship Services & Internet Resources		
Contemporary Worship Service	-	9:00am
Sunday School	-	9:30am
Traditional Worship Service	-	10:30am
Church Web Site	-	www.middletownumcnj.org
Church Facebook Page	-	www.facebook.com/mumcnj

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 924 Middletown-Lincroft Road
 Middletown, New Jersey 07748*



Pastor's Message...

August, 2016



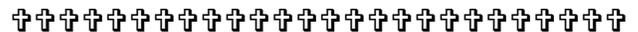
I always find it interesting, that when standing in the darkest room, the striking of just one single match sends the darkness running to hide. The darkness of our times, and there is a lot of darkness, tries on a moment-to-moment basis to overcome the Light. But please remember this simple and powerful Gospel truth: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1.4).

During the dark times in life, turn to "the Light of the world. Although I do not have the answers to all the reasons of 'why' these numerous dark events have recently occurred, I am choosing to continue to be in 'the light.' To step into 'the light.' Be in 'the light,' my dear friends.

Peace and God's blessings.

In Christ,

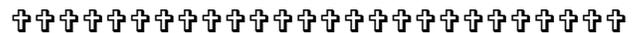
Rev. Derrick L. Doherty
Middletown United Methodist Church, Pastor



August Worship Schedule

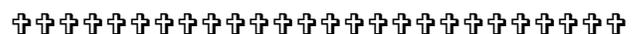
Beginning August 7th, we will have ONE combined worship at 10:00 A.M. The worship style will reflect and include various components of both of our worship styles.

The last three Sundays in August will be full of additional celebrations: The Rise Mission Team Sunday (8/14), VBS Celebration (8/21), and Super Storm Sandy Rebuild Mission Team Sunday Celebration (8/28). Please mark your calendars.



MUMC Summer Camp
Aug. 15-19, 2016, 9:00am to 12:00pm Daily

Harvest Festival
Oct. 29, 2016 - 3:00 to 5:00pm



My Dear Friends,

I truly hope and pray that this letter finds you well and walking in the peace and grace of God.

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you, in Mid-July, for our August newsletter. Recently we have experienced multiple natural and human-caused disasters. Domestic and international terrorism seem to be a daily occurrence. Political unrest continues in many areas around this small globe, not to mention the political environment within these United States. In addition, the question of whose life matters continues. Does the color of one's skin, the color of a uniform, country of origin, immigration status, sexual preference, political affiliation, religious affiliation or any other label really cause someone's life to matter more or less?

Friends, as we observe the news, talk with friends, and experience the unrest in our own neighborhoods, we all see a lot of darkness. One might say that there seems to be an immense dark cloud coming over all of us, worldwide. One might also say that we are heading into some dark times. Others say we are *in* dark times. Our God says, "I am the Light of the world" (John 8.12). The dark times that are happening all around us and also within our own personal and family lives are nothing compared to "the Light of the World!"

Jesus lived during a dark period in human history as well. A time of political unrest. A time when only some peoples' lives mattered and that value was based on their economic, sexual, religious, citizenship, and immigration status. Into the dark times of Jesus' culture and, I believe, into the dark times of our culture Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world." We are not to look to the world for our guiding light. Within the confines of this place we will not find hope, peace, or grace; those items of extreme value only come from the Light.



On Sunday June 12, 2016, Learning Path Preschool teachers Dorothy Bloy, Janet Ballard, Carmelina Carman and Deborah Territo gave a presentation at our 10:00am Worship Celebration. Below is a partial transcript from their presentation:

“Thank you Pastor Derrick. Good morning. I have had the pleasure of teaching at MDO for the past 12 year, and I am actually one of the newbies. But I do have some veterans with me here today. Miss Carmelina has taught for 25 years. Miss Debbie for 20 years, and Miss Janet for 18 years. It’s a wonderful place to work, and nobody likes to leave.

My mother had a word for special occasions. She called them “smilestones.” The birth of a child, a baptism, confirmation, graduation or marriage. They are all wonderful achievements, but they also signify another step forward in life.

