



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

December 2014

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

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary



Please see the order form on the back of this newsletter!

(December 8th Deadline)

Church Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14th, 5:30 p.m.



Special entertainment will be provided by the **Backroom Bluegrass Band!** MCC youth will read some poetry, and dinner will be provided (menu to be announced)

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

Epiphany Dinner Tickets On Sale

Epiphany Dinner tickets are on sale in the office and on our website.

Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Midway College Dining Hall

\$30 per adult, \$15 per child age 11-18,

Kids 10 and under eat free.



The office will be CLOSED
December 25, 26, 31, &
January 1.

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$64,218.25

Received to date: \$58,142.05

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 11-19

Title: "Seeing the World Through God's Eyes of Peace"

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Proverbs 15: 30

Title: "Seeing the World Through God's Eyes of Joy"

December 21

Christmas Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Psalm 33: 18, 20-22

Title: "Seeing the World Through God's Eyes of Love"

December 28

First Sunday After Christmas

Lessons and Carols Service



Serving This Month

Elders: John Batts & Jim Leer

Deacons: John Askew, Cindy Batts, Phil Dare, Bobbie Dare, Teresa Hoppin, Sue Roberts, Mary Sayre, Bob Settlemire, Pat Wilson, James Batts, Hannah Campbell, Mary Jo Campbell, Betsy Schein & Will Schein

Worship Leaders:

December 7 TBA

December 14 TBA

December 21 Gloria Batts

December 28 James Batts



Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with Joys & Concerns, and light refreshments.

Religions of the World - taught by Phil Dare

Sunday School in December will continue on different world religions. Phil Dare has taught this subject at Lexington Theological Seminary, where he was also Dean and Librarian.

Food for the Soul - "Dinner Church"

Join us for open discussion, a light dinner, and a simple communion service twice a month:



Sunday, December 7th @ 6:30

Topic: "LBGTQ - What do all these letters mean?"

Sunday, December 21st @ 6:30

Topic: "Why is This the Darkest Night?"

Suggestions for future topics are welcome!



Acolyte Schedule

December 7 Joe Campbell & Luke Hill

December 14 Alex Woodruff & Alex Adkins

December 21 Jack Hill & Bailey Spicer

December 28 Joe Campbell & Willa Michel

Pastoral Word



In a recent National Geographic, it was stated that, "Astronomers looked 8,000 light-years into the cosmos with the Hubble Space Telescope, and it seemed that the eye of God was staring back."

This Advent, everyone is invited to see our world through God's eyes and imagine what God sees when God gazes upon God's creation. Would God see a world filled with hope, peace, joy and love or would God see something else? It is easy to imagine that as God gazes upon creation, God sees a broken and hurting world. It is easy to imagine that as God gazes upon creation, God sees the harmful way we treat each other. It is easy to imagine

that as God gazes upon creation, God sees a people walking in darkness, living in darkness waiting for the light to come.

But what if that is just our limited imagination? What if, as God gazes upon creation, God sees more potential in this world than we do? What if God sees more life giving grace in this world than we do? What if God sees more life transforming love to be shared in our world than we do? Isn't that what Advent is all about? The fact that God saw more possibilities than this broken and hurting world ever did. Just think about it. On that night so long ago, the world only saw a baby born in a stable and laid in a manger, but as God gazed upon creation that night, God saw a great light. God saw love. God saw peace. God saw joy. God saw hope. What would happen if we as people of faith began looking at the world through God's eyes? What miracles would we encounter every day? What possibilities for new life would we encounter?

As we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child, we need to remember that we are inviting the creative Spirit to move among us and transform us into people that God created us and calls us to be. That's what the birth of Christ is all about for us as God's children. It is an invitation to look beyond the world with our limited vision and open our eyes to the many and various ways God is still working in our world to bring about healing and wholeness for all of God's creation. By looking at the world through God's eyes, we as people of faith are reminded that no matter how terrible things look, there are always underlying miracles and blessings working to bring about hope, peace, joy and love. These miracles of new life are God's gifts, given to us to remind us that there is so much more going on than we can see with our limited human vision. God is constantly at work in our world and things don't always appear to be what they seem. By looking at the world through God's eyes, we as people of faith can begin to see that now we are called to be instruments of peace, called to be channels for healing and called to be part of the work that helps bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth for all of God's people. Maybe it is time we put on our God-gles and see the world anew.

