



MIDDLETOWN
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

*God has called us to build a community that invites,
welcomes, loves and accepts all people for the purpose of
being transformed into deeply committed Christians.*

Our Mission...

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ by Loving God, others, and self."

7108 Fern Circle
Middletown, MD 21769-7427

301-371-5550

fax: 301-473-8090

MtownUMC@aol.com

www.mumcmd.org



December 6 & 7, 2008

Welcome to all visitors!

*Please stop at the visitor information desk in the church lobby to find out more
about the programs and ministries of this church.*

*You are invited to stop by the social hall before or after worship services to
enjoy a time together that is intended to nourish both the body and soul.*

Thanks to the Media Committee for hosting our fellowship time today.

*Families are invited to use the "Family Area" in the back corner of the sanctuary,
or nursery/childcare is available.*

Please ask an usher for help finding the childcare rooms.

Restrooms / family restrooms are located across the lobby and down the hall.

Hearing Assistance equipment is available for use during the service.

Please see an usher in the back of the sanctuary.



YOU are invited to join us at MUMC for Special Events and Worship Services this Holiday Season!
Check our website www.mumcmd.org for details and up-to-date information.

An Assortment of Advent Devotionals and Materials are available in the hall just to the left of the social hall. Please help yourself.

Join us for SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, December 7th	9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Adult class " <i>Christianity & World Religions</i> " begins
Wednesday, December 10th	6:00 p.m.	Family Advent Program w/dinner " <i>One Night in Bethlehem</i> "
Saturday, December 13th	5:00 p.m.	Worship with Orchestra & Choir Christmas Program " <i>The Promise of a King</i> "
Wednesday, December 17th	7:30 p.m.	Quiet Reflective Advent Service
Saturday, December 20th	5:00 p.m.	Worship with Children's Musical " <i>Light of the World</i> "
Sunday, December 21st	7:30 p.m.	" <i>Longest Night Service</i> "

Sunday School Christmas Pageant - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School will meet in the social hall this Sunday November 30th for a special group event and rehearsal for our pageant. Please join the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School on December 14th as they present this year's pageant, "Song for Joy".

Christmas Eve Volunteers

Children/Youth pianist or instrumentalists are needed to present prelude music at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service! Please sign up on the bulletin board by the music room or contact Pam Mathews, pammusic@verizon.net

Service Coordinators, Ushers, Greeters and Communion servers are needed for ALL the Christmas Eve services. Shepherds and Angels are needed for the 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. services for the Live Nativity. No speaking parts, just wear a costume. See the sign-up sheets in the lobby or call the church office @301-371-5550.

URGENT NEED FOR College Prayer Pals

If you'd like to be a prayer pal to one of our MUMC college students, please pick up a card (and instruction sheet) from the Mitten Tree in the church lobby. Prayer Pal's send cards, be in prayer and provide a gift for your student at Home for the Holidays. ?- contact the Tice's.

Community Building

Celebrate the Christmas Season - by visiting the Festival of Lights at the Mormon Temple in Kensington, MD. See a spectacular outdoor light display, a live Nativity, and concert. Van pool/car pool from church, **December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** FREE! Sign up in the church lobby. For more information contact Barb Lindberg.



The **UMMen Bible study group** will meet on Sunday, December 7th, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in room 206S. This men's group is studying Philip Yancey's book, "What Is So Amazing About Grace?" All men are invited to attend. For more information, contact Ron Forrester.

MUMC Youth Work campers will again have their Greens Sale on December 20th & 21st, proceeds will go towards their mission trip next July. Donations of greenery (pine, holly, etc.) can be brought to church on Friday, December 19th or Saturday by 8:00 a.m.. Just leave outside the front doors. For answers to your questions, contact Beth Tice.

Potluck Dinner Groups Want to become better acquainted with other folks at MUMC? Sign up for a potluck dinner group. Groups will begin in January and consist of groups of 8 and will alternate hosting dinner. Main dish provided by host and others provide rest of meal. Sign up in the lobby or contact Barb Lindberg.

