



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

March 2013

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Joni Angus

Secretary

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Holly Coffey

Accompanist

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

859-846-4102

Fax: 859-846-9542

E-mail:

office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:

www.midwaychristian.org



LENTEN BREAKFAST SERIES

Saturday, March 9th, 9:00 a.m.

"Finding God through Ministry at Luther Luckett Prison"

Speaker: Rev. Dean Bucalos

Music: To be announced

Breakfast provided by Flock #3*

Saturday, March 16th, 9:00 a.m.

"Finding God through Dialogue and Conversation"

Speaker: Representatives of The Christian-Muslim Dialogue"

Music: To be announced

Breakfast provided by Flocks #1 & 4*

Saturday, March 23rd, 9:00 a.m.

"Finding God through Jarrett's Joy Cart"

Speaker: Jennifer Mynear

Music: Jane Bennett on the Harp

Breakfast provided by Flock #2*



*Flock Lists can be found on the website:

www.midwaychristian.org

Click on Worship, then

Click on Elders' Flocks

FLOWERING THE CROSS

Based on a legend that the cross itself bloomed at the moment Jesus died, the flowering cross is found in Christian art as early as the sixth century. This year, everyone is invited to "flower the cross" by writing his or her story (of finding God in unexpected places) on the back of a paper flower (provided) and pinning it to the cross in the Fellowship Hall. The idea is to cover the brown cross with colorful flowers representing the many ways that God continues to surprise us by bringing new life out of our darkness.



The church office will be CLOSED for Good Friday, March 29th.

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$106,600.72

Received to date: \$99,329.77

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

You are encouraged to read the text for the day in advance



March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Sermon: "Finding God in Unexpected Messages"

March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Matthew 5: 1-11

Sermon: "Finding God in Unexpected Blessings"

March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 4: 1-26

Sermon: "Finding God in Unexpected Conversations"

March 24

Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 19: 28-40

Sermon: "Finding God in an Unexpected King"

March 31

Easter Sunday

Scripture: Luke 24: 1-12

Sermon: "Finding God in an Unexpected Resurrection"



Serving This Month

Elders: Etta Manor & Jack Morgan

Deacons: Dottie Pollard, Jeanne Clark, Ray Clark, Carole Munson, Jim Nance, Margaret Easton, Ouita Michel, Beth Thompson, & Sandy Gruzesky

Junior Deacons: Franklin Watson, Jordan Batts, Nate Hill

Worship Leaders:

March 3 Sandy Gruzesky

March 10 Adele Dickerson

March 17 Bobbie Dare

March 24 Carole Munson

March 31 Janet Mullins

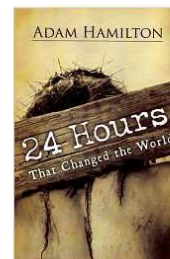


Sunday School

The 24 Hours That Changed the World

By Adam Hamilton

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this book, author and pastor Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life.



In Memory of

Burnie Wall

10/3/1913 - 2/20/2013

God has you in his care,
We have you in our hearts.



Cards

may be

sent to:

Shela Diamond
1103 Meadowridge Trail
Goshen, KY 40026



Acolyte Schedule

March 3 Joe Campbell & Willa Michel

March 10 Alex Woodruff & Alex Adkins

March 17 Blake Adkins & Hannah Campbell

March 24 Bailey Spicer & Willa Michel

March 31 Luke Hill & Jack Hill

A Pastoral Word

I have a confession to make. I was supposed to write this article a few weeks ago. Joni sent me the email reminder, but.... well; I'll save you the reasons why it was not written on time. However, this morning, when it is DUE, I'm feeling worn out. I'm feeling like my spiritual well has run dry. And I'm sure this comes as no surprise. It seems as if our world is spinning out of control, fighting in Washington, (although this is nothing new), prices keep going up, worries keep increasing, our family and friends face health issues, and that is to name just a few. But I'm also writing this article the day after we said good-bye, until we meet again, to our beloved friend, Burnie. I'm sad for the family. I'm sad for us as a congregation. I'm just sad. And right now- there are no words on my heart.