Through Your Eyes

Holy Spirit today I choose to see this world through your eyes. To know Love in every moment, fully experiencing the joy of living, that I may share healing with my Brothers and Sisters. To know our Oneness in God. Today I choose Peace, for my vision is guided by Holy Spirit. Joining in One purpose, I know myself as Divine. Wiping away tears of joy, I answer the call for Love. I am One with God. I know myself as perfect, viewing everything through your eyes.

- by Russell Hill

Advent Devotional Time:

As part of our Advent Devotional Time, in addition to reading our devotionals, everyone is also invited to make a "God's Eye" Cross. The God's eye, a house blessing common to both Ireland and Mexico, is a cross with the vertical and horizontal pieces held together by colorful threads woven around them. As with all crosses, the horizontal piece represents our relationship and interaction with the world around us. The other direction of the cross, the vertical piece that holds up the horizontal piece, represents our relationship with God, the Divine in our life.



In the making of God's eyes, or "Ojos de Dios" in Spanish, the vertical and horizontal pieces of the cross are held in place with colorful yarns/threads. As we make our own God's eyes, we will see how the yarns and threads keep both bars in place with balance. Think of the threads as a symbol of all we do to unite our life with God: our daily prayer, seeing the needs around us, being kind and helpful to others. These efforts to grow in God, to live out our Baptism, will make life happier and richer and will fill it with color, beauty, and joy. Securing the two sticks together to form a cross can help us think about binding ourselves closer to God and God's goodness, love, joy, and happiness.

The supplies for the "God's Eye" are available in the narthex along with this year's Advent devotional. Each day as you read your Advent Devotional, think about the moments when you saw the world through God's eyes that day. Think about the possibilities of new life that presented themselves to you that day. And as you think about those moments, you are invited to add a loop to your "God's eye" cross.

Retreats, Assemblies, Workshops...

Thousands of Disciples - in all phases of their faith journeys - will gather at the General Assembly in Columbus, OH next summer to become equipped to carry God's mission "from your doorsteps to the ends of the Earth." These five "learning communities" will be available to you: Social Justice, Global & Ecumenical, Faith Formation, Innovate, and Administration.

Register by April 1, 2015 to receive at 20% discount. - visit www.disciples.org/ga

Fellowship News and Notes

Disciples Women Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 6th, 12:00 noon
Holly Hill Inn, 426 N Winter Street



All Midway Christian women are invited to this very special holiday luncheon at Holly Hill Inn. The cost for this gourmet meal is usually around \$25, including tip. Please make your reservation by calling Sharon Burchell at 846-4153 no later than December 4th. Following this luncheon, we will meet at fellowship hall to prepare our Christmas gift bags for some women who couldn't be with us.

Elders Meeting: Monday, December 15th, 6:30

Keenagers Luncheon

Thursday, December 18th,
11:30 a.m.



The Keenagers will go to historic Boone Tavern in Berea for lunch on Thursday, December 18th. We will leave the church around 10:30 a.m. if you wish to carpool. Please call the church office by Monday, December 15th to RSVP.

Blanket Drive

MCC's Disciples Women are once again asking for blankets for the homeless. New or clean, gently-used blankets may be dropped in the box in fellowship hall (under the Fair Trade table).



This year, you may **give a new blanket in honor of a loved one**, and send them a special card (available in the church office).

Dinners of Eight (more or less)

Check the sign-up sheets in the narthex for a chance to join a small group for dinner in a host's home. You'll enjoy food, fun, and fellowship while getting to know your host and fellow diners a little better.

These dinners are scheduled:

Friday, December 5th, 6 p.m.
At Dick & Karen Murphy's

Friday, January 16th, 6 p.m.
At Dan & Adele's



Special Planning Meeting

Sunday, December 7th at 4 p.m.