I am with you here today to mark another “smilestone” for our school. So now, on behalf of our director, Liz Hill, and our school board, I am pleased to officially present to you our new name: Learning Path Preschool. And our new logo. Thank you to all the members of the congregation who participated in our name search.

Changing names is not an easy process...Mainly because a name becomes synonymous with the nostalgia and history of its institution... As many of you know MDO has been around for over 30 years. What started as a child care service has evolved into a fully functional 5-day preschool program.

While the MDO name represents all the love, hard work, and service that brought our school to its present level, we wanted to find a name that reflected the way we work to lead our students on the path of self-discovery. It is that special mission and the love we feel for our school that led us to our new name. And it is so fitting...because it speaks to our philosophy that learning is a journey we can all take together.

Togetherness and connectedness is a big part of who we are and where we are--right here at this Church. Week after week, month after month, year after year, we witness all the good work you do here through the many missions and services you provide...It’s an impressive list, and we feel blessed to be part of your community.

We appreciate your support. Certainly for providing such a beautiful place for our school. But also for all the many ways you help us: through our website functionality and our page in the Meadowlark, with your weekly bible stories, for our payroll service, and even for the fabulous letters donated for our bulletin boards...

For educational outreach through projects like our Thankfulness Quilt...and the teacher appreciation breakfasts and lunches...and all the wonderful supplies you donated last September--thank you so much!

I’m sure there are other things I’ve missed, but please know we are grateful for everything including your kind words and your smiles.

So In September we will open our doors with a new name and a new logo, and an inspired commitment to quality and innovation. The staff and students will return here, to what we like to call our home away from home, a loving place of learning, that started all those years ago from the heart of this congregation. Thanks so much.“



Dorothy Bloy Janet Ballard Carmelina Carman Deborah Territo

 Along with our new name, we have renamed our classrooms and revamped our programs.

The Toddlers will be known as *The Pathfinders*

A person who finds or makes a path, way, route, etc., especially through a previously unexplored or untraveled wilderness. While we wouldn't describe our school as "the wilderness," we do offer new and exciting ways for our 2-3 year-olds to find their own territory, make that all-important separation from home and family, and forge new friendships while they discover their strengths in learning.

The Three's will be known as *The Explorers*

A person who investigates unknown regions. Our 3-4 year-olds will be encouraged to trek into the exciting world of firsthand learning where they will see, hear, touch, smell, and taste the many subjects they will explore.

The Four's or Pre-K will be known as *The Adventurers*

A person who has, enjoys, or seeks adventures. Our seasoned 4-5 year-olds will have an opportunity to grasp the rope of hands-on learning and swing into fun and stimulating lessons, where self-discovery is a daily adventure.



Did You Know ...???

...that for the past 23 years Middletown United Methodist Church has consistently sent three teams to RISE? The **R**isingville **I**ntercommunity **S**ervice **E**ffort, known as **RISE**, repairs homes for those whose living conditions are unsatisfactory and cannot help themselves due to physical and/or economic inability. Each team usually consists of approximately 4 to 6 high school students and 2 adult volunteer workers.



Pictured above are the 21 members of the 2016 RISE team members. To get firsthand information about the teams' experiences, Sunday, August 14th is MUMC's annual RISE service at 10 A.M. All the work was done in Friendship, NY, which is 45 minutes west of Corning NY. This is the second year in a row our RISE team has been there. Each team went to a different site. The first group replaced a shingle roof; the second group built a concrete and wooden ramp; the third was doing major repair work to a large front porch.

The program was founded by the late Rev. Dale Forsman over 30 years ago through the efforts of Chatham UMC and former Chatham residents Caryl and Noel Sylvester and their church in Risingville, NY. The program is affiliated with the United Methodist Church, but all denominations are welcomed and have participated. Work takes place primarily in and around Steuben County. RISE is currently managed by a volunteer Board of Directors from NY and NJ, which works closely with the agencies and residents of Steuben County, NY.

