

Our Light

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

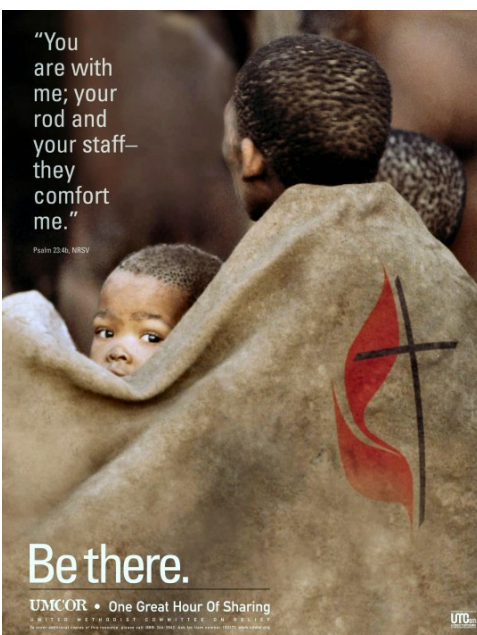
www.middleburyumc.org

The United Methodist Parish Newsletter
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury ♦ Ripton

April 2011

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing for UMCOR Sunday April 3



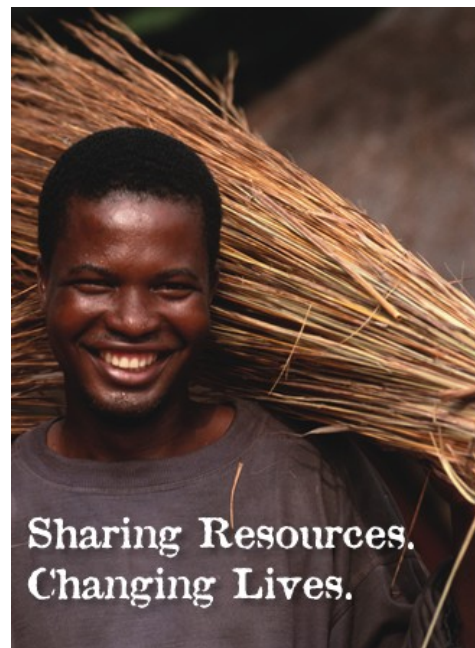
Restoration

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Healing

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Hope



This annual offering lays the foundation for all of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) ministries. Covering the costs of doing business this way assures that 100% of your designated gifts goes to specific projects or disasters throughout the year, such as in Japan right now where so many are suffering. In addition to disaster response, UMCOR also fights hunger, alleviates poverty, provides relief around the world including the U.S.A., and offers hospitality to refugees. All of this offering above UMCOR business costs goes to any of the above ministries.

You are encouraged to consider how you can share generously out of gratitude for all the many gifts God has given you. Perhaps a guide might be one of these: the cost of dining out for your family or an average trip to the grocery store, a part of your weekly allowance... you decide. May God bless you as you prayerfully decide how you will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Checks may be made out to Middlebury UMC note for "UMCOR One Great Our of Sharing" or by credit card: call toll-free..... 800-554-8583 www.umcor.org

Remember April 3 - One Great Hour of Sharing

Confirmation on Sunday, April 3

Four wonderful young people will make the commitment to membership in the Middlebury United Methodist Church on Sunday, **April 3**. Jaden Collier, Nathan Doty, Morgan Glen, and Teagan Glen look forward to sharing this special rite of passage with all the members and friends of the Middlebury congregation. Special thanks are extended to their mentors and family members who have shepherded them through this process. There will be a potluck lunch at the conclusion of the 10:45 a.m. worship service as we continue to celebrate these four gifted individuals.

Confirmation is just one step on the longer journey of the life of faith for them. Members of the congregation will be expected to continue to support them in the years to come. Wondering about the future of the church? Come and see our future through the eyes and lives of these young people on Sunday, April 3.

Lenten Midweek Meals and Meditations at Middlebury UMC

You are invited and encouraged to participate in the last two Lenten Midweek Meals and Meditations on **April 6** and **April 13** at Middlebury UMC. Beginning at 6 p.m., these evenings will include a light supper and a meditation led by a different person each week. For those of you attending Sunday worship, these midweek meditations will be a meaningful complement. If you have to miss a Sunday or cannot make it to church on Sundays, these meditations will be a great way to worship during the Lenten season.

As you are able, please consider volunteering to provide one of the meals for this programming. If you can do so, and/or if you need transportation or child care in order to make your participation possible, contact Rev. Jill at 388-2510 or revjill@myfairpoint.net at your earliest convenience.

