

FROM MY HEART TO YOURS...

Thoughts from Pastor Linda

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58



It's Time to Live Our Mission: To Reach the Lost with the Good News of Christ

Revitalization, restructure and renovation wasn't the end goal; it was merely the prep required to equip us and motivate us to live into God's mission for His Church! We are called to be salt and light; we are ambassadors for Christ. We are called to be "Jesus with skin on" - to make Christ known, so that His life-giving message can be heard as Good News in our broken world!

Two Faith Goals Set By Session

20 people will become new disciples of Jesus Christ in the next 5 years!
5,000 people will be touched with the love of Jesus this coming year!

To make new disciples we must be talking about Jesus, sharing our faith stories, and inviting friends and neighbors to worship with us. Helping someone "fall in love" with Jesus usually means building an **intentional, ongoing** relationship... so there are increased opportunities to share Jesus in everyday experiences.

We can touch people with the love of Jesus by kind words, an offer of prayer, a card... But if we plan to touch 5,000 people—to be known as a church that reaches out in love, we will need to become very focused and intentional. And to keep our momentum going, to encourage others and to evaluate our progress, we'll need to share our stories and log our connections!

Here are some of our current projects/benevolences that touch people with love of Jesus:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| *VBS | * Blackburn Center | * Christmas Shoeboxes |
| * Little Dresses | * Good Samaritan Center | * Heifer International |
| * Prayer Shawls | * MidKids @ Food Pantry | * Lenten Lunches |
| * Blue Christmas | * Worship @ Harmon House | * Cards for Harmon House |
| * Soda Can Collection | * Women's Choice Network | * New Hope City Center |
| * MidKids In Action | * Pastoral Word in MP Journal | * Thanksgiving Worship |
| * Military Bible Sticks | * Mt. Pleasant Nativity Scene | * Pine Springs Camp |
| * Ramp for Tom | * Women's Choice Network (pro-life) | |

This summer we are stepping it up... lifting the bar... raising the stakes... upping the ante... with two new community outreach opportunities that will require all hands on deck!

Totally-Free-No-Donations-Accepted Car Wash—August 3rd
 Community Movie Night—August 10th

In addition, we are beginning conversations to partner with a local elementary school and brainstorming ideas for a community wide Fall Festival. Even my current sermon series, based on the book of Nehemiah, is designed to encourage us to live into the mission of our **Great and Awesome God**.

Check out 2 new community outreach events coming in August to help us reach our faith goals. Join with me and with your session as we reach the lost... at any cost!

In Christ, Pastor Linda



Totally-Free No-Donations-Accepted Car Wash August 3rd

(10 am - 2 pm @ County Market)

Car washes are a pretty common event, but **Totally-Free-No-Donations-Accepted Car Washes** aren't so common. God doesn't charge for His gift of cleansing grace, so we plan to offer a clean car as free gift and expression of Christ's love! This is an opportunity to increase our community visibility, serve our community, brighten someone's day, distribute church flyers

(with an invite to our Free Movie Night the following Saturday) and have good, "clean" fun!

County Market is providing us space and water, and a little publicity! We have to supply the soap, washing equipment and elbow grease! All volunteers need to dress modestly, clean carefully, and not accept any money! People may want to donate, but we'll have the biggest impact if we don't let them. **This is a church-wide mission/evangelism event. There are ways for everyone to help!**

We'll need helpers to sign up for the following:

- Make flyers and posters. The posters should be bright, colorful and clear e.g. "No Strings Attached – Free Car Wash"
- Wash/dry cars
- Purchase/loan supplies: car shampoo (non-toxic and biodegradable), hoses, sponges, rags, buckets, brushes, trash bags
- Direct traffic
- Greet patrons
- Clean up
- Cookie bakers

You don't have to work the entire 4 hours. We'll do morning and afternoon shifts. We'll also divide into wash teams and dry teams; you can switch and do both! The wash team soaps, scrubs, and rinses the cars; the dry team dries off the windows, body, rims, etc. It would be great to offer a bagged cookie to each patron. Sign up @ the table in the Café area, or on the website...

