



The Ambassador

November 2021

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All Saints' Sunday

Please join us **Sunday, November 7**, as we celebrate All Saints Sunday and name the members of our church family who have died since November 1, 2020.

From the Pastor

The November Moment

November might be my favorite autumn month. I love the bright colors of October, but I find I also enjoy seeing the trees once they lose their leaves, and likewise the contours of the land after the crops have been harvested. It might look a bit barren, but then again, all has finally been swept clean, all is in order. The earth is quietly made ready for another beginning. And at the end of the month we have Thanksgiving. It can be our most serene holiday, if we let it.



Of course hard on the heels of November comes December, also a wonderful time, but with many more challenges. There are the necessary family get-togethers, gift shopping, charitable causes we want to support, all of

Continued on page 2

Contact Us

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Worship With Us

Online & In Person
Worship @10:30 am
Sunday School @ 9

In Person & Online
Bible Studies
@ 10 am Wednesdays and
@ 6 pm Thursdays

Inside

Music & Worship Notes 3
News From the Pews 4-5
Mission Moment 6
Calendar & Birthdays 7
First Friday 8



Continued from page 1

that. These can be good things. Here at church we're again trying to figure out how best to make Christmas special, how to have a meaningful and safe Christmas pageant, perhaps even some kind of pot-luck. It's an intense time but we give it our best ... and we should.

But friends, what say we also take advantage of this November moment, take a few walks perhaps, take a breather, let go of our human agenda for just a little while? This is still God's world. While we've been concentrating on all we have to do, guess what? The earth just keeps on spinning. My sister was once a missionary in the Philippines and of course she really wanted to make a positive contribution, so much so she was given this piece of advice: "Don't just do something, stand there." I visited her while she was there and indeed the slower pace of life was a bit frustrating to me, but after a while it became a gift.

Yes, we Christians are all about serving, no matter the season. We are called to meet various challenges throughout our lives, but we are also people who've been told to back off every once in a while. Here is some advice about that from the Bible:

Psalms 127: 2 - "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved."

Psalms 62:5 - "Yes, my soul, find rest in God: my hope comes from him."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

1 John 3:19 - "This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence."

Philippians 4:12 - "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

Matthew 11:28 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Philippians 4: 6-7 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Mark 6:31 "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Here's wishing you a less anxious November.

Peace, John Wagner

Music and Worship Notes *by Mary Ellen Clinard*



New Choir Rehearsal Times for Fall/Winter

We will be offering choir rehearsal both at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. each Wednesday until Spring! This is a completely new approach to rehearsals for us, but it will help us reduce the number of people in the choir room during each rehearsal (as per COVID guidelines) and also help during the dark winter months when the weather and driving conditions can be unpredictable.

Both rehearsals will be the same and you don't have to commit to one or the other. You can attend whichever rehearsal fits your needs that week. We must continue to adapt to our constantly changing world, and as we are gradually returning to singing, we hope that this will be helpful. If you have any questions, please give Mary Ellen a call at the church.

All Saint's Sunday, November 7

Although we recognize by name those who have passed away this past year, we also recognize those in our hearts who have passed away in other years as well. We will have several locations where you can light a candle or candles in memory of loved ones that Sunday. You are asked to do this before the service or during the prelude or opening hymn. There will be a member of the Worship Committee at each location to help you if needed.

Hanging of the Greens Week of November 21 -27

Like last year, we will not have a church-wide event for Hanging of the Greens, but will offer a chance for groups to come to the church and decorate an area during the week. It's a great experience for a small group, family group, or Sunday School class!!



Check your calendars and make plans to help! There will be a sign up board in the North Foyer in November. We also ask that if you or your group sign up, that you are also available to take down the decorations the week of Jan. 3-8. Areas to be decorated are:

- ◆ Weatherwax Commons
- ◆ Wreaths and garland in sanctuary
- ◆ Sanctuary tree
- ◆ Window boxes in sanctuary
- ◆ South Foyer/North Foyer
- ◆ Lanterns/poles/candles in sanctuary

Poinsettia Orders begin November 28

Look for order forms for sanctuary Christmas poinsettias beginning November 28 in the bulletin and in the church office. The deadline to order is December 8. We also need volunteers to water poinsettias so they stay healthy until Christmas Eve. Sign up for watering will be in the North Foyer in November.