Endowment Committee to Host Foundation Speaker on April 11

The Middlebury Endowment team is hosting Gary Melville from Boston at the Middlebury United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, **April 11** to speak about investing with the New England United Methodist Foundation. All those who are interested in your congregation's future financial picture and who are interested in knowing more about the Foundation's investment practices are encouraged to attend. In particular, members of the East Middlebury congregation are encouraged to attend since they have already invested funds in the New England Foundation. Also, members of all finance and trustee teams are strongly encouraged to attend. As this event was to have taken place last month and had to be rescheduled due to snow, we are praying for spring weather on April 11.

Here is a brief history of the current endowment:

In 2006 the Middlebury congregation began thinking about an endowment that would allow people to make major contributions to both the present and future financial support of the church. A new Endowment Committee was subsequently established. The Frontier Foundation of the United Methodist Church allows individual churches to invest funds which would exceed regular returns otherwise held in a bank savings account. Our church invested then; the total is now over \$44,000. Each year we receive from the fund a payment of 3.5% to use for current expenses and mission projects while the fund grows in excess of those payments.

We have been with the Frontier Foundation in New York for several years. The Endowment Committee is considering transferring to the New England Foundation because of our change to a new Annual Conference.

Holy Week

You are invited and encouraged to observe and celebrate all of the planned events during Holy Week. Your presence will be a blessing. I pray that the story will change your life, and through you, change the world.



Palm Sunday: Hosanna! April 17

9:00 a.m. Family Worship: East Middlebury UMC
10:00 a.m. Adult Education: Middlebury UMC
10:45 a.m. Worship and Sunday School: Middlebury UMC

Weather permitting, we will begin our worship services on Palm Sunday with a blessing of the palms outside on the lawn next to the church building in East Middlebury and on the front steps of the church in Middlebury.



Maundy Thursday: Love one another. April 21, 7:30 p.m. at Middlebury UMC

Per tradition, we will join with the congregation of the Middlebury United Church of Christ to celebrate the Last Supper. We will gather in the fellowship room of the Middlebury United Methodist Church. This service will include scripture, singing, symbols of light and darkness (tenebrae), prayer, communion, and stripping of the altar. If you would like to read scripture at this service, please contact Jill at 388-2510.

Ecumenical Good Friday: It is finished. April 22, 12:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

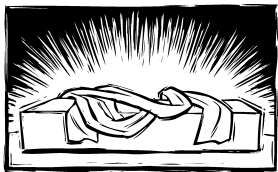
Per tradition, we will join with other Christian congregations in town to observe the events leading up to and including Christ's death. This service, jointly led by participating area clergy and laity, will include scripture, preaching, singing, silence, and prayer. If you would like to participate in this service, contact Jill at 388-2510.

Saturday Prayer Vigil: Pray without ceasing. April 22-23 1 p.m.-1p.m. Middlebury UMC

In observance of the time in between Christ's death and resurrection, the fellowship hall will be open for prayer from 1 p.m. on Friday (at the conclusion of the service) to 1 p.m. on Saturday. There will be a sign-up sheet listing the times of prayer in two-hour increments on the usher's tables at both churches. Please sign up for a time that works best for you. The goal is to have the church filled with prayer continuously for these twenty-four hours.



Easter Sunday: He is Risen! April 24



EASTER

6:00 a.m. Youngman Field, Middlebury College; Jill will preach
Pancake breakfast to follow at Weybridge UCC
9:00 a.m. Family Worship: East Middlebury UMC
10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt: East Middlebury UMC
10:45 a.m. Family Worship: Middlebury UMC

We will host an Easter egg hunt in or near the church building in East Middlebury on Easter morning. All families are invited to attend. There will be no Sunday school during worship; rather, worship will be planned for the whole family. The Easter services will be opportunities for all to celebrate the resurrection and life of Christ and the impact this life has had on ours.

If you are a college student and need a host family for Easter dinner on April 24, contact Jill at 388-2510 or revjill@myfairpoint.net.

Easter and the Earth

Where Two or More are Gathered: Eco-Justice as Community

Because our Easter celebration is so late this year (April 24), it coincides with the Sunday closest to Earth Day (April 22). In addition, the first anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon Gulf Disaster also falls on April 24, 2011.



