



Middletown Press

December 2011

Coming Events

December

- 12/3 Women's Advent Communion Breakfast 9-11
- 12/4 Aid for Friends Cook-in 2 PM in Fellowship Hall
- 12/10 Cookie Walk 9AM
- 12/ 17 Children's Party
- 12/18 *Broadcasting Christmas* Pageant during 10:30 Worship
- 12/21 Caroling 6:15 PM
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:00PM & 8:30PM
- 12/25 Christmas Day worship 10:30 AM

January

- 1/6 – 1/7 Youth Lock-In
- 1/7 Upward Games Begin
- 1/15 Swim party
- 1/21 Thank you dinner at 6 PM.
No donation or cost for this dinner.

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Hospitality Time
- 10:30 AM Worship

Wednesday Bible studies

- 9:30-11AM Adult Bible study
- 5:00-7:00 PM Adventure Club
- 6:00 supper
- 5:00-7:00 Middle school study
- 6:30-8:00 Adult Bible study
- 7:00-8:30 High school study

Pastor's Message

"Let Christ himself be your example as to what your attitude should be. For he, who had always been God by nature, did not cling to his prerogatives as God's equal, but stripped himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man. And, having become man, he humbled himself by living a life of utter obedience . . ." Philippians 2:5-8 (J.B. Phillips New Testament)

Dear Middletown Family,

As I write this, the radio stations are already playing Christmas music, the malls are already decorated for Christmas, the commercials have begun to tell us about all the things we *must* have for Christmas and the mad rush has begun. After all, Christmas is all about giving and getting, accumulating, stock-piling . . . right? It's not until Lent that we are forced to consider giving things up!

Well, Christmas certainly is about giving and getting. God gives and we get. But, what is it that God has given us? It is Himself!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given!"

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us!"

"They will call him Immanuel – which means 'God with us!'"

These are passages we associate with Christmas; these are the passages which remind us of the most wonderful gift ever given, a gift given to *us*, to all of us! The passage from Philippians 2, however, is not one that we typically associate with Christmas. As we celebrate this amazing gift,

do we ever stop to consider what this gift cost the giver? Do we ever wonder at all that Jesus gave up in order to be "with us" in such a tangible, human way?

This Gift that we are talking about is, after all, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace! One would expect the King of the Universe, the Creator of all that is, to come to the world that He brought into being with some pomp and circumstance, with trumpet call and entourage, with flags and fireworks and Secret Service details. But, no.

Despite the fact that Jesus is worthy of all honor and glory and praise, He set aside all of these things, that He might be born as a helpless human baby. Well, surely He was born into a family with status, into a life of luxury and privilege?

(Continued on next page)

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve

6:00 PM Family service with the Celebration Band

8:30 PM Traditional Service with chancel choir and brass ensemble

Christmas Day

10:30 AM Worship service (no Sunday School)



Just a note or two . . .

No again. He was born to a young, unwed mother, engaged to a working-class man, while they were away from home on a business trip, staying in the stable of a flea-bag motel because they had failed to make reservations! God Almighty sleeping in a wooden feeding trough, in a backwater town, in an occupied country, in a hostile world.

At least He was welcomed into His world by . . . well, by a bunch of smelly shepherds who came straight from work and didn't have time to run home and wash up.

So, as we make our Christmas lists, let us remember what it is, or better yet, *who* it is that we are celebrating. Let us keep in mind that we have already received the greatest gift we could ever imagine – a loving relationship with our Creator, Immanuel, the God who *is* with us!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Doug

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Scripture and Sermons for December

ADVENT SERIES – THE GOSPEL IN CLASSIC
CHRISTMAS MOVIES

11/27 Isaiah 64:1-9 *The Grinch: It Came Without . . .*

12/4 Mark 1:1-8 *A Christmas Carol: Do-overs
All Around*

12/11 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *It's a Wonderful Life:
Glimpses of God's Favor*

12/18 *Broadcasting Christmas
Christmas Pageant/Cantata*

12/25 John 1:1-14 *Immanuel*

By now you have heard “The Twelve Days Of Christmas” many times on the radio or in the malls. Did you know that this song has its roots as a teaching tool for catholic children learning their catechism? During the years 1558 – 1829 any Catholic found practicing their faith in England and Ireland was severely punished or killed. This song was written around 1700 as a reminder of the basic tenants of Christianity.