But amazingly enough, and ironically enough, considering our Lenten theme of "Finding God in Unexpected Places," this morning, when I was struggling to find the words to fill in the space for the newsletter, worried I was going to have to tell Joni that I have nothing... just then my email dinged! I signed up a few months ago for email updates from a site called "Ministry Matters" just as a way to help keep me in touch with the larger church, and wouldn't you know it?! This morning's email was about "The Gift of Encouragement." Now, it could be a coincidence, or it could be God's reminder to me to practice what I preach. If I'm going to encourage Midway Christian Church to open our eyes to God's presence in our midst, then I need to do the same. And the gift for me this morning was when I don't have the words, somehow God makes a way, somehow, God is right there, teaching me the words to say. So I offer these words to you and my hope is that they are as much a gift to you as they have been for me. The article can be found on the **insert** in the Contact.

- Rev. Heather McColl

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, March 24th, 10:55 a.m. at Midway Christian Church

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, March 28th, 7:00 p.m. at Midway Christian Church

Good Friday Service

Friday, March 29th, 7:00 p.m. at Midway Baptist Church



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 31st, 7:00 a.m. at Walter Bradley Park

(Breakfast to follow at 8:30 a.m. at 2nd Christian Church)

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, March 31st, 10:55 a.m. at Midway Christian Church

Retreats, Assemblies, Workshops...

The Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Human Rights Commission celebrates:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

with a screening of the PBS series, "Half the Sky:

Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide"

When: Friday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Versailles Presbyterian Church, 130 N. Main Street

Co-sponsored by Dining for Women and Versailles Presbyterian Church

For more information call Helen Rentch at 859-753-4253



General Assembly 2013

July 13 through July 17, 2013

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida

Early rates apply until April 1st

Visit: www.disciples.org



Christmout Events (Black Mountain, NC)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| March 1 - 2 | Elders & Deacons Workshop |
| May 26 - 31 | Week of Wonder Adult Work Camp |
| May 31 - June 2 | Discovery Weekend for Women |
| June 13 - 16 | Music Workshop |



For more info call 828-669-8977 or visit www.christmout.org

Fellowship News and Notes

Disciples Women Luncheon

Sunday, March 17th, 12:30 p.m.

The Disciples Women will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 17th in Fellowship Hall. Our program will be presented by Helen Rentch and Mary Helfenberger (Sharon Burchell's daughter). They will be sharing their experiences through nursing and the **Frontier Nursing** University program. Frontier Nursing is the oldest midwifery program in the United States.

Please bring a salad or sandwiches to share.

Healthy, individually-wrapped snacks are needed for Girls on the Run at Northside



Board Meeting

Sunday, March 3rd, 12:30 p.m.

All elders, deacons and committee team leaders are encouraged to attend!



Youth Fondue Fundraiser

Sunday, March 10th @ 12:30 p.m.
MCC Fellowship Hall

Enjoy some pizza fondue while supporting the MCC Youth!



Spring Cleaning in April

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 6th** to pitch in with spring cleaning at MCC!



Keenagers Luncheon

Thursday, March 21st @ 11:30 a.m.

The Keenagers will travel to Brick Oven Pizzeria in South Elkhorn Plaza (corner of Harrodsburg Road and Military Pike) on Thursday, March 21st. Brick Oven has pizza, pasta, sandwiches, and salads. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, March 18th if you wish to go. Be at the church by 11:00 on March 21st if you wish to carpool.



Community News and Notes

Free Community Dinner

Free Community Dinner



Monday, March 25th, 6:30 p.m., MCC Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to the free Community Dinner held at Midway Christian Church's Fellowship Hall on the last Monday of the month. Helpers are needed before (around 4 p.m.), to help cook and set up, and helpers are needed after, for clean-up and dish washing. *** See the menu below***



The **Clothes Closet** in the basement opens at 7:30 on the night of the Dinner, after the Boy Scout meeting is finished. Most items are 25 cents each.

Ruth Slack Roach EASTER EGG HUNT



**Sunday, March 24th @ 2:00 p.m.
at Midway College**

Midway College Artist Series:

**Irish Folk Musician Steafan Harvey presents
his new album "Nuclear Family"**

**Tuesday, March 26th @ 7 p.m. @ Midway
College Duthie Auditorium**



Free and open to the public.

