

# Our Light

www.middleburyumc.org

*Your word is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light to my path.  
Psalm 119:105*

May 2011

**The United Methodist Parish Newsletter**  
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury ♦ Ripton

*Whether you are a member of the Middlebury, East Middlebury, or Ripton congregation, a local resident, or a visitor to our area, you are invited and welcome to attend and participate in all activities and events mentioned in this newsletter.*

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## Golden Cross Sunday Offering - May 1

**Surely the Lord is in this place . . .**

*Genesis 28: 10-17*

Jacob found angels at work, in the loneliest of places, in the midst of a challenging journey. The Lord is with us, consoling, upholding, and guiding, every step of the way. And for the oldest of the aged, often accompanied in this stage of their journey by diminishment and need -- Who are the angels? They are the caregivers: nurses, nurse assistants, cooks, dietary aides, housekeepers, maintenance workers, activity leaders, drivers, chaplains, therapists, volunteers, and donors.

### **Celebrate and support their good work!**

On Golden Cross Sunday, take the opportunity to give generously and enrich the lives of residents and staff living and working in the Methodist Conference Homes, Deaconess Abundant Life Communities, and on the United Methodist Elder Care campus. Your gift gives our caregivers the flexibility and resources to meet special needs as they arise -- rent and meal supplements, medical and rehabilitative devices or services, even social hours and special celebrations. In a world of dwindling resources and rising costs, Golden Cross funds support us as we make a special difference in the life of an older person in need.

Thank you in advance for supporting these faith-inspired ministries.

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## Native American Ministries Sunday - May 8

*“We try to address the concerns of our families and communities by bridging the hospitality gaps. As a pastor, my faith is critical to this work.”*

*—The Rev. David Dunson*

The Rev. David Dunson knows seminary education is crucial to his hopes of growing his congregation’s evangelism and outreach efforts. He also knows that without a scholarship, funded by the Native American Ministries Sunday offering, his education would not be possible.

A former medical supplies sales manager, the 50-something Dunson now serves Okmulgee’s Newtown United Methodist Church, one of the oldest churches in Oklahoma. He will earn a master’s degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla., in 2011.

“I’ve learned (about) other perspectives on faith, ministry and culture,” he said. “But I’m also learning ways to bridge the gap between Christianity and our Native history and traditions.” As assistant to a deputy chief of the 70,000-member Muscogee Creek Nation, Dunson responds to many tribal concerns—from troubled families and at-risk youth, to illiteracy and unemployment, to increased substance abuse.

Dunson sees his scholarship as “a gift from God...an answered prayer.” He added, “I could have given up this dream because I didn’t have the money. Not many of our pastors have gone to seminary. But now I can bring the message of hope through education to encourage my people.”

Your gifts on Native American Ministries Sunday fund ministries that pave the way for those who aspire to serve Christ’s church by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Because of your generosity, seminarians prepare to serve, congregations become stronger and communities are transformed.

To send donations by check, mail to: GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203  
*(Be sure to indicate Native American Sunday in the note section of your check.)*

### **Your Generous Gifts..**

- Provides [scholarships for Native Americans](#) attending United Methodist schools of theology and other schools approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church: (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry)
- Expand the number of target cities in the [Native American Urban Initiative](#): (General Board of Global Ministries)

### **Ripton Worship Service**

Rev. Jill will lead her final monthly worship service at the Ripton Community Church, UM on **Sunday, May 15** beginning at 4 p.m. This will be an opportunity to gather for Christian prayer and celebration as we look to the coming of a new pastor and a new relationship within the charge on July 1. The theme for the day will be Change the World in keeping with the greater United Methodist movement that is taking place that same weekend.

## Change the World--May 14-15, 2011

One year ago, these were the words of introduction for a new initiative in the global United Methodist Church:

### United Methodists Unite to Change the World \* Impact Your Community \*

United Methodists everywhere are encouraged to begin planning now to join in Change the World, a church-wide event in April that prompts members to join with others in the community to make a difference locally and globally.