God is “my true love” and He gave me Jesus or “the partridge”. A partridge is a bird that will fight predators to the death to protect their offspring.

The “two turtle doves” remind us of the old and New Testament, God’s word to us. “Three French hens” have multiple meanings. They can be faith, hope and love, the trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the wise men – gold, frankincense and myrrh. The “four calling birds” remind us of the four gospels, or the evangelists. “Five golden rings” are the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the bible. Notice how the song slows down for this as we ponder the work of God in creation, His covenant with his chosen people and the giving of the law.

The “six geese a-laying” remind us of the 6 days of creation and the “seven swans a-swimming” are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in Romans 12:6-8. “Eight maids a-milking” refer to the beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-12. The “nine ladies dancing” are the nine fruits of the spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

The “ten lords a-leaping” are the Ten Commandments and the “eleven pipers piping” are the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus. And finally, the “twelve drummers drumming are the twelve Christian beliefs listed in the Apostle’s Creed.

Unlike others around the world, let us remember how blessed we truly are to be able to celebrate the gift of the Christ Child without fear. Pray for God’s peace in the lives of all his saints. May you have a joyous and blessed Christmas.

*Solo dei Gloria,
Jan Wooden*

Deacons Doings

Merry X-mas!!...ha ha, just kidding....Merry CHRISTmas! Are you ready for Santa yet???

Santa isn't the only ones with "elves" working behind the scenes, your deacons are year round elves themselves.

This month I'd like to mention our greeting card ministry. We have birthdays, thinking of you, sympathy, and get well cards that get sent out regularly on behalf of the Board of Deacons. And we get many thank you's from the recipients, too. If, by chance, you have any extra of the above cards or even blank cards, we will be happy to put them to good use. Just see a Deacon or drop them off in the office (mark them for the deacons, please).

Until next time, since I don't have a Bible handy, I'll paraphrase: And on this day a child is born. He is Christ Jesus, the son of God, and we shall call Him Emmanuel.

Cookie Walk Time

The 6th Annual Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 10 beginning at 9:00 AM in Martin Chapel. We need bakers for 10 dozen cookies or more to be delivered to Martin Chapel on Friday.

Last year we had 8,000 cookies and made the most money ever to support our children's programs. We will need help on Friday, December 9 to put boxes together and set up.

Boxes this year will cost \$12.00. Also available will be homemade fudge, jam, breads, crafts and gift items.

Please contact Carol or Bob Curtis 610-566-7274 for further information.

Have a Blessed Holiday!

Financial Commitment for 2012



We understand the uncertainties of our current economy may make projecting your future income difficult. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2012 if you have not done so. They will help us develop a realistic budget for 2012. Giving envelopes for 2012 will be in the back of the sanctuary in December. After January 8, you may pick up your envelopes in the office.

MPC Photo and Video Privacy Policy

The Session has approved a Photo and Video Privacy policy for the Church's various communications. The purpose of this policy is to govern the use of photographs, videos and other personal information that may be used in promoting the activities of the church. It is not intended to cover media or information that is being used to report news, or is being used strictly within the church. The entire policy may be viewed in the Church office and will be posted on the website.

Generally, the names of adults will not be printed or posted unless they are listed as a contact person for an activity or event. Phone numbers and email addresses will only be used if permission is granted. No home addresses will be printed or posted. For the protection of children no names, email addresses or phone numbers will appear.

The worship service and other church-related activities may be photographed or videotaped and used in print publications or on the church's website. If you appear in a photo or video, on materials or on the website and you would rather it not appear, please let us know and it will be removed.

January Means Souper Bowl

For Middletown Presbyterian Church every January is a time to bring in food to help stock local food closets—to reach out and help to care for those of our local community who are in need. So get ready to clip coupons, seek out the best prices and may the challenge be met.

We will have 5 weeks for collecting food in the narthex, beginning January 1 through 29. Join us in this fun and exciting effort to make a difference in eliminating hunger in our local community.

Appreciation Dinner

The Youth invite the congregation to dinner on Saturday, January 21 to thank you for the financial, prayer and encouragement given to the Youth in their efforts to go on their mission trip to South Dakota. Come and enjoy a great meal and watch a presentation of the South Dakota trip.