For more information, visit

www.midway.edu/events or call 846-5878



Zumba Classes - New Day/Time

Saturday, March 9 & 16 @ 3:00 p.m.*

\$5 per class (Enter at Gratz Street door)

*Future class dates/times will be announced

Items Needed for Community Dinner

***March Community Dinner Menu:

- Baked Rotini with Mozzarella (a Three-Meat and a Vegetarian)
- Mixed Green Salad with apples, cranberries, toasted walnuts, feta cheese & balsamic vinaigrette
- Cheesy Bread sticks
- Chocolate Chip Blondies

If you'd like to donate, we need the following:

- 5 - 1 pound packages of ground beef
- 5 - 1 pound packages of Italian Turkey Sausage links
- 5 - small packages of sliced pepperoni
- 10 - 1 pound packages of shredded mozzarella cheese
- 10 - 1 pound boxes of Spiral shaped "Rotini" pasta
- 5 - 1 pound packages frozen chopped spinach
- 15 cans (14 1/2 ounces) of diced tomatoes
- 2 pounds butter, unsalted
- 2 - 1 pound packages of shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 - 1 pound bags chocolate chips
- 1 dozen eggs
- 1 bag brown sugar



Items can be brought to church any time the week of March 11th-17th.

Youth News and Notes

Children/Youth Calendar:

3/6/13	6:00 p.m.	Fondue Planning
3/10/13	12:30 p.m.	Fondue Luncheon!
3/13/13	6:00 p.m.	Knowledge Quest
3/20/13	6:00 p.m.	Exercise
3/24/13	1:00 p.m.	Egg Hunt Helpers
" "	2:00 p.m.	Egg Hunt @ College
" "	3:00 p.m.	Kids in the Kitchen
" "	6:00 p.m.	Seder Meal
3/27/13	6:00 p.m.	Sewing



**March 10th after church:
Youth Fun Fundraiser -
PIZZA FONDUE LUNCH!**

Camp Wakon'Da-Ho 2013 Camp Dates

June 2-8	Eighters Camp (8th graders only)
June 10-14	Junior Camp 1(4th & 5th graders)
June 15-16	Camp 101A (1st & 2nd graders with a parent)
June 17-22	CYF Camp 1 (9th-12th graders)
June 24-29	CYF Camp 2 (9th-12th graders)
July 1-6	Chi-Rho Camp 1(6th-8th graders)
July 8-12	Junior Camp 2(4th & 5th graders)
July 12-14	Mini Camp (3rd graders)
July 14-19	WAMO Week (Mission experience for 6th-12th graders)
July 20-21	Camp 101B (1st & 2nd graders with a parent)
July 22-27	Chi-Rho Camp 2(6th-8th graders)
8/30-9/1	Y'ALL Family Camp (whole family)

Registration forms will be available in the spring.

Thank You for Collecting:



For Northside
Elementary

Used Ink
Cartridges
for discounts
on church office supplies



**Laney Beth Isaacs and her
snow friend**

Heifer Ark Project

Close to Our Goal!

We are **less than \$700** away from meeting our goal of \$5,000 needed to purchase an "Ark" from Heifer International.

A donation to the Ark in your loved one's name makes a meaningful gift for a special occasion!



Kitchen Notes

Having a **Certified Kitchen** is a big responsibility. The Health Department can come at any time to check on us. This is why it is so important to keep the kitchen clean, and keep the refrigerator items dated. Please don't ever leave dishes in the sink. Either put them in the dishwasher or in the blue pan on the sink. Remove all garbage from the kitchen.

The pantry has been organized. All items we are using have been moved to within easy reach. Please be sure to put things back where you found them in the pantry. If you are not sure where something goes, please just leave it on the center prep table. Before buying more supplies for parties or events, check the pantry or check with Bobbie Dare, Hospitality Chair. Thank you!

The Gift of Encouragement

by Marjorie J. Thompson

As ordinary mortals, even the most persistent optimists among us become discouraged at times. To be discouraged means to lose heart. Metaphorically and spiritually, the heart is the core of human energy, emotional connection, and drive for life. When we lose heart, we may become bored and restless with life, fearful of the future and anxious in the present, cynical about people or institutions, passive or distant in our relationships, and low on basic energy for daily tasks. We may even descend into the profound isolation of depression. Sources of discouragement seem endless. Perhaps we experience failure at some endeavor, or a person we trusted betrays us. A sudden loss changes our lives forever, a dreaded diagnosis is given, or a new perspective on reality shakes the foundations of our faith. Perhaps we feel our elected officials have failed us, our public social structures are crumbling, or that "the system" is rigged against us. Sometimes it seems life is just a series of curve balls in a game where survival requires a constant dance of repositioning ourselves to maintain any sense of balance or stability.