Order Your Berns Greenhouse Porch Pots and Gift Cards!



The UMW is selling Berns holiday Porch Pots, beautiful arrangements of live greens, pinecones, red berry branches and a red velvet bow. The cost is \$32 and orders need to be in to Rose Morgan or the

church office by **Wednesday, Nov. 10.**

Pickup or delivery will be Saturday, Nov. 20 from 10 a.m.—1 p.m. at the church.

You may also order Bern's \$25 gift cards if you are looking for a perfect all-occasion gift. Order both your porch pots and gift cards on the form below Please make your check out to the UMW, and remember, all proceeds benefit local and in house missions. The UMW thanks you for your support.

Used Prescription Bottles Needed

The UMW is collecting used prescription bottles and will take either washed/clean or unwashed/dirty (rinsing only does not count as washed/clean). You may remove labels or

leave them on, but please black out any personal information. Please make sure to have both bottle and cap. There are plastic containers under the table where the mailboxes are located behind the sanctuary. Please contact Pam Fugett with any questions at 513-267-8126.

Pledge Sunday Set for November 21

We will dedicate pledges for 2022 during worship on Pledge Sunday, November 21. You should have received or will receive a mailing that contains a letter from Gene Goecke and Rev. Wagner, a pledge card and a return envelope. If you did not receive a mailing please let us know at the church office, 513-423-4629. Thanks to all for your continued faithful giving.

Charge Conference, November 16

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, we will hold our annual **Charge Conference** where we evaluate our progress toward our 2021 goals, and make a commitment to new goals for 2022. Our good friend **Rev. Andy Wagner** will preside. All church members are welcome.

Porch Pot Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Pickup date is Saturday Nov. 20, 2020 from 10 a.m.—1 p.m. at the church

Home delivery available: Please call 422-4631 or add a special request on your form below. .

Home delivery please _____

_____ Bern's cards @ \$25 per card \$ _____

_____ Porch Pots @ \$32 per pot \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

News From the Pews continued

Holiday Giving for Hope House Women's Shelter 2021

We are once again asking for donations from the list of recommended personal hygiene products for the women of Hope House, but with a twist. If you have a purse you are not using and would like to fill it up instead of the usual gift bag, what a great way to cut down on recycling! Simply fill it with your donation and bring with you to church. Or, if you are not comfortable shopping this year, or simply just don't have time, we will take all monies received and do the shopping for you!



As in years past, the women desperately need items like shampoo and conditioner, body wash, body lotion, toothbrush and toothpaste, dental floss, razors & shaving cr me, brushes, combs, pony tail holders or scrunchies, lip balm, cotton swabs, etc.

If you have any questions, please see Sonya Kramer, who is probably in the nursery volunteering.

God bless,
Community Ministries Council

“Messiah” Performance December 5

The Middletown Civic Chorus will present a concert that will include Handel's “Messiah” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 at Spring Hill Baptist Church of Christ, 2021 Brell Ave., Middletown. Rehearsals are current-



ly being held on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Spring Hill Baptist Church and singers are still welcome to join . Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 4, with time to be announced. For questions, contact Mary Taylor at 513-571-1963.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 7. Set your clocks back Saturday night!

Mission Moment

An update from Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon, missionaries to Nepal working in the Tansen Hospital

The Trash Problem in Nepal

Nepal is a country with much natural beauty. Unfortunately, the people who live here are not really concerned about keeping it clean. Litter is a huge problem, and the other day when we were walking to the bazaar, we were reminded that we are fighting an uphill battle when we try to address it.

We have found that people keep the small area in front of their homes neat and swept. They even sweep the dirt if that is what is in front of their door. But — if it isn't in their own personal "space" — they don't care.