Coming Events

Communion Breakfast

What is the best Christmas gift you've ever received? Was it one that you asked for? Perhaps one that was a complete surprise? Something that you didn't even know you wanted until you saw it? Centuries ago people were waiting for a different kind of a gift and the wait had been so long. It was the ultimate Christmas gift that would say to each and every person: You matter!

The women of Middletown Presbyterian Church are invited to attend an Advent Breakfast with Communion as a part of our preparing for the holidays. We will gather in Martin Chapel, on December 3 at 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Tickets are \$8 per person.

Aid for Friends

Aid for Friends will have a cook-in on December 4 at 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall kitchen. Donations of frozen vegetables, applesauce, cookies, gravy, spaghetti sauce, stewed tomatoes and tea bags would be appreciated.

Many thanks goes to everyone who helped and donated food items this year to Aid for Friends. May you have a blessed holiday season!
Carol Curtis

PrimeTimePlus

December 19 (the 3rd Monday of the month) at noon PrimeTimePlus will enjoy a program by the Riddle Village Singers for the third year. These singers were under the direction of Glenna Strong, now under Sandi Stouffer with Ruth Fisher the accompanist.

We will celebrate Christmas at our meeting with a special lunch provided by Andy and seasonal decorations by Margaret. This promises to be a special treat so mark your calendars to be there. Gather with your church family and friends and enjoy Christmas music.

Christmas Pageant

This year our Christmas pageant, *Broadcasting Christmas*, will be held on Sunday, December 18, during the 10:30 AM service.

Practice began Sunday, October 23 and will run from 9:00 to 9:30 on Sundays. Sunday school class will follow from 9:30 to 10:00. If your child hasn't signed up, and would like to participate, contact Chriss Benson or JoAnne Gallagher as soon as possible.

There will be two Saturday practices on December 10 and 17. They will run from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. All ages are welcome.

Sixth Sensational Year !!

Upward Sports™ is a fun filled experience open to boys and girls grades K through 6, from any church, school or local community.

Practices begin the week of December 5, 2011

First games are on January 7, 2012

Season Celebration will be in March

For more information see Chriss Benson or call 610-565-8317

Raffle

A fundraising raffle will be held throughout the season to raise money for Upward. Do you have anything to donate? Perhaps, you have season tickets to a sporting event and could donate one game, a landscaping business could donate a spring yard clean up, framed artwork, services from local businesses such as tax preparation, an eye exam, house cleaning, etc. There are many possibilities of items and services that could be donated to benefit Upward. If you have anything to donate, please contact Jinny Heilala or Chriss Benson.

Volunteers Make Upward Happen

We need many volunteers each week, if you would be available to help in the snack bar or do a devotion it would be greatly appreciated. Do some small part for one week or one hour or for one season and you will make a difference for a lifetime for a player and their family.

We need people to pray for the program and the players. Right now we need prayer for gym space.



For those battling cancer and treatment side effects:

Cindy **Debbie**
Alice **Eileen**
Bill **Marge**
Marjorie **Lar**

For those dealing with surgery, disease and rehabilitation.

Bonnie
Judy
Bob
Helen
Ted
Kathy
Joanne
Brian

Carly Berner and **P.J. Dunn**. Both serving our country in Afghanistan

Danielle Abrams is coordinating the Pray Chain.

Danielle's contact information is:
 djabrams@jacks.sdstate.edu or 610-566-2946.



DONALD SONES

December 15th is a special day for you.
 Its YOUR birthday!!!! So here goes...

Happy birthday to you,
 happy birthday to you,
 happy birthday, dear Donald,
 happy birthday to you.

We will be blessed if you share many more of your birthday's with us.

With our love & appreciation for all you do,
 Your Middletown Presbyterian Church Family.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Irene Gardner on her retirement. Irene retired on October 31 after working at Riddle Hospital for 43 years.

You Never Go Wrong by Taking God at His Word!

Of all the things in the whole wide world, five-year old Ethan really wanted only one: a puppy. All winter long he asked his father repeatedly, "Can we get a puppy?" And always was the same: "Wait till spring, Son. Dogs are easier to train when the weather gets warm." Saturday dawned warm and bright, and Ethan decided now was a good time to ask once again: "Dad, can we get a puppy?" His Dad working intently answered without thinking, "Sure, sure, we'll get a puppy."

Later Ethan's father noticed his son working busily in the back yard. "What's he doing out there now?" he asked his wife.