What resources from our faith tradition can offer the gift of encouragement, a restoring of heart to those who have lost it? I hope to suggest perspectives and practices that might help wobbly legs find a sense of solid ground underfoot. Solid ground gives a place to stand, to recover balance, to rest and be replenished. The familiar biblical image of God as "rock" suggests the kind of solidity and firmness we seek when our heads are spinning from the changing challenges of life. As we get "grounded in God," we discover the gifts of reorientation and renewed strength. Our spirits are filled; our hearts come back to life; our courage returns.

From common human experience we empathize with fellow journeyers struggling with loss of heart. I believe the image of God in which we are created includes great generosity of heart, supplying each of us with a profound reserve of courage. Helping one another rediscover the gift of courage residing deep within is part of our calling as followers of Jesus. It offers us a way of maturing in Christ's love. As a pastor and spiritual guide, I have always found it a great privilege and honor to accompany others on this journey into the fullness of what God yearns for us to be! I trust you have found or will find it to be so as well.

In our encouraging of others, we do not want to imply that the goal or norm of human life is to get past all suffering. Jesus tells his disciples before his death, "In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world" (John 16:33). Julian of Norwich, fourteenth-century anchoress and mystic, reflects on this truth: "He did not say: You will not be troubled, you will not be belaboured, you will not be disquieted; but he said: You will not be overcome."

Life on earth involves us in suffering—our own and that of others. This is only natural in a finite world where life and death weave a constant dance. The simple truth is that we do not grow—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—without encountering, coping with, and learning from suffering. Certainly we learn far more from experiences that push us out of our comfort zones than from a life of smooth sailing. And as most of us discover, we cannot become truly empathetic or compassionate toward others if we have not known loss and hardship ourselves. Saint John of Kronstadt (nineteenth century) wisely counseled: "Do not fear the conflict, and do not flee from it; where there is no struggle, there is no virtue. Our faith, trust, and love are proved and revealed in adversities, that is, in difficult and grievous outward and inward circumstances, during sickness, sorrow, and privations."

Continued...

In the spiritual life, without suffering there can be no maturing into the fullness of our humanity. The way of the cross entails dying to our small, ego-centered life so that we may rise into our true selfhood—the identity that finds its center and ground in God. This true human identity is represented and fully embodied in Christ, “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15). We, too, are created in the divine image, and as believers we are promised the destiny of being conformed to Christ (Rom. 8:29), in whom we recover the beauty and clarity of that image.

Whereas I do not believe God actively creates suffering for us, surely God allows us to undergo adversities with a continual hope that we will open up to the very real transformations they can work in us if we are willing. The questions we ask of one another and of ourselves in times of trial are important: What are you learning from this experience? How does it enlarge your view of life, of others, of yourself? Is there an invitation from God within this experience that is new or surprising to you—or perhaps urging you further toward something you already know? These are questions aimed at evoking our deeper wisdom and guidance from the Spirit dwelling within.

Nothing of our life’s experience is lost or wasted when we are open to grace—even if we have made terrible choices, affecting our lives and the lives of others for years; even if we bear and inflict permanent scars; even if we have lost years of productive work to chronic illness or depression; even if our life seems the most boring, meaningless existence possible. The Holy One takes it all into the immense humility of Christ for the repair and replenishing that only love can fashion. “The Ascension is Christ’s return to the heart of all creation. . . . Faith reveals that Christ, dwelling at the center of all creation and of each individual member of it, is transforming it and bringing it back, in union with himself, into the bosom of the Father.”

God has promised to use our life experiences in ways that build toward a new configuration of goodness: “We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God” (Rom. 8:28). No matter what kind of mess we find ourselves in or create by our thoughtless distraction or willful rebellion, God continues the long, patient process of reweaving our broken threads into a new tapestry. This seems to be the divine job description: making heavenly gold out of human lead. Of course, God can do even more with our willing cooperation, since this is what we are created for!