During that weekend, United Methodist churches are encouraged to create and participate in a service or fundraising event that helps effect positive and long-lasting change, whether it's revitalizing a food-pantry program, creating a new ministry to help the homeless, or increasing awareness of global health issues like malaria. Churches can utilize existing ministries or initiate a new outreach event.

“Change the World challenges the people of The United Methodist Church to see the world holistically by giving and serving beyond the four walls of sanctuaries and Sunday school classrooms,” said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of [United Methodist Communications](#). “Our hope is that not only will church members participate, they will invite neighbors in the community to work side-by-side with them to make a sustainable difference in diverse ways.”

Now, one year later, the entire denomination is gearing up for a second weekend in which we will change the world. Our congregations are joining the movement. **On Saturday, May 14**, our own Middlebury United Methodist Women will be in their second day (bag day) of their spring rummage sale. This event is a great example of how we can make a difference. Those of us who donate live a little lighter on the planet. Those of us who assist the shoppers learn about the needs of people right in our community and provide an important ministry of welcome. Those of us who shop reuse items, and give money that goes to outreach and mission projects, church camp scholarships, and so much more through the Middlebury United Methodist Women. If you would like to be a part of this important way of changing the world, contact Mimi Hardy at 388-6016.



**Then, on Sunday, May 15**, we will meet for a short prayer at the usual worship times--9 a.m. in East Middlebury and 10:45 a.m. in Middlebury. After the prayer, instead of our regular worship service, we will roll up our sleeves and get to work on all of the maintenance and improvement projects that need to get done on the church buildings and properties. Jill will be looking for a point person for each job that is identified by any member or friend of the congregation. The point person does not have to complete a job but will help organize others, give needed direction, and bring the supplies and tools that are required. For example, someone might think that an area of church lawn needs weeding or the parking lot gravel needs raking while another person thinks the worship

supplies need to be organized or the paper goods need to be relocated. Phone or email Jill (388-2510 or [revjill@myfairpoint.net](mailto:revjill@myfairpoint.net)) and let her know that you will be the point person for a specific task, and that you will come ready with the necessary tools. There will be tasks for all skill levels, energy amounts, and ages. If your skill is in the kitchen, you could come ready to provide cool beverages and light snacks for the workers. It will be a great day to invite neighbors and friends to join in.

*We will change our own small corner of the world on May 14-15.  
Please pray about and participate in the important movement of the people called United Methodist.*

## Mother's Day and WomenSafe



Per tradition, the money that is placed in the celebrations basket in East Middlebury and the celebration jar in Middlebury on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 8**, will be given to WomenSafe. This special celebrations offering will support services that are provided for the many women and children who are or will be victims of physical, emotional, and sexual violence in Addison County. Honor the extraordinary women in your lives by giving generously on May 8.

## Middlebury UMW News

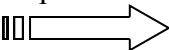
The officers of the UMW met together at the National Bank of Middlebury this month to put the names of the new officers on their bank accounts. They also combined the two savings accounts in a CD. These changes were voted upon at our April meeting. We also had the name on the account changed to Middlebury United Methodist Women. We now have an association number with the IRS that is our own and separate from the Middlebury Church accounts.

Our Spring Rummage sale and bake sale will be held **May 13th and 14th** from 9-5 on Friday with the bake sale from 9-1. On Saturday from 9-12 will be the \$2.00 bag sale and the Bake Sale will also continue from 9-12 as long as the bake goods last. The bake sale will be upstairs in the kitchen or outside the kitchen if the weather is warm.

Items for the sale can be dropped off at the church mornings the week of the sale. Any items you need to bring earlier than that please call Mimi Hardy at 388-6160 in the evening to make sure she will be able to meet you to open the church.

We will need help setting up the tables after church on Sunday May 8th. Anyone who can bake items for the bake sale please contact Mimi or she will contact you.

## News from East Middlebury

We had our best turn-out for the Easter Egg Hunt in East Middlebury this year. Thirteen kids took part in the fun; most of them are pictured here  Mark your calendars for this annual event!

The Women's Group celebrated yet another successful soup and bake sale, clearing \$920. Thanks to all who provided and bought goodies to support their mission.