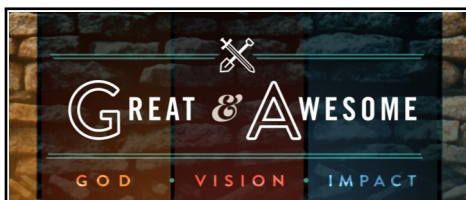
COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT AUGUST 10TH (7-9 PM)

Invite a friend to hang out at church with you!
Free popcorn, candy and pop!

As the social fabric of life in rural India disintegrates in the late 1990s, a journalist moves with his pregnant wife in hope of a better life and the promise of a lucrative career. When speculation mounts that local Australian missionary Graham Staines (Stephen Baldwin) is illegally proselytizing leprosy patients, he agrees to investigate undercover for the newspaper. What he finds is a series of revelations that are difficult to fathom and even harder to explain. Manav is forced to make a choice between his own ambition and the truth. In the end, his actions spark a tragic event that is felt around the world. Based on a true story and shot on location in India, "THE LEAST OF THESE" beautifully illustrates the power of love, hope and forgiveness to overcome hate. This movie was in the theatre January 2019 and recently released on DVD. (PG-13)

For the children... Dive into adventure with Sammy the sea turtle as he swims the ocean searching for the love of his life, Shelly. Based on the course of a sea turtle's life, this story of Sammy's breathtaking journey is a thrilling voyage the children will love!





SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

This 6-week series from the Book of Nehemiah will challenge you! Our great and awesome God has an urgent call and a critical cause for everyone of us! There are walls to raise, people to reach, and lives to rebuild! Pastor Linda will encourage and motivate us to live into God's mission for Middle.

- God rebuilds what is broken
- God protects what matters
- God overcomes opposition and half-hearted living
- God answers prayer
- God calls us into celebration with Him!



Blessing
of the
Backpacks!



**Sunday,
August 26th**

Bring your
backpack, diaper
bag, even your briefcase...

for a special
blessing as we get ready for fall.
We will have a time of prayer for our
students and teachers and school
leaders.

Invite a teacher to worship!



CHILDREN'S/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL Begins Sept. 8 @ 9am



HOLY SPIRIT: LIFE IN 3D

Learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit! Step into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as you explore the empowering, gift-giving work of the Holy Spirit. Find new life and joy in more effective ministry to others.



CONNECT MEMBERSHIP CLASS @ CROSSROADS CAFÉ! SUNDAY, Sept. 15 NOON - 2 pm

Are you new to MIDDLE? Would you like to know more about WHO we are & WHY we exist? We'd love to answer your questions and get to know you better! You'll learn about Middle's mission and ministries, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, and how you can join with us. A light lunch will be served and childcare provided, if needed. Mark your calendars now!

PAUL BORDEN

Returning to
preach on
September 22nd!



HOPE FOR MT. PLEASANT SUNDAY

We started our revitalization with a Repentance Service. Now that we are living into our mission, it's time to pray again for our local community. **Mark your calendars. Don't miss Sunday, Sept 29 as we prayer drive Mt. Pleasant!** Following worship, we'll gather to share a meal and reflect on our journeys!



BRINGING THE FAMILIES OF MIDDLE AND MT. PLEASANT TOGETHER!

Food... fun... games... inflatables!
Start thinking now of ways you can be involved!



**MidKids
Directory
Contact
Information**

Melissa Withrow
724-989-4895
middy2@hotmail.com

**MidKids
IN-ACTION
Thursday's
(6-7 pm)**

MidKids IN-ACTION is a high energy, God-centered, mid-week program for 2nd - 6th grade children. See summer schedule!

**Youth Sunday
School**

With school out for summer, the Youth Sunday School group is beginning work on freshening up their Sunday School room with a new coat of paint and a fun wall mural. Plan to check it out at the end of summer to see their progress and fresh ideas.