Topic: Christmas Party & Snow Days

Anyone willing and able to help with youth participation at the Christmas party and/or helping with B.A.S.T. (Babysitting Alternatives to Snow Times), please come to this meeting! Any questions, please contact Cindy Batts.

ELECTION DAY PANCAKES - 11/4/14



Community News & Notes

Midway Children's Choir Christmas Season Performances:



December 2Midway College Vespers Service 7:00pm Anne Hart Raymond Center

December 5Midway Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 6Midway Library Christmas Open House, 2:00pm

December 11Midway Children's Choir Christmas Concert, 6:30 pm, Midway Baptist Church

Christmas Vespers at Midway College:

A Celebration of the Holiday with Carols, Hymns and Readings
Tuesday, December 2, 2014 - 7:00 p.m., Anne Hart Raymond Building



This annual holiday event returns once again and has truly become a community event. This year's event features the Midway College Chorale joined by the **Midway Children's Choir, Midway Christian Church Handbell Choir**, and Jan Hill, Harpist

Christmas Shoeboxes & Adopted Family

Linda Tilghman, Family Resource Officer for Northside Elementary, has provided us with names and "wish lists" of 18 kids who otherwise might not get Christmas presents this year (some of them are just wishing for warm clothing!). If you have not already chosen a child to shop for,



please contact Wilda Caudle at 753-0855 or w.wcaudle@yahoo.com, and she can match you with a child who will truly benefit from your generous Christmas spirit of giving!

Versailles Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 6th
5 p.m., Main Street

(plus other fun activities all day!)



Featuring: KY State Marching Band, Woodford County Marching Band, theme floats, novelties, cars and trucks; Grand Marshall DREW SHRYOCK, a 6-year-old local resident who is fighting a courageous battle against leukemia.

Midway Library Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 6th, 2 p.m.

Come enjoy the refreshments and festivities, including the Midway Community Children's Choir!



Free Community Dinner

Monday, December 29th, 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome at the FREE monthly Community Dinners at Midway Christian Church.

Helpers are needed before and after!



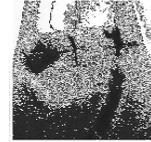
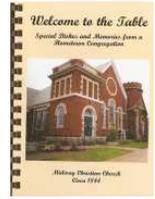
Community Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is **OPEN** on **Saturday mornings** from **9 to 11**, as well as during the monthly Community Dinners.
Volunteers are needed!!!



Christmas Shopping Ideas

- Disciples Women Cookbooks:** This collection of recipes from Midway Christian Church women includes some of the delicious dishes served at the Epiphany Dinner, by Chef Ouita Michel. There are many tried-and-true favorites throughout. Cost is \$20, available in the MCC office or fellowship hall.
- Embroidered Aprons:** "Serve the Lord with Gladness" is embroidered on these sturdy black aprons. Cost is \$20, available in the MCC office or fellowship hall.
- Fair Trade Coffees, Chocolates, etc.:** Help individuals in poor regions of the world earn a living wage by purchasing Fair Trade/Equal Exchange coffees, teas, chocolates, nuts, olive oil, jam, and more. Available in the MCC fellowship hall. Please make checks payable to MCC with Fair Trade in the memo line.
- Heifer International Ark Project:** We have purchased two Heifer Arks (\$5,000 of livestock for poor villages) in the last three years! We have a good start toward another Ark. Making a donation in a loved one's name for Christmas is a great way to show you care. Heifer cards are available in the MCC office. Make your check payable to MCC with Heifer Ark in the memo line.
- Blanket Drive:** You can donate a blanket, designated in a loved one's name, to the Disciples Women Blanket Drive for the homeless. Special cards are available in the office.



You can also do some online shopping at these Fair Trade companies:

- Eternalthreads.org**
- Shopmira.com**

Handmade jewelry, scarves, baskets, accessories, home décor, toys, and much more!