We are having a birthday party for all the children on **May 1**. The children's Sunday school class will graduate on **May 8**, Mother's Day. All women in attendance this day will receive a flower from the children. Sunday school will be suspended for the summer months, but will resume in September.



Count the Spring Species! As birds migrate back into the area we are picking one of two dates, **May 6th or 7th**, to count them. If you want to join in, email Claire Lawson, [lawsocl@earlham.edu](mailto:lawsocl@earlham.edu), on Sunday May 8th to add your spotted species to the overall list. Please also include the area of the state you are in.

## Jeremias Franca to Preach in our Churches on June 12th!



Jeremias Franca\*, Director of Chicuque Rural Hospital and the Center of Hope in Mozambique, will be here in Middlebury to speak at our churches on **Sunday June 12, 2011!** Arrangements are being made for him to be here before and after the New England Annual Conference in Wenham, MA on June 8-11 where he will speak to the conference and meet with all who wish to hear him in their Learning Center. Please, mark your calendars now for his long awaited visit in June.

He will be visiting many of the churches in the United States such as ours which have the privilege of helping to support him as a commissioned missionary of the United Methodist Church through a Covenant Relationship. He actually is flying into Burlington from Germany where he has been visiting supporting churches there.

There will be a pot-luck dinner sponsored by Outreach Ministries at the Middlebury UMC after worship on the 12th for all in East Middlebury/Ripton and Middlebury who wish to meet and hear more from Jeremias about this amazing ministry of Mozambique United Methodists. It provides a 200 bed hospital and the Center of Hope for community health, working with HIV Aids prevention and treatment and eliminating malaria.

\*For more information, visit: [www.middleburyumc.org/JeremiasFranca.htm](http://www.middleburyumc.org/JeremiasFranca.htm)

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## Middlebury Mission and Outreach Giving News

The Middlebury UMC Mission and Outreach Team voted earlier this year to pledge \$50.00 to each of the six special Sunday offerings that come from the greater United Methodist Church. They also voted to tithe an additional amount--10% of the donations given by the congregation. We have had two special Sundays since January: Human Relations Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing.

For Human Relations Sunday, the Middlebury congregation gave \$111.00. The team added \$50 and their tithe. The total came to \$171.00. For One Great Hour of Sharing, the Middlebury congregation gave \$605.00. The team added \$50 and their tithe. The total come to \$715.00. This money helps these missions a great deal.

The next special Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, is May 6th. We have done so much. We can do so much more.

In addition, the Mission and Outreach Team wants to remind people that the bookcase in the fellowship room is filled with worthy reading and appropriate donations would be welcome.

*It's opening night at a new 1950's style restaurant – Mike's 50's Cafe. As the night progresses, secrets will be revealed. However, some people are desperate to keep things hidden. And when one person decides that murder is the only solution, you'll be called on to help solve the crime. Who did it? How did he or she do it? And why?*

Presenting...

**Middlebury United Methodist Church's  
Mystery Theater Dinner**

*An evening of fine dining and captivating entertainment (with a faith-based message)*

**Friday, June 17** —the Friday of Fathers' Day Weekend  
What a wonderful way to celebrate that special man in your life.

*Guests are encouraged to arrive dressed in fifties attire ready to celebrate!*

The evening will start with appetizers at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person.

Reservations are required.

Call 388-2510 and leave a message as directed.

Seating is limited, so call today.

*All proceeds from this event will go toward the mission share given by the local congregation to the national and global United Methodist Church.*



Volunteers are needed to help set-up, clean-up, and cook.

If you can help out, please contact Eileen Rinker: [rinkers@accessvt.com](mailto:rinkers@accessvt.com), or 545-2353

We are also looking for 50's theme items to borrow to use in decorating.

Please contact Linda Connor: [Lconnor@gmavt.net](mailto:Lconnor@gmavt.net), or 388-0838

## **Finance Committee Update**

At the April meeting of the Finance Committee, we affirmed the vote of the Endowment Committee to transfer our endowment funds from the Frontier Investment Group of New York to the New England Endowment Group. Several members of the Endowment Committee had questions about the possible new account, and so Lee Adkins asked Gary Melville of the New England Group to come and share information with us about the benefits this transition and answer any questions the members might have. Gary met with us on Monday, April 4, 2011 and shared many documents and information with those in attendance. The information from this meeting was incredibly helpful and enlightening, and we voted unanimously to move the endowment funds to the New England Endowment Group. If anyone has any questions, they should see Lee Adkins for information.