The United Methodist Church designates one Sunday each year, preferably the Sunday closest to Earth Day, as a Festival of God's Creation, celebrating God's gracious work in creating the earth and all living things. (Resolution 11: God's Creation and the Church, 2004 Book of Resolutions) While some congregations will choose to observe the Festival of God's Creation on a day other than Easter, I believe it is a happy and meaningful coincidence that these days should come together this year when the natural world is crying out for resurrection and new life. Easter should be nothing short of a festival celebration, and the feast we typically enjoy on Easter should be respectful of the earth that has provided it and mindfully connected to the people who have no feast.

Here are a few of the materials presented by the National Council of Churches specifically around the theme for the day. May they be a meaningful prompt for your prayer and worship in the coming weeks as we anticipate the festival and feast.*

Call to Worship

One: Come—soil, seed, and rain. None will hunger in a garden where workers share the harvest, for where two or more are gathered in God's name

Many: there is our God.

Leader: Come—algae, fish, and streams. None will thirst where mindful stewards protect our waters, for where two or more are gathered in God's name

Many: there is our God.

One: Come—people from every walk of life. None will fall ill where brothers and sisters in Christ protect one another from toxic burdens, for where two or more are gathered in God's name

Many: there is our God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise

Risen and redeeming God, you came into this world to live among us in your son Jesus. His life, his death, and his rising have taught us to love. We are bound together with a gift of unity into one Body of Christ. We thank you for teaching us what it means to live in right relationship with all Creation. We praise you for the gift of this community gathered today, growing together in your love.

Prayer of Confession

God, in all your Creation you have revealed to us the fragile interdependence of life. We confess, at times, we have rebelled against you with ideas of self-sufficiency and extreme individualism. We reap without sowing and do harm without knowing. Open our eyes and hearts to your Creation and all who labor to offer us daily with food, water, energy, and sanitation. Help us to build a just, sustainable community of equitable sharing, solidarity, and gratitude.

Assurance

As sure as we have gathered here in God's name, God is here among us. Even as we try and go astray like a sheep who wanders from the flock, God draws us back into life together. May the power of God's love ever be constant with us, renewing our families, our schools, our workplaces, our churches, our neighborhoods, and all God's Creation.

*These materials are provided in a pamphlet that can be found along with many other helpful materials at www.umc-gbcs.org.

Soup and Salad Dinner - April 30

Donna Doty, head chef, has been known in our church for having special meals for the public as fund raising events. Some of the best chefs of our church will be providing an excellent crock pot soup for the dinner, with salad and a marvelous dessert included.

- * Cost will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors and children 5 to 12.
- * Hours for the dinner will be 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.
- * Funds will be used for the outreach budget of our church.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends.

Parish Administrator Update

Leslie Leggett concluded her work as Parish Administrator at the end of March. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her work with the congregation. The Staff-Parish relations team is planning on interviewing for the position in August of this year. In the interim, we will depend upon volunteers to fulfill the various duties of the position. Thanks to those of you who have already stepped forward to volunteer. More will be needed. If you feel that you can volunteer in the church office, contact Don Rinker, chairperson of the SPRC, at 545-2353 or leave a message at the office at 388-2510.

From the Finance Committee

We have begun to use electronic debits to our checking account for our portions of the pastor's pension and health insurance, saving a small percentage by doing so.

A few of our groups and committees have several small accounts. Some of these accounts have been open for many years. We encourage our groups and committees to see if it would be to their advantage to consolidate some of their accounts.

The Endowment Committee meeting scheduled for March 7 was postponed because of the snow-storm. This meeting has been rescheduled for April 11. We will be discussing the possibility of moving our Endowment Fund to the United Methodist Foundation of New England, since we are now a part of the New England Conference. *(See related article on page 2.)*

We would like to remind everyone that if you have not yet made a pledge for the year 2011, it is not too late to do so. Your pledge is always important to us, because it is important to have a projection of anticipated income to prepare our yearly budget. You can increase or decrease your pledge at any time if your circumstances change.

Jeremias Franca to Visit this Spring

Jeremias Franca, administrator of Chicuque Hospital in Mozambique and covenant missionary with our church, will be traveling this spring to speak at the New England Annual Conference in June. He will then travel through Vermont. We look forward to this long anticipated visit and pray for safe travels for him.

Change the World

Save the dates of May 14 and 15 as we join other United Methodist churches all around the world as we seek to CHANGE THE WORLD. We plan on celebrating that time right around our own space and neighborhood. See the May newsletter for final details.



News from East Middlebury

Please bring your children and grandchildren to our annual Easter Egg Hunt this Easter Sunday. The fun starts promptly after the worship service: 10:00am. There will be no Sunday School in East Middlebury on Easter Sunday, so they'll be ready to run around!