Green Chalice News



There will be **no Green Chalice meeting in December.**

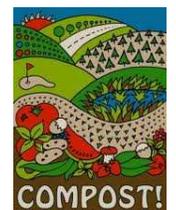
Have a safe and green Christmas!



One Solution to Food Waste

Over 133 billion pounds of food are thrown out each year in the U.S. Did you know that San Francisco is the first US city to mandate composting, with a goal of zero landfill waste by 2020? Technology is available to convert organic material (compost) into bio-gas - a renewable energy source.

(From Disciples Home Missions Green Chalice News)



MCC is a Certified Green Chalice Congregation - since January, 2012

Find us on: **facebook**



Epiphany Feast 2015



Tuesday, January 6th, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Midway College Piper Dining Hall

Mark your calendars for Midway Christian Church's annual Epiphany Feast, which will be held on Tuesday, January 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Midway College Piper Dining Hall. A feast of medieval fare (a Ouita Michel's menu) will be served, along with special entertainment, for \$30 per adult and \$15 per youth ages 11 to 18. Children 10 and under eat free.

Reservations must be made no later than Monday, December 29th, but don't wait that long—the spots fill up fast! You can call the office or buy tickets online through www.midwaychristian.org. Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received by the church office. Due to the popularity of this event, we have adopted a **"no refund" policy**. We are asking that when you call to make your reservations, please let us know of any special table requests, i.e., other guests with whom you would like to be seated. We will try our best to accommodate all of these requests.

HOW CAN MCC MEMBERS HELP OUT?

This feast is a way for us to showcase our Midway hospitality, so **we need everyone's support** by signing up for various jobs to help everything go smoothly that night.

Please be thinking about which of the following job(s) are for you:

SERVING CREW:

- Serve drinks
- Serve dessert
- Play host/hostess to the tables

KITCHEN CREW:

- Scrape Plates
- Wash Dishes

BREAK DOWN CREW:

DECORATING CREW:

- Put linens on table
- Fold napkins
- Set table with napkins
- Set table with silverware
- Put candles on table
- Set table with glasses
- Put greenery on table
- Set table with programs

Mission News and Notes



Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels teams that served during the week of November 3rd: Etta Manor, Phil Burchell, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson, the Wombles, and the Dares. Because we are on a 4-week rotation, we will have two weeks in December: **the weeks of December 1st** and **the week of December 29th*****

***There are **no deliveries on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.**

December Mission Payment

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.



Thank You from Christmount

(MCC November Mission Payment)



"Thank you for being Christmount's partner in ministry through a gift to the 2014 Patrons Association. Your contribution is truly a blessing and is deeply appreciated by our staff and Administrative Board... Your Patrons gift is crucial to helping this ministry provide the place, the programs and the personnel that give children, youth and adults the opportunity for life-changing experiences... Know that your partnership in this ministry that touches so many lives for Christ is cherished."

- Michael P. Murphy, Executive Director

Heifer International

Did you know that Heifer International now has 5 locations in the US that offer mission work and learning opportunities for anyone looking to take action to end hunger and poverty? Here they are:

- Heifer Farm, Rutland, MA
- Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
- Heifer Village, Little Rock, AR
- Heifer Global Village, Sharpsburg, MD
- Heifer Global Village, Howell, MI



Thank You from Global Ministries

The Zhoukou Christian Council in China... Kuruman Moffat Mission in South Africa... the Shalom Center in Chile... provides training and helps build deeper relationships with God and their neighbors... Thank you for your gift that strengthens global Christianity and shares new opportunities and the hope that comes with them.

Weekend Backpack Project

Help feed kids who might otherwise go hungry over the weekend!



Midway Presbyterian's ongoing backpack project is always in need of cash and/or food donations.

Kroger Community Rewards

Register your Kroger Plus Card to earn rewards for your church!