Margaret Klohck, Finance Chairperson



**We include the following in our prayers:**



Betty Austin	Mary Jo Richards	Terry DeYoung	Jamie Barnum
Marian Barnett	Sue Flanagan	Glen family	Family of Walt Peck
Betty Hampel	Cliff Piper	Darleen Freeman	Julie Coons' mother, Joan
Madeline Cone	Cary Marshall	Barbara Wheelock	Len Rowell's sister, Andrea
Doris Senecal	Jim Holden	Carolyn Perine	Marg Wesley's sister, Frances
Cora Dragon	Bob Warner	Jay Banta	Bonnie T. Adkins' granddaughter, Erika
Mona Austin	Burt Kimball	Pam Ladeau	Adkins' cousin, Tim
Chal Schley	Phyllis Richardson	Mary Jackman	All who are serving overseas



**Bible Readings for the Month**

May 1	Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
May 8	Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
May 15	Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
May 22	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-4
May 29	Psalm 66:8-20; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Support for Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317, is urgently needed. In addition to funds, the following kits are needed: school, layette, and birthing kits, and cleaning buckets. For more information on how to assemble these kits, log on to [new.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/getconnected](http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/getconnected)

**VT District Pre-Conference Meeting**

**Who:** Clergy and Lay Members of Annual Conference. (This includes the district equalization members as well as local church lay members.)

**What:** Pre-Conference Meeting to review resolutions and details in preparation for Annual Conference 2011.

**When:** Saturday, May 7, 2011 - registration at 9am followed by worship and meeting

**Where:** Hedding UMC, 40 Washington Street, Barre VT

The formal agenda is scheduled until noon. Folks are invited to bring a bag lunch or something to share and stay for some "district conversation" with Rev. Brigid Farrell (District Superintendent) and Evie Doyon (District Lay Leader) following the meeting.

Morning snacks will be provided.  
Bring your pre-conference journal!

**Thanks** to all who helped with the Interfaith Hunger Banquet on April 10. We were able to give more than \$700 to the local food shelves at CVOEO and HOPE.

**Congratulations** to Tammy Forbes and Tony Niemo on the anticipated celebration of their marriage on Saturday, May 21 at the Middlebury United Methodist Church. The ceremony will unite four children from each other's previous relationships, making them a happy family of ten. We wish them God's blessing.

### Worship Services on Audio Tape

The worship services in Middlebury are now being recorded on audio tape. If you or someone you know would like a copy, or if you can contribute a tape player, contact Jill at 388-2510. The tapes can be picked up and returned to the basket on the usher's table at Middlebury UMC.

### A Mother's Love



There are times when only a mother's love  
Can understand our tears,  
Can soothe our disappointments  
And calm us from our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love  
Can share the joy we feel,  
When something that we've dreamed about  
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith  
Can help us on life's way,  
And inspire in us the confidence  
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith  
And a mother's steadfast love  
Were fashioned by the angels  
And sent from God above.

--Author Unknown

## May Calendar

Sundays	<b>East Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> ..... 8:30 a.m. ....	E.Middlebury UMC
	<b>Family Worship</b> ..... 9:00 a.m. ....	E.Middlebury UMC
	<b>Adult Christian Education</b> ..... 10:00 a.m. ....	Middlebury UMC
	<b>Family Worship &amp; Sunday School</b> ..... 10:45 a.m. ....	Middlebury UMC