Jack Brown gave the Sunday School class a wooden model of Noah's Ark and the children are having fun re-arranging all the animals and telling the story in their own words. The children continue to bring food donations to support the local food shelves. Looking ahead to May, the children will be celebrating all of their birthdays on May 1; May 8 will be their graduation celebration.

The women's group is hard at work planning its next soup and bake sale: **April 16th** from 9am until 1pm at the EMUMC. Wrapped food donations that morning are greatly appreciated; come early for the best selection! The women's group is also planning to partially sponsor one or more parishioners to attend a United Methodist Summer Camp this year. Contact Jill or Irene Piper if interested in learning more or applying for assistance.

Making Summer Plans?

Remember Vacation Bible School and United Methodist Camps

The summer brochures and applications for the local United Methodist camp--Covenant Hills in Cabot, Vermont--are available on the ushers' tables in the East Middlebury and Middlebury United Methodist Churches. Once again there are many exciting options for children, teens, and families including but not limited to: soccer, great outdoors, magic, young builders, Dr. Seuss, rock band, coastal camp, boots and boats, pillows-popcorn-pjs, scrapbooking, soulfest, bang-cool-gross-ology, and so much more. There is also a special camp for those kids whose parents have been incarcerated called Camp Agape. To learn more about Covenant Hills, log on to www.covenanthillsvt.com.

Because we are now a part of the New England Conference, there are four camps in four other states with which we now have a connection: Camp Aldersgate in Rhode Island, Camp Mechuwana in Maine, Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in Massachusetts, and Wanakee United Methodist Center in New Hampshire. All of these sites have exciting programming planned for all ages this summer and in some cases, year round.

Scholarships from the United Methodist Women in Middlebury and the Women's Group in East Middlebury will be available on a first-come-first-served basis for people in our congregation who wish to attend. See the pastor for details.

The best way to learn more about camp is to talk with those who have attended in the past: the Garner family, the Lawson family, and the Doty family to name a few.

In addition to camp, **Vacation Bible School** and the **Summer Family Festival** will soon be scheduled as well. The theme this year is Shake It Up Cafe: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe. Carmen Jochum is currently looking for adult volunteers to help with the programming. Watch for details about this programming in upcoming newsletters, email announcements, and the weekly bulletins.



We include the following in our prayers:



Betty Austin
 Marian Barnett
 Betty Hampel
 Madeline Cone
 Doris Senecal
 Cora Dragon

Walt Peck
 Mona Austin
 Chal Schley
 Mary Jo Richards
 Sue Flanagan
 Cliff Piper

Cary Marshall
 Jim Holden
 Bob Warner
 Marjorie Freeman
 Burt Kimball
 Terry DeYoung
 Glen family

Julie Coons' mother, Joan
 Len Rowell's sister, Andrea
 Marg Wesley's sister, Frances
 Rene Tougas' brother, Euclide
 Adkins' cousin, Tim
 Family of Della Fenn
 Darleen Freeman



Bible Readings for the Month

Apr 3 Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
 Apr 10 Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
 Apr 17 Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
 Liturgy of the Passion: Psalm 31: 9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11;
 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
 Apr 24 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10



Interfaith Hunger Banquet

What would you eat if you were....

- a professional in Middlebury?
- a rice farmer in Indonesia?
- a day laborer in Guatemala?
- a McDonald's employee?
- a widow in Ethiopia?

Sunday, April 10, from 5-7 pm
 Middlebury United Methodist Church

- * A free-will donation will be received to benefit the food shelves of CVOEO and HOPE.
- * Call 388-2510 or email revjill@middleburyumc.org **by April 4** to reserve your spot.
- * Participants will learn about the devastating global hunger crisis by eating anything from rice and water to a lavish meal.
- * People of all ages are encouraged to participate.
- * Volunteers will be needed for the following tasks:
 - Cooking beans and rice
 - Setting up and taking down tables, chairs, and blankets on the floor
 - Participating, of course

Hosted by the Middlebury Area Clergy Association

!! CELEBRATIONS !!

- * Happy 97 birthday to Ida Hallock!
- * Congratulations to Arlon Staats and Graham Barlow, members of the MUHS hockey team that won states in March.
- * Congratulations to Darci Staats and Claire Wulfman who qualified for district chorus.
- * Congratulations to Nina Edson who played the lead in the Middlebury senior high school play, and to Charlie Cluss who was also in the play.
- * Congratulations to DTS Sheets who participated in the Vermont Brain Bee competition.

All of our children are exceptional in their own ways, and there are a lot of folks involved, but we don't always know about their activities. If you would like someone recognized in the newsletter, please let Linda Connor know: newsletter@middleburyumc.org or 758-2017.