Outreach



In the past the past 27 years, the **Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs** has never seen more difficult economic times. In the last year, 40% more people have turned to the Coalition for help to prevent eviction, keep lights on and heat running. Consider purchasing a "snowflake" to honor or remember a loved one and contribute to the **Religious Coalition's Energy Fund** at the same time. Names of those honored or memorialized will be printed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Look for the display in the church lobby. **Return forms no later than December 14th.**

Picnic Pavilion - to make the pavilion more usable for all to enjoy, Nathan Tice will be paving the floor of the pavilion as his Eagle Scout project. If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of this project please send it to the church office and label it Eagle project. Thanks for your support to complete this area for our church family and community to use.

Children & Families

Children and Youth are invited to sing with the Children's/Youth Choir Musical "Light of the World" which will be presented Saturday, December 20th at the 5:00 p.m. service. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings. We will also be singing in worship on Sunday, December 14th and at the Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. service. Contact Pam Mathews for the schedule at 301-371-5550 x 25 or pammusic@verizon.net.

"A Night in Bethlehem" Family Advent Program – Wednesday, December 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with dinner. Come take a short journey through Bethlehem: visit the marketplace to learn how to make perfume, visit a traditional Jewish home, and come see the live nativity. Experience life how Jesus knew it in a whole new way!



Christmas Breakfast – Saturday, December 13th, tickets for the 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. seating will be sold beginning this weekend. As always, Santa will be visiting the children, however, we encourage everyone to come and enjoy this delicious, hearty holiday breakfast. Proceeds will benefit the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) mission trip, scheduled for the week of March 29th - April 4th in Chavies, KY. The

need is great in this area of the Appalachia mountains so please consider joining the MUMC team! For more information, call Ruth Cowell.

Santa's Secret Workshop – Sunday, December 14th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the music room. Children can shop for mom & dad. A happy host will take your child through Santa's workshop, have the gifts wrapped and receive a thank you surprise. Bring a \$5 donation to cover expenses.

Youth Group

Sunday, December 7th -- Youth Group meeting from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

8th Graders' - come to a Small Group info meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Contact **Beth Tice** or **Chris Bishop** (chris@lifeforceyouth.com) for information about our youth group.

OR – Check out the Youth Web site at Lifeforceyouth.com

Senior News

S'AGES – **Monday, December 8th at Noon.** Christmas Luncheon, meat & drinks furnished, everyone bring a covered dish to share. Also bring a \$5 gift to exchange. Wear red & green to celebrate the season.

Faith Circle – **Wednesday, December 10th 12:00 noon. Christmas Luncheon** Going to “Talk of the Town” 13 East Broadway St, Lovettsville, VA. Husbands invited. Bring \$10 gift to exchange. **By Reservation**, call Kitty Kefauver for details.

Transportation Needs - (Doctors, groceries, etc.) **Call Carol Anne Rowe “Freetimers”** to make arrangements.

For more information about our Senior Groups, call **Kitty Kefauver**.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 6, 2008

9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	Music Room
11:00 a.m.	Living Waters Rehearsal	Gym
11:00 a.m.	Orchestra Rehearsal	Social Hall
12:00 noon	Small Group Lunch	206S Classroom
12:30 p.m.	UMMen Small Group	Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	FUEL Rehearsal	206S Classroom
6:00 p.m.	Small Group Dinner	Social Hall
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	

Monday, December 08, 2008

9:00 a.m.	ASL Class	206S Classroom
9:15 a.m.	Exercise Class	Sanctuary
12:00 noon	S'AGES	Social Hall/Kitchen
5:45 p.m.	Exercise Class	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Charles Wesley Choir	Music Room
6:45 p.m.	John Wesley & Youth Choir	Music Room
7:00 p.m.	Hope Circle	Gathering Room

Tuesday, December 09, 2008

6:00 p.m.	Art for the Spirit	206S Classroom
7:00 p.m.	Cantata Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Serendipity Circle	Gathering Room