What a powerful source of hope and encouragement this offers to us all. The great promises of our faith are incalculable gifts to those who believe them:

- God is with us always. (Josh. 1:5, 9; Matt. 28:20)
- Love, life, and light lie at the heart of all creation. (John 1:1-5; Eph. 1:9-10, 22-23; Col. 1:15-17)
- There is no need to be afraid. (Luke 2:9-11; 12:6-7, 32; 24:36-39; Matt. 6:25-33, 28:5-10; 1 John 4:18)
- The Spirit is within, and will guide us as we listen. (1 Cor. 6:19; John 14:25-26)
- The blessed life is to be found in God’s way: simplicity, humility, right relationships, mercy, purity, and peace. (Matt. 5:3-9)
- Peace and joy are the gifts of life in Christ. (John 14:27; 15:11; Eph. 2:14)
- The end of life on earth is but the beginning of something wonderfully new in God’s eternal reality. (John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:5)

Our faith proclaims that ultimately God will prevail, unconditional love will reveal its fullness, the New Creation will manifest in glory, and—as Julian of Norwich saw in one of her revelations and put so memorably to words—“Sin is necessary, but all will be well, and all will be well, and every kind of thing will be well.” This is our deep faith, our realistic hope, and the source, sustenance, and destiny of our love. What greater encouragement could we hope for?

Mission News and Notes



Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels teams that served during the week of February 25th: Phil Burchell, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson, Phil & Nancy Dare, and Pat Settlemire. The next delivery is the week of **March 25th**.

March Mission Payments

Disciples Mission Fund



The Disciples Mission Fund builds a foundation enabling Disciples to globally share the good news of Jesus Christ. This common fund allows the Disciples to pool their resources accomplishing a greater ministry. One congregation could not achieve this alone. Disciples Mission Fund allows a process of whole church stewardship supporting God-given missions at home and world-wide. They live their theological understanding of Christ's prayer "that they all may be one." As a faithful growing church, Disciples demonstrate true sense of community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. *(from www.disciplesmissionfund.org)*

Green Chalice News

Food and Faith: A One-Day Retreat

Saturday, April 13; 8:30a-2:30p - First Christian Church in Frankfort

We will look in depth at the connections of our daily bread to our faith life and spiritual beliefs. It's a privilege and gift to be able to stop, consider and reflect on the food we eat. Food is so integral to our well-being that it is something we take for granted. And yet, it is so integral to our well-being, that it is sacred. In this mini-retreat, we will take the time to consider our relationship with God as it relates to food. What we eat is part of God's creation and how we eat affects all of God's creation: ourselves, each other, animals, plants and the environment. *- Kim Cowherd, Green Chalice*

Fair Trade Products



Available in Fellowship Hall:

Breakfast Blend Coffee	\$7 per bag
Organic Decaf	\$8 per bag
French Roast	\$7 per bag
Teas	\$4 per box
Organic Baking Cocoa	\$8 per box
Extra Virgin Olive Oil	\$16/bottle
Mint Chocolate Bar	\$3 per bar
Ecuador Dark Chocolate	\$3 per bar
Panama Extra Dark	\$3 per bar
Chocolate w/ Caramel	\$3 per bar
Dk Chocolate w/ Almonds	\$3 per bar
Orange Dark Chocolate	\$3 per bar

Green Chalice Meeting

Tuesday, March 5th, 7:00 p.m. @ MCC



Green Chalice meetings are open to the public. Learn about caring for God's creation in a variety of ways, in your community and beyond.



Eco Palms - Palm Sunday is March 24th.

Eco-Palms are sustainably harvested and fairly traded. The money you spend on them is directly benefiting the communities where they are harvested - sending young girls to school, employing women, and building community centers.

Thank You letters from Midway College and the Christian Church in Kentucky are on the office bulletin board.

Midway Christian Church

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

Return Service Requested

Easter Lily Order Form

Name: _____

I would like to order ____ **lily(s) at \$10 each for**
a total of \$_____

In HONOR of: _____

In MEMORY of: _____



***Please make checks payable to Midway Christian Church,
with "Lily" in the memo line.***

Deadline to order: Monday, March 18, 2013