"Getting the doghouse ready," his wife replied. "He said you were getting a puppy this afternoon." "Oh, no. we're not," he protested. Then he paused and looked out the window again. "He believed exactly what I said, didn't he?" Then picking up his jacket, he called to Ethan, "Come on, Son, let's go find a puppy."

Ethan asked for a specific thing-a puppy. And when his father answered, Ethan believed what his father said. He demonstrated his confidence in his father and even built a doghouse in anticipation of the answer to his frequent requests.

God is in the business of answering prayers, like the loving Father He is, He cares for us and delights in giving us good gifts. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17).

Ethan got the puppy he desired for at least three reasons:

- (1) It was a specific request in tune with his father's will;
- (2) It was a persistent request, showing that Ethan was serious about it; and
- (3) It was an expectant request, based on the promises of Ethan's father,

Now take a prayer item and ask these questions "Are we asking specifically?... persistently? ...expectantly?...and in line with God's will?" Remember, your heavenly Father is more eager to answer your prayer than you are eager to ask!

Christmas Toy Offering

There is the opportunity to give presents to children in less fortunate economic circumstances by giving to the Toy Offering through December 10.

Bring a gift (Board Games, Play dough, Art supplies, Books, Hair accessories, Puzzles, Infant toys, Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Photo albums, Dolls (of all ethnic types), Kids video movies, small games, Watches, Balls, Frisbees, Baseball caps, Legos, Trucks/cars, Gloves/scarf sets.

Bring unwrapped gifts in a store bag or Christmas bag.

Teacher Training Classes

Child Evangelism Fellowship offers teacher training classes on various topics throughout the year. Morning classes (10AM –noon) are held at Manoa Presbyterian Church and the evening ones (7:00 - 9:00 PM) are in Martin Chapel on the first Tuesday of the month.

- January 3—First Christians and Valentine’s Day; Managing the stress mess
- February 7—Easter; Teaching with music, Teaching children of different faiths
- March 6—Make and Take class; How to pass your faith to the next generation

For more information see Chriss Benson or call 610-565-8317

Operation Christmas Child

Our Adventure Club Children put together our shoe boxes for needy families to be delivered all over the world. Our children prayed and made individual cards that they put in the boxes. Some of the children said, this is their favorite thing to do each year. The children were so excited as they placed the items that was donated by you in the boxes. We collected and made 111 boxes, which is 2 more than last year. We are so grateful for your contributions!

Stewardship Nugget by Herb Miller:

When It Is God Versus “Stuff” Who Wins?

We live in a culture...that is preoccupied with money. We respect people who have it and write whole television series about how they make it and spend it. While church members hear one sermon a week on average, they are exposed to about sixteen hundred commercials every day, on billboards and bus seats, in newspapers and magazines, on matchbooks and clothes with designer and product logos, on radio and television, each offering advice on how to spend their money.

What is the church’s responsibility for guiding them through this cacophony of opportunities? [*Behind the Stained Glass Windows*, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle]

People who object to any mention of money in the church forget that Jesus talked about it frequently. He said that the commitment to “stuff” undermines our spiritual health and challenges his lordship. “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?’” (Matthew 12:24-26).

On the playing field of your personality, who wins—God or stuff?

Men’s Fellowship and Supper

The men of the Church met on November 19 for soup and sandwiches and a devotion. We will not meet in December. We will resume our monthly meetings on January 21 (every third Saturday). You may contact Ray Fox at 610-574-0797 or at rfox101@comcast.net to be placed on the call/email list. It is a great time for all and a chance to meet and get to know the other men of our Church.



Bulletin Board

“Sticks ‘n Strings” Wednesdays

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and bring whatever needlework or craft you are working on or just ask for needles, yarn and instructions--we'll gladly help YOU help OTHERS.

Call Linda Fox at (610) 574-0936 or Janet Gemsheim at (610) 891-1827 to request a prayer shawl or for more information. We're growing in number and may move to a larger area but currently we are meeting on the second floor of the Christian Education Building.

2012 Calendars

The new calendars for 2012 will be available on December 4. We have 200 calendars so in order for every family to get one, please take only ONE for your family.

Message From the Office

If you have changed your phone number (home, cell, work) OR your email address within the past 2 years, please contact Tana (610-565-4080 or tana@middletownpres.org) to let her know. She will update the data base system with your new information.