Sun	<b>Golden Cross Sunday</b> (see article)..... 9:00/10:45 a.m. ....	E.Midd/Middlebury UMC
	<b>Sunday School</b> ..... 9:00 a.m. ....	E.Middlebury UMC
	<b>Tik Root Talk and Thanks</b> ..... 4:00 p.m. ....	Ripton Community Church
Mon	<b>Staff-Parish Relations Team</b> ..... 6:30 p.m. ....	Middlebury UMC
Wed	<b>East Middlebury Women’s Group</b> ..... Time TBA .....	Location TBA
	<b>Serving Community Lunch</b> ..... 10:30 a.m. ....	Charter House
Sat	<b>District Conference</b> ..... 9:00 a.m. ....	Hedding UMC, Barre
Sun	<b>Native American Ministries Sunday</b> (see article) 9:00/10:45 a.m. ....	E.Midd/Middlebury UMC
	<b>Happy Mother’s Day</b> <b>E.Middlebury Sunday School Graduation</b> ..... 9:00 a.m. ....	E.Middlebury UMC
Tues	<b>Serving Community Lunch</b> ..... 10:30 a.m. ....	Charter House
	<b>Helen Porter Ministry</b> ..... 11:00 a.m. ....	Activities Room
	<b>Project Independence Ministry</b> ..... 1:00 p.m. ....	Elderly Services
	<b>Middlebury Ministry Teams</b> .....	Middlebury UMC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Middlebury Mission Team</b> ..... 4:30 p.m.</li> <li>- <b>Light Supper</b> ..... 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>- <b>Middlebury Finance</b> ..... 6:00 p.m.</li> <li>- <b>Middlebury Trustees</b> ..... 6:30 p.m.</li> <li>- <b>Middlebury Administrative Council</b> ... 7:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	
Wed	<b>E. Middlebury Administrative Council</b> ..... 1:00 pm. ....	Location TBA
Fri	<b>Middlebury Rummage &amp; Bake Sale</b> ..... 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ....	Middlebury UMC
Sat	<b>Men’s Breakfast</b> ..... 8:00 a.m. ....	Steve’s Diner
	<b>Midd. Rummage &amp; Bake Sale– Bag Day</b> ... 9 am.—noon .....	Middlebury UMC
	<b>CHANGE THE WORLD</b> (see article)	
Sun	<b>CHANGE THE WORLD SUNDAY</b> ..... 9:00/10:45 a.m. ....	E.Midd/Middlebury UMC
	<b>Ripton Worship</b> ..... 4:00 p.m. ....	Ripton Community Church
	<b>Middlebury Adult Choir Supper</b> ..... 6:00 p.m. ....	Rosie’s
Mon	<b>Middlebury United Methodist Women</b> ..... 2:00 p.m. ....	Mimi Hardy’s Home
Thurs	<b>Bishop’s Day with VT Clergy</b> ..... 10:00 a.m. ....	Northfield UMC
Sun	<b>Jill visiting Lebanon UMW, guest preacher</b> 9:00/10:45 a.m. ....	E.Midd/Middlebury UMC
Tues	<b>Women’s Spirituality Group</b> ..... 2:00 p.m. ....	Sue Flanagan’s Home
Sun	<b>FREE All-you-can-eat Pancake Supper</b> ..... 5:30-7:00 p.m. ....	MiddleburyUMC
Mon	<b>Memorial Day</b>	
Tues	<b>Serving Community Lunch</b> ..... 10:30 a.m. ....	Charter House
Wed	<b>Serving Community Lunch</b> ..... 10:30 a.m. ....	Charter House

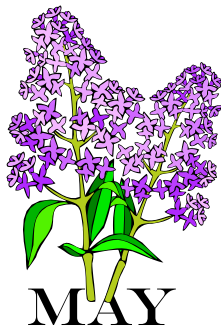
### Bishop Weaver Returns to Vermont!

Clergy in the Vermont District are invited to gather with Bishop Weaver on **Thursday, May 19**, from 10 a.m. – noon at the Northfield United Methodist Parish (152 South Main Street, Northfield). A light lunch will be available for those who would like to linger over a meal after the meeting or who would like a box lunch for the trip home. Please reply to [gmdsvt@comcast.net](mailto:gmdsvt@comcast.net) if you would like the lunch. A donation towards the meal is appreciated.

Mark your calendars for the final pancake supper of the year: **Sunday, May 29**, serving from 5:30-7:00 p.m. This supper is FREE but donations are gladly accepted. Hope to see you there!

The United Methodist Church  
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury ♦ Ripton  
47 North Pleasant Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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