The program has three goals:

1. **Mission:** We attempt to be in mission to those we serve;
2. **Discipleship:** We discover what it means to act out our faith;
3. **Education:** We learn so much about ourselves and how we can love our neighbors.

Middletown United Methodist Church joined this mission in 1993, sending its first team to Corning that summer. Since then, our church has served in the RISE program and has grown to become one of the largest participants over the intervening years. Many people had to work

hard and give of their time, talent and treasures to insure the continuation of MUMC's RISE teams. This endeavor has become an annual tradition and a mission highlight for our youth. Our young people learn building skills, teamwork, respect for others less fortunate, community service, and bonding with their teammates, other churches present during RISE week and most importantly, the people in the communities that they have the opportunity to meet.

Gerry and Jan Ferrara were the first adult team leaders. They were followed by David Illingworth who worked as leader for many years and continues as a staff member. In the last 5 years Frank Bardell has headed up the effort as organizer and leader. As soon as Pastor Derrick came to MUMC he quickly joined in the RISE project always sharing his time and talents as a builder of both the physical and the spiritual.

"Can you imagine living in a trailer with your young wife and toddler and then finding out she is carrying natural TRIPLETS? That was one of our families in Bath, NY and the remedy was to enclose their adjoining carport into a large bedroom for the babies. Yes, we and our teen team framed out, insulated, sheet rocked, and spackled a room that would brave the upstate winters. It required patience, hard work, a sense of humor and the HOLY SPIRIT. We came as strangers and left as friends".

This year's teams enjoyed many gratifying encounters through the work and relations they built. One job which seemed to make a very big difference in both the givers and the recipients involved a rotting front porch and an elderly couple who truly missed the enjoyment that sitting out there brought them.

The team assigned to this project began by removing everything on the porch and cleaning it. With the help of a local RISE staff member, they tied ropes around the hedges and pulled them out, then raked and filled the holes. It took 8 hydraulic jacks to lift the porch, requiring a new step be built. All the rotted wood was replaced, new footings had to be built to carry the weight of the roof and finally everything was tied together with new fascia board. For extra measure, even rubber roof sealer was applied. Lattice was installed around the bottom of the porch and to the sides.

The team changed the lives of these two people. No longer were they isolated from their neighborhood. Now they could safely sit on the porch and view the happenings around them. The couple had grown to love the team members and made them promise that they would write to them and visit next year.

All those who experienced RISE take away great respect for the program and a sense of Christian accomplishment where they had a chance to change the lives of others in a very positive way.

August 2016

August 2016							September 2016								
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		
32		1	2	3	4	5	6	36				1	2	3	
33	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	37	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	38	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
35	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	39	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
36	28	29	30	31				40	25	26	27	28	29	30	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Jul 31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6
32		9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura S 7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura S		9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216	7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216		
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	10:00am 11:00am Combined Worship Celebration	9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm 7:30pm Finance meeting (R) 7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobi 7:30pm 8:30pm Trustee		9:15am 11:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216	7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
34	10:00am 11:00am RISE Sunday	9:00am 12:00pm VBS MUMC Summer Camp	9:00am 12:00pm VBS MUMC Summer Camp	9:00am 12:00pm VBS MUMC Summer Camp	9:00am 12:00pm VBS MUMC Summer Camp	9:00am 12:00pm VBS MUMC Summer Camp 6:00pm 7:00pm Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Contact: P	2:00pm 4:00pm Wedding (Sanctuary)
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35	10:00am 11:00am VBS Sunday	SS Sandy Rebuild Team 9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura S 7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobics (Fellowship Hall)	SS Sandy Rebuild Team	SS Sandy Rebuild Team 9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216	SS Sandy Rebuild Team 7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216	SS Sandy Rebuild Team	
	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3
36	10:00am 11:00am SS Sandy Rebuild Team Sunday	9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura S 7:00pm 8:00pm Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura S		9:15am 10:15am Aerobics (Fellowship Hall) Contact: Laura Scott, 732-303-1216			