It is important that the office has current information on our congregation members. Please keep this in mind if you change your provider/carrier on your email address.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Tana Kalesnik



We are preparing special music for Sunday, December 18. Rehearsals for the Christmas music are held on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Please contact me if you would like to sing with us for Christmas.

Also, if you play an instrument and would like to play in an instrumental ensemble on Christmas Eve, please contact me and let me know the instrument you play.

ALL are welcome to join us!!

Jan Wooden
610-203-3092

Opening for an Alternate Counter

If you would be interested in serving as a counter on an occasional basis, please contact Bill Mayer.

Thanks!

A HUGE thanks to those dear, servant hearts who came out to help with the MPC craft and information tables at both Sun Valley (October) and Penncrest (November). From set-up through clean-up, every moment of their valuable time and talent was greatly appreciated!

These outreach opportunities are our best chance to let the surrounding community know who, what, when, and where we are, and, although our building may have those formal-looking pillars out front, we are anything but formal inside! We are the smiling faces of MPC every time we are out in the world!

Give a Special Christmas Gift to a Special Woman

We spend so much of our lives just waiting to be happy. When I meet "the one"...when the kids are grown...when I retire... What about enjoying life right now? Discover what's possible at the all-new event. Hear from hilarious speakers sharing REAL-LIFE STORIES, plus exhilarating music and worship. Be encouraged, refreshed, and renewed at a one-of-a-kind experience.

The most ordinary moments in Life deserve to be CELEBRATED! "... Be happy and full of joy, because the Lord has done a wonderful thing." (Joel 2:21) Hear the stories unfold in Philadelphia on September 7-8, 2012 at the Wells Fargo Center. We will be taking the Church bus Friday Night and Saturday. Lunch is included on Saturday and the price of the ticket is \$91.00. This event would make a great Christmas present as tickets can be purchased now for September. Please let me know at chriss@middletownpres.org or 610-565-8317.

Ways to Share with Others

Mission Opportunities:



- 1st Sunday of each Month – bring non-perishable food items for food pantries in Media and Chester
- Deliver Meals with Turkeys and/or Toys- meet at 8:30AM at MPC on Saturday, December 17 and then deliver Christmas Food Boxes or toys from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.
- We will be collecting Christmas gifts for the Presbyterian Children's Village again this year. Please check out those sale papers and make a child smile. Gifts will be collected November 20 thru December 10. They are looking for anything new and unwrapped including gift cards.

Cash for Causes Fundraiser

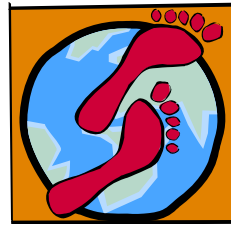
Do you shop at Giant Supermarket? Do you want to easily help the youth earn money for trips and other activities? Giant Supermarkets will directly give our Youth Group 5% of whatever you spend at the store through the “Cash for Causes” program.

How does it work? We simply take your orders for the number and denominations of Giant gift cards that you would like each month. You then write a check payable to Middletown Presbyterian Church in the amount of your request; but when MPC pays for the cards, we retain 5%. The gift cards are then delivered, and you would use the gift cards the same as you would cash when you do your grocery shopping at Giant!

I don't know about you, but our family easily spends \$750.00 per month at Giant; that would equate to a donation of \$37.50 per month to the Youth Group! That's exciting, folks!! And it is easy!!!

If you would like to sign-up or would like more information, please contact Sheila Schreffler @ 610.436.5864 or Sheila0819@comcast.net

As always, the Youth Committee and the youth thank you for your generous support of all of their programs!



His Glory Runners (The Reesers) Update

- Added a more in-depth Bible Study for English speaking youth between the ages of 14 and 18.
- April started a ministry of dance by teaching Ballet and Praise Dance to a group of girls from Youth Group.
- In August 2011, most of the churches in Hua Hin started to gather together on the last Friday of the month to worship God, calling the gathering ‘Power of Worship’.
- April's Praise dance team of girls danced to the Mercy Me song “ I Can Only Imagine” at the October gathering. (They have also danced at two different churches. Bill has been asked to preach at a future ‘Power of Worship’ gathering.
- Continue to host, THE Book Club, a Bible study, worship, fellowship and prayer gathering, on Sunday mornings at the Youth Center. THE Book Club, has become a close knit group of followers of Christ who support each other with prayer and encouragement, and enjoy worshipping and studying God's Word together weekly.
- Improvements made to the Youth Center and surrounding area. For the last several months, Bill has led a group of youth from Youth Group, in cleaning up a nearby field so that it can be used for games for Youth Group. The work included cutting back vegetation, pulling out tree stumps and roots, mowing, and picking up trash.
- On November 12, Bill officiated at a beautiful wedding ceremony on the beach here in Hua Hin where several hundred people had the opportunity to hear about God's vision for marriage. We have found that weddings are a great way to spread the Good News of the Gospel to many who would not otherwise hear it.