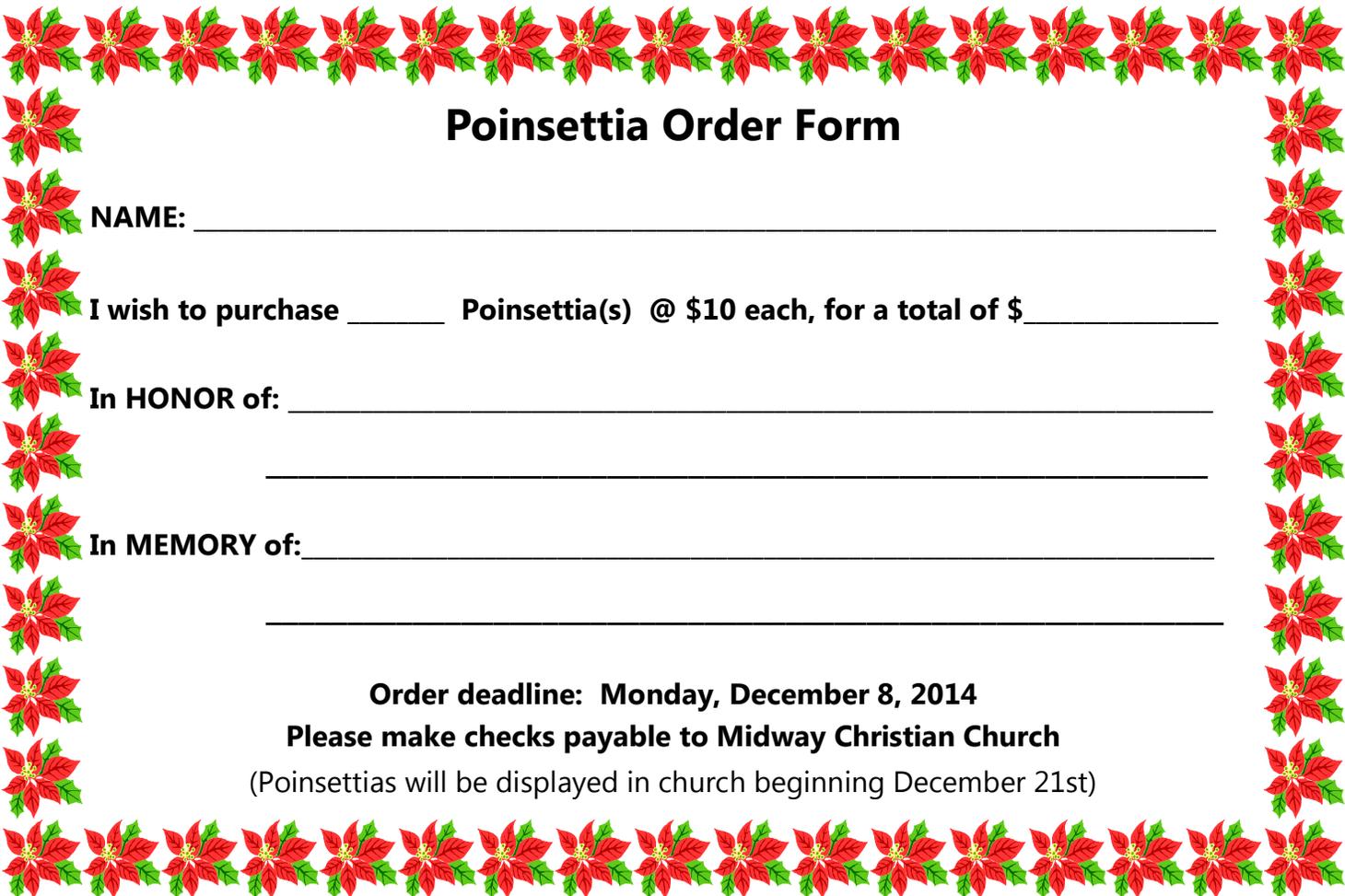
Midway Christian Church

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

Return Service Requested



Poinsettia Order Form

NAME: _____

I wish to purchase _____ **Poinsettia(s) @ \$10 each, for a total of \$**_____

In HONOR of: _____

In MEMORY of: _____

Order deadline: Monday, December 8, 2014

Please make checks payable to Midway Christian Church

(Poinsettias will be displayed in church beginning December 21st)