**What's Going on in
MidKids Worship?**

Last month, children started a new learning quest about the shepherd boy, David, who was anointed by God and bravely faced the giant, Goliath. Throughout this summer, we will continue learning about David's adventures as king. On Sunday, June 23, we took a break from our study of David to celebrate God's goodness in a VBS Celebration Worship service. The children lead the adult congregation in song, serving as worship leaders for all of the music they praised God with during that week's VBS. They shouted out the bible points they learned and shared fun VBS snacks with the congregation. Their enthusiasm and energy for praising God was contagious! Thank you to the children for leading our congregation in VBS Celebration Worship.

Our Father's World

Our MidKids in Action group is spending the summer serving and celebrating God's creation. Children have already done many activities, games, and crafts revolving around appreciating and caring for Our Father's World. They still have several events ahead of them this summer. Children will work together to clean up God's nature at Mammoth Park on July 8th from 9-11am. We will explore God's unique animals at Living Treasures Animal Park after worship on July 28. We will enjoy a nature walk on the Coal & Coke Trail on August 15th from 6-7pm. Children served the hungry at the Mount Pleasant Food Pantry in June and plan to return to serve again on July 30 from 8:30-11am. We also plan to serve God's people in the Community Car Wash on August 1st from 10am-2pm at County Market. Visit the MidKids desk for a summer schedule of MidKids in Action's summer theme of 'Our Father's World'.

Vacation Bible School



ROAR VBS was a wild adventure! Children laughed at skits, acted out Bible stories, tasted the daily bible points in snacks, invoked their imaginations doing cool experiments with gizmos and crafts, ran, splashed, and raced through games, danced and sang praises in worship, and shouted out God's goodness.

God certainly blessed our Roar VBS this year! We had a phenomenal turnout of 36 children who came to VBS to experience God's love. Plus, an additional 21 loving volunteers who gave their time and energy to serving these children and showing them the love of Christ. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who contributed to making VBS a success by decorating, donating to snack, giving to our mission project, and so much more. It has been a wonderful opportunity to reach out to several new families with the loving hands of Christ. God is good!

MidKids In Action Summer Schedule

Monday, July 8: Mammoth Park Clean-up
(and time to enjoy the park) (9-11 am)

**Sunday, July 28: Living Treasures Animal
Park Field Trip** (following worship)

**Tuesday, July 30: Food Pantry Service
Project** (8:30 - 11 am)

**Saturday, August 3: Jesus Loves You
Free Community Car Wash**

(10 am - 2 pm @ County Market)

**Saturday, August 10: Movie Night @
Middle** (7-9 pm)

**Thursday, August 15: Coal and Coke Trail
Walk** (6-7 pm)

**Sunday, August 25: Blessing of the Back-
packs** (during worship)

**Thursday, August 29: MidKids In Action
Back to School Kick-Off** (6-7 pm)

MidKids Nursery

Have you met our new Nursery Coordinator? Please welcome and get to know Claudia Horak. Miss Claudia has been working in childcare since 1994, spending most of that time with infants and toddlers. She says, "I love children, believe they need to play, be loved, yet be challenged and learn love and respect for all of God's creations." If you haven't visited the nursery lately, stop in and meet our newest MidKids Team leader.



COMING EVENTS

Monday July 8th -MidKids In Action Park Clean-Up (9-11)
Sunday July 28th -MidKids Living Treasures Field Trip (after worship)
Tuesday July 30th -MidKids Volunteer at Food Pantry
Saturday August 3rd -Free Community Outreach Car Wash (10-2)
Saturday August 10th -Free Community Movie Night (7-9)
Sunday August 11th -MidKids Training
Friday August 16th -Charis
Sunday August 25th -Blessing of the Backpacks
Thursday August 29th -MidKids in Action Back to School Kickoff

Crossroads Café @ 10:30am Worship @ 10:30 am
MidKids in Action - See Summer Schedule

MIDDLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PO Box 981

Mount Pleasant, PA 15666



Check out our webpage...
www.middlepc.org

**OUR MISSION: TO REACH THE LOST AT ANY COST
WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST!**

**There's a place for you to WORSHIP, CONNECT, GROW, and
SERVE with us as we SHARE the Gospel together!**