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

9:15 a.m.	Exercise Class	Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	Faith Circle - Lunch	Van
4:30 p.m.	Yoga - Trexler	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Family Advent Event	Social Hall
6:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	ASL Class	206S Classroom

Thursday, December 11, 2008

9:15 a.m.	Friendship Circle	Gathering Room
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	Music Room
7:30 p.m.	Living Stones	Sanctuary

Friday, December 12, 2008

9:30 a.m.	Friday morning Bible Study	206S Classroom
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Saturday, December 13, 2008

9:15 a.m.	Exercise class	Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	Worship w/ Christmas Cantata	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 14, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Santa Workshop	Music Room
9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
11:00 a.m.	Orchestra Rehearsal	Gym
5:00 p.m.	FUEL Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Social Hall
6:30 p.m.	FUEL Worship Service	Sanctuary

Attendance

Saturday, November 29th - 41 Sunday, November 30th - 374

Financial - 2008 Operating Budget - Pledge Giving Update

Total Amount of 2008 Stewardship Pledged	\$649,070.60
Pledged Amount received for week ending November 30 th	9,142.30
Weekly Goal for Pledges	12,482.12
Total Amount of Pledges Received YTD	\$510,015.61

Experience the Vision (ETV) - Capital Building Fund Update

ETV 3-Year Pledge Commitments	\$811,056.00
ETV Total Pledges received in 2006	237,001.00
ETV Total Pledges received in 2007	236,896.63
ETV Pledges received week of November 30 th	2,209.00
ETV Pledges received for the Year 2008	217,132.05
ETV Total Pledges received to date	\$691,029.68

**“Thanks Be to God for His Indescribable Gift” 2 Cor 9:15**

December 6 th / 7 th	“Say ‘Yes’ to Hope”
December 13 th / 14 th	“Say ‘Yes’ to Peace”
December 20 th / 21 st	“Say ‘Yes’ to Joy”
December 24 th	“Say ‘Yes’ to Love”
December 27 th / 28 th	“Say ‘Yes’ to the Greatest Gift - a Savior”
	“Say ‘Yes’ to Grace”

Today’s Love Offering will go to support the MUMC Emergency Fund. These funds will help those in our church and community in emergency or difficult situations. Thank you for your generous support.

Prayer Baskets - As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to bring forward your prayer request (papers can be found in the holders on the back of the chairs) and place it in the basket. At the conclusion of service, take a slip of paper and be in prayer for someone else this week.



How would you describe what “faith” means to you?

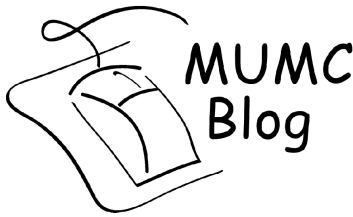
New Small group program begins in January.

★ Thank You! ★
THANK YOU!

A sincere “**Thank You**” to the organizers & musicians who donated time and talent to make the October 25th Habitat concert a success. \$2,000 was raised for the Middletown home. Work there progresses, wiring is nearly done and plumbing is underway. Donations are always welcome and can be sent to the church office or Habitat for Humanity, 2 East Church Street, 3rd Floor, Frederick, MD 21701. Please note for Middletown home. To volunteer, contact Ron Adams.

On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider a Christmas gift to our pastors. Each of our pastors brings unique gifts to our church and we are so blessed to have them. If you would like to give a monetary donation toward a Christmas gift, please place this in the SPRC mailbox or give to Judy Garrett.

Blessings, Amy Byard, SPRC Chairperson



Visit the *NEW MUMC* Blog, www.mtownumc.org Keep up with the latest MUMC news! Check our daily calendar, listen to recent sermons and more!

Rev. Dr. Susan Halse, Pastor
Rev. Chris Bishop, Associate Pastor
Rev. Bill Bennett, Deacon

E-Mail Our Pastors and Sunday morning messages!

To contact Susan/Bill/Chris confidentially, or to leave a message regarding Sunday morning services/activities, e-mail your questions, comments or concerns to: mumcpastor@hotmail.com **This will be checked on Sunday mornings if you are trying to contact the church on the weekend.**