❁ ❁ WANTED ❁ ❁



New Music for Worship

Are you drummer? Do you play guitar or keyboard? Do you like world music or play an instrument from another country? Do you like to listen to and sing contemporary Christian music? The call is going out for musicians interested in playing contemporary sacred music as part of our worship services on Sunday morning. This music will be a complement to the music that is already played on the organ and sung by the choir and congregation. We trust that Christ's message is communicated in many ways, and that a blending of some

of these ways will reach many people. Contact Rev. Jill at 388-2510 if you want to know more about this new ministry or feel called to offer music.

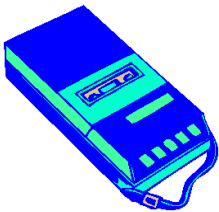
Ready to Upgrade Your Vacuum Cleaner?

If you have a working vacuum cleaner that you could donate to the Middlebury United Methodist Church, contact John Klinck at 462-3915 or the church office at 388-2510.



Tape Players Needed

Many people have requested tapes of the worship services, but most do not own their own tape players. If you can donate one or more to the church for this purpose, contact Jill at 388-2510 at your earliest convenience. Also, are the hearing assistance ear pieces working well in Middlebury? Do we have what you need? If not, again please contact Jill at 388-2510.



April Calendar

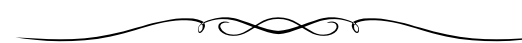
Sundays	East Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:30 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Family Worship 9:00 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Pre-K & Elementary Sunday School 9:00 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Adult Christian Education 10:00 a.m.	Middlebury UMC
	Family Worship & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Middlebury UMC
Tuesdays	Women’s Spirituality Group 1:00 p.m.	Mimi Hardy’s Home
Thursdays	Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC



Fri..... 1	Women’s Spirituality Group 1:00 p.m.	Mimi Hardy’s home
Wed..... 6	E. Middlebury Women’s Group 3:30 p.m.	Betty Davis’ home
	Lenten Midweek Meal & Meditation 6:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC
	Leader: George Klohck	
Sun 3	One Great Hour of Sharing 9:00/10:45 a.m.	E.Midd/Middlebury UMC
	Confirmation 10:45 a.m.	Middlebury UMC
Sat 9	Men’s Breakfast 8:00 a.m.	Steve’s Diner
Sun ... 10	Interfaith Hunger Banquet 5:00-7:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC
Mon... 11	Gary Melville, NE Foundation 7:30 p.m.	Middlebury UMC
Tues... 12	Helen Porter Ministry 11:00 a.m.	Activities Room
	Project Independence Ministry 1:00 p.m.	Elderly Services
	Middlebury Ministry Teams	Location TBD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Middlebury Mission Team..... 4:30 p.m. - Light Supper..... 5:30 p.m. - Middlebury Finance 6:00 p.m. - Middlebury Trustees 6:30 p.m. - Middlebury Administrative Council 7:30 p.m. 	
Wed... 13	Lenten Midweek Meal and Meditation 6:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC
	Leader: Lee Adkins	
Sat 16	Soup and Bake Sale 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	E. Middlebury UMC
Sun 17	Palm Sunday 9:00/10:45 a.m.	E.Midd/Middlebury UMC
Mon... 18	Middlebury United Methodist Women 2:00 p.m.	Mimi Hardy’s home
Tues... 19	Serving Community Lunch 10:30 a.m.	Charter House
Wed... 20	Serving Community Lunch 10:30 a.m.	Charter House
Thurs . 21	Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.	Middlebury UMC
Fri..... 22	Good Friday Service 12:00 p.m.	St. Stephen’s
Fri-Sat 22-23	Easter Prayer Vigil 1:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC
Sun 24	Easter Sunrise 6:00 a.m.	Youngman Field
	Pancake Breakfast to follow	Weybridge UCC
	Easter Family Worship 9:00 a.m.	E. Middlebury UMC
	Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.	E. Middlebury UMC
	Easter Family Worship 10:45 a.m.	Middlebury UMC
Wed... 27	East Middlebury Trustees 7:00 p.m.	Margot Brown’s home
Sat 30	Soup & Salad Supper 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC



Because the last Sunday in April is Easter Sunday, there will be NO pancake supper in April. The next Pancake Supper will be the last Sunday in May, which is May 29th.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Murder Mystery Theater is scheduled to take place on the Friday of Father’s Day weekend—June 17. Watch for more details in future editions of *Our Light*.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Light,

the parish newsletter of the
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