So — as we were walking to the bazaar, several young boys tried to engage us in conversation — to practice their English. They had all been to a party of some kind, and were holding plastic cups. As we were walking, they finished their drinks, and threw their cups down onto the ground. Les picked them back up and gave them to the boys, and said, "Where is the proper place to throw these out?" One of the boys went over to the side of the road, which is very overgrown with weeds after the monsoon. He threw his into the weeds so it couldn't be seen. Les said, "No — don't throw it there! Here — let's ask this gentleman sitting over here." And old man was sitting on his front step, and Les asked him, "What should the boys do with their cups to properly dispose of them?" The man gestured to the overgrown roadside and said, "Just throw it into the weeds over there."

What could we do but laugh? How can we teach people to care about the future of their country — and that their trash affects people all over!

Thanks for your prayers for us. We need them!

Love, देबी (Debbie) and लेस (Les)

Want more stories and photos? Check out our blog at dornonnepalmission.wordpress.com.



The top photo shows the natural beauty of Nepal; the photo on the bottom depicts trash on the side of the road, a common sight in Nepal.



November 2021

November Birthdays

- 1 — Matthew Palmer
- 2 — Pat Duffey, Rose Morgan
- 6 — Amy Palmer
- 7 — Danica Murphy
- 10 — Patt Gibson, Elaine Slama, Kathi Wilson
- 11 — Herman Emmert
- 12 — Sally Jo Inwood
- 14 — Joni Regensburg
- 16 — Karen Deddens
- 17 — Cheryl Davis, David Harris
- 18 — Carol Byrd
- 19 — Dominique Dunfee, Erin Overpeck
- 22 — Kerry Byrd
- 23 — Janet Crawford, Nancy Haney
- 26 — Stephen Garrett
- 28 — Mike Hieber
- 29 — Bill Thorn
- 30 — Dr. Les Darnon

Happy Birthday!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30 am Breakfast Club	2 2 pm Pantry	3 10 am Son Reflector's Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir	4 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	5 Noon First Friday Concert	6
7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY COMMUNION Daylight Savings Time Ends 9 am Sunday School	8 8:30 am Breakfast Club	9 11 am Memorials Mtg. 2 pm Pantry 6:30 pm SPRC	10 10 am Son Reflector's Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir Rhrl	11 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	12 10 am UMW Mtg	13
14 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 2:30 pm Leah Hogg Recital	15 8:30 am Breakfast Club 7 pm Elizabeth Circle	16 2 pm Pantry 6 pm Finance Mtg 7 pm CHARGE CONFERENCE	17 10 am Son Reflector's Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir Rhrl	18 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	19 AMBASSADOR DEADLINE	20 9 am Hope Circle @ Bob Evans Porch Pot Pick Up
21 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Pledge Sunday Hanging of the Greens Nov. 21-27	22 8:30 am Breakfast Club 2 pm Pantry 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg	23 E 2 pm Pantry	24 10 am Son Reflector's Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir Rhrl	25 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship United Methodist Student Day	29 8:30 am Breakfast Club	30 2 pm Pantry	Dates to Remember in December Dec. 3 — First Friday Concert Dec. 4 — Messiah Performance Dec. 11 — Christmas Play Filming, UMW Tea Dec. 19 — Christmas Play Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Service			



2021 First Friday Concert & Artist Series

FREE Concerts at First UMC at Noon



NOVEMBER 5 | Edde Osborne

Originally from NYC, Edde now calls Middletown home and he brings his unique style of R&B jazz to flute and saxophone. Get a taste of Edde's style on Reverbnation.com/eddeosborne, and you'll be marking your calendar "don't miss" on this date.

DECEMBER 3 | Harps of Grace

Capture a moment of peaceful reflection to prepare yourself for all those holiday events by listening to a sanctuary full of harps! Make this your official start to the Christmas Season.

No refreshments will be served but concert-goers are welcome to bring a lunch and eat during the concert. Masks are encouraged but not required.

This concert series would not be possible without the support of the Middletown Community Foundation, the Barnitz Fund, Miriam Knoll Foundation, the Middletown Symphony Legacy Fund, and the congregation of First United Methodist Church in Middletown. Thank you for your support!!