DECEMBER

Advent-uring into Christmas

Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves for Christmas—not to buy the presents, decorate the house and make the cookies—but to ready our hearts and minds to renew the experience of the birth of Christ. Will you pause in your hectic schedules and activities to reflect on that night 2000 years ago when God exploded into our world and promised to remain with us as His very name reveals, *God with us*—Emmanuel?

We invite and encourage you to experience *God with us* this Advent season.

- **Women's Advent Communion Breakfast:**
Sat, Dec.3 - 9-11:00 AM. *Women of the church focus their hearts on Jesus by listening to a devotion and seasonal singing.*
- **Caroling:** Wed, Dec 21 – 6:15 PM
Sing carols to our homebound members.
- **Advent Devotionals**



We have Advent devotionals and Advent calendars for families available in the narthex to help you prepare for Christmas.

Christmas Pageant

Broadcast Christmas is our Christmas Pageant to be presented on Sunday, December 18 during the 10:30 AM worship service. We believe that children will discover their performance is a gift to God and to the congregation. If your child is not already signed up, contact Chriss Benson.

Sunday practices are from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Sundays November 6, 13, 20, December 4 and 11. Saturday practice will be from 9:00 until 11:00 AM, on December 10 and 17.

Children's Christmas Party

A Christmas party for all children, whether they are in the pageant or not, will be held December 17 from 11 AM until 12:30 PM. Lunch and a birthday cake for Jesus will be provided.



PrimeTimePlus

This day time adult fellowship group will meet at noon for lunch on December 19 to have our Christmas Party while we enjoy hearing the Riddle Village Chorus. Join us in Martin Chapel to sing in the season!

Cookie Walk – Dec 10 Cookie Walk

The 6th annual Cookie Walk will take place in Martin Chapel on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 AM to noon or until the last cookie is sold.

People will walk around tables of homemade cookies and for \$12.00 fill a box with whatever kind of cookies they like. A gift table will offer fudge, jams, breads and other holiday goodies.



Caroling on Wed, Dec 21

Bring your cookies to share and voice to sing carols to our homebound members. After a pizza supper, our children, youth and adults will head out in groups to sing. Everyone is invited to join us at 6:15 PM for 6:30 departure. We will return to the church by 7:30 PM.



Christmas Eve Services

A family service is on Saturday, December 24 at 6:00 PM and the Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service is at 8:30 PM with choir and brass orchestra.

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading

Upward is a family friendly league teaching skills for the game and values for life. Registration fees are \$90 after November 5; with sibling discounts and need based scholarships available.

Contact the Chriss Benson at 610 565-8317 or League Director at 610-459-0703 with questions. Registration brochure can be found on line at www.upward.org under league locator when you type in the zip code 19063.

2011 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM FOR FLOWERS TO DECORATE THE CHURCH

(Please Print)



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Number of plants you wish to purchase: _____ @ \$7.75 each

Total cost \$_____

DEDICATION TO BE IN THE BULLETIN SHOULD READ:

Dedicated in loving **memory** of: _____

OR

In **honor** of: _____

From: _____

ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 14. Flowers may be taken after the Christmas Service.

Poinsettias FOR YOU

This year the Church's Boy Scout Troop is making available poinsettias for you to purchase for your own decorating at home or to give as gifts. These poinsettias come in various sizes—from small single blooms to large 8" pots full of flowers. The plants come in white, pink, red, and in the larger pots you can choose a combination of red and white blooms. Your order needs to be received by December 4 and the plants will be available the following week. If you have any questions, contact Bill or Karen Mayer 610-565-4398. Payment should be in cash or checks payable to Boy Scout Troop 85.

Color	Pot Size	# of Blooms	Price	#	Cost	Color	Pot Size	# of Blooms	Price	#	Cost
White	4 1/4"	1	\$3.00			Red	4 1/4"	1	\$3.00		
	6"	4-6	10.00				6"	4-6	10.00		
	6 1/2"	6-9	12.00				6 1/2"	6-9	12.00		
	7"	10-14	16.00				7"	10-14	16.00		
	8"	15-20	27.00				8"	15-20	27.00		
Pink	4 1/4"	1	\$3.00			Red & White					
	6"	4-6	10.00								
	6 1/2"	6-9	12.00				6 1/2"	6-9	12.00		
	7"	10-14	16.00				7"	10-14	16.00		
	8"	15-20	27.00				8"	15-20	27.00		
<i>Name</i>						<i>Phone</i>					

DECEMBER 2011

				Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 3:25 PM Kids Club 6:30 PM Band Practice 6:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	2 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Group 7:30 PM Standish Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	3 9:00 AM MCW Communion Breakfast 6:30 PM Youth Group
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Hospitality Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service 2:00 PM Aid For Friends Cook-in	5 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:00 PM Misti Love/Prom Parents 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	6 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 9:30 AM The Quilters 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	7 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Corbi's Delivery 5:00 PM Adventure Club 5:00 PM Middle School Bible Study 6:00 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM High School Bible Study	8 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 3:25 PM Kids Club 6:30 PM Band Practice 6:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	9 Set up for Cookie Walk 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:30 PM Seeing Eye Puppy Training 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	10 9:00 AM Cookie Walk 9:00 – 11:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal 11:00 AM Youth - Hershey Park
11 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Hospitality Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service	12 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:00 PM Misti Love/Prom Parents 7:30 PM Deacons Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	13 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:30 PM Children's Ministry 7:30 PM Delco Cruiser Car Club 7:30 PM Youth Ministry 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	14 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Adventure Club 5:00 PM Middle School Bible Study 6:00 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM High School Bible Study 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	15 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 1:00 PM I & S Team 3:25 PM Kids Club 6:30 PM Band Practice 6:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	16 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Group 7:30 PM Standish Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	17 Food Distribution - City Team 8:00 AM B & P Work Day 9:00 – 11:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal 11:00 AM Children's Christmas Party 6:30 PM Youth --last meeting until January 7th
18 Christmas Pageant - "Broadcasting Christmas" 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Hospitality Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service	19 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 12:00 PM PrimeTime Plus 7:00 PM Misti Love/Prom Parents 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	20 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	21 NO more Youth or Teens Bible Study until January 11th 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 6:15 PM Christmas Caroling	22 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 6:30 PM Band Practice 6:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	23 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	24 6:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service 8:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS NO Sunday School 10:00 AM Hospitality Time 10:30 AM The Worship Service	26 HOLIDAY- The office is closed 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:00 PM Misti Love/Prom Parents 7:30 PM B & P Team Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	27 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:30 PM Delco Cruiser Car Club 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	28 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 7:30 PM Sticks 'n' Strings	29 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 3:25 PM NO Kids Club 6:30 PM Band Practice 6:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	30 8:00 AM Wolf's Orchid Kitchen 8:00 PM Easy Does It N.A. Group	31 NO Youth Group

Middletown Presbyterian Church
273 S. Old Middletown Rd.
Media, PA 19063

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To submit information and articles to be printed in the Press, please email or drop your information to Tana in the office by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want your information to appear.

Middletown Presbyterian Church 273 S. Old Middletown Rd., Media PA 19063 610-565-4080 (phone) 610- 565-4306 (fax)		
Pastor	Douglas McPheeters	Doug@middletownpres.org
Children's Ministries Director	Chriss Benson	Chriss@middletownpres.org
Youth Ministry Director	Matt Miazga	Matt@middletownpres.org
Music Director	Janet Wooden	Janet@middletownpres.org
Treasurer	JoAnne Gallagher	JoAnne@middletownpres.org
Senior Care Ministries	Ken Schreffler	Kschreff1@verizon.net
Office Administrator	Tana Kalesnik	tana@middletownpres.org
Sexton	Shorty Mains	610-565-4080
Cemetery Administrator	Jane Evans	610-485-9747
Wedding Coordinator	Janette Weldon	610-566-2537
Nursery Attendant	Elizabeth George	610-565-8317 (Chriss' office)
<i>In case of an emergency or if you know of someone in the hospital, please contact the church office 610-565-4080 during business hours or call the Pastor at 302-762-0851.</i>		

Sundays at Middletown
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship