



Midway Presbyterian Church

The Newsletter

Midway Presbyterian Church | PO Box 343 | Midway, KY 40347 | 859.846.4571 | www.midwaypresbyterian.org

August 2015

The Newsletter is a Publication of Midway Presbyterian Church

Church Staff

Mary Seeger Weese
Pastor

Shelley Lorah
Music Director

Open
Youth Director

Mary Edwards
Nursery

Elders

John Davis, Clerk
Ellen Costigan
Sara Hicks
Janice Holland
Judy Offutt
Leslie Penn
Lewis Prewitt
Bud Ratliff
David Shaw

Sunday School

10 a.m. (adults)

Worship

11 a.m.

Pastor's Notes

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good...” This is the first sentence of a paragraph in Paul’s letter to the Romans entitled “Marks of the True Christian.” The editors of the NRSV Bible knew what they were doing.

They knew how to catch our attention. At least they caught my attention. I’m one of those people who find myself reading the top signs of this or that and clicking on those silly internet lists of things you need to know. You know the ones that pop up beside your very intellectual New York Times article about the

top five ways to make your living room cozier or the top ten healthy gas station snacks. I can’t help it. I like short, punchy to-do lists that give me answers. They might make life easier.

**“Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good...”**

Romans 9:21

This list from Paul seems to offer to make things easier. Here before us are the “Marks of the True Christian” in Romans 9:21. We should let our love be genuine. We must hate what is evil. We should hold fast to what is good. OK, sounds good. I’m in. But hold on, now. How do I do those things? Could you explain a little more about this, Paul? How can I be genuine? What is evil and how do I hate it properly? What is good and how am I to hold on to it? This list of answers about the “Marks of a True Christian” is a bit more complicated than it appears. And it deserves some thought and even some practice.

And that’s what we do together as the Church. Every Sunday morning, we remember and contemplate what it means to be a True Christian. Every time we are together in study or service, we practice; we pray and listen and commune and offer ourselves to God and to one another. We learn how to love and how not to love. We practice holding on to the good, and dismissing what is evil. And how we do those things, Paul says, is what distinguishes us as Christians; particularly two things: what we hold on to and what we let go of. The good we anchor our lives too. *(continued...)*



(Pastor's Notes continued)

And the evil that we reject. Holding on and letting go; true faith is about both of these disciplines.

During the next few weeks, we will be exploring how we do that together and how we train ourselves for it in worship. And why we do it in our peculiar Presbyterian way. So let these two questions tickle your brain this month:

In order to let my love be genuine:
What evil should I hate (dismiss, let go of, excuse) in my life?
What good should I be holding fast to (giving my energy and attention to)?

Love and peace be with you,
Pastor Mary

YOGA!

Join us each Saturday morning during August for Yoga! The class begins at 8:30 am and ends around 10 am.

The class is free, but donations will be accepted. Bring a yoga mat and a couple of towels. Some extras will be on hand if needed. This class is for all fitness levels.



Benefits of Yoga

- Lessen Chronic Pain
- Reduce Insomnia
- Lower Blood Pressure
- Increase Flexibility and Muscle Strength & Tone
- Improve Respiration, Energy, and Vitality

Worship With Us!

August

2- Pastor Mary will be on vacation.

Top Five Weird Things Presbyterians Do in Worship

9—Confess their Sins Together

16—Read the Bible (both Old and New Testaments)

23—Say a Creed Together

30—Say Debts and Debtors in the Lord's Prayer

30—Pancake Breakfast 9:30 am

September *(Weird Things Continue)*

6—Pass the Collection Plate

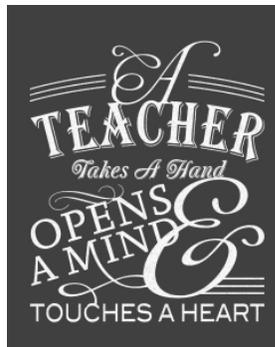
6—Sunday School Kick-Off!!

13—Community Service at Walter Bradley Park

Let's Harvest Some Love!

Community Garden Work Days

Every Saturday at 10am (9 am in hotter weather)
Our Garden still needs tending! Make time to come out enjoy the community garden and pull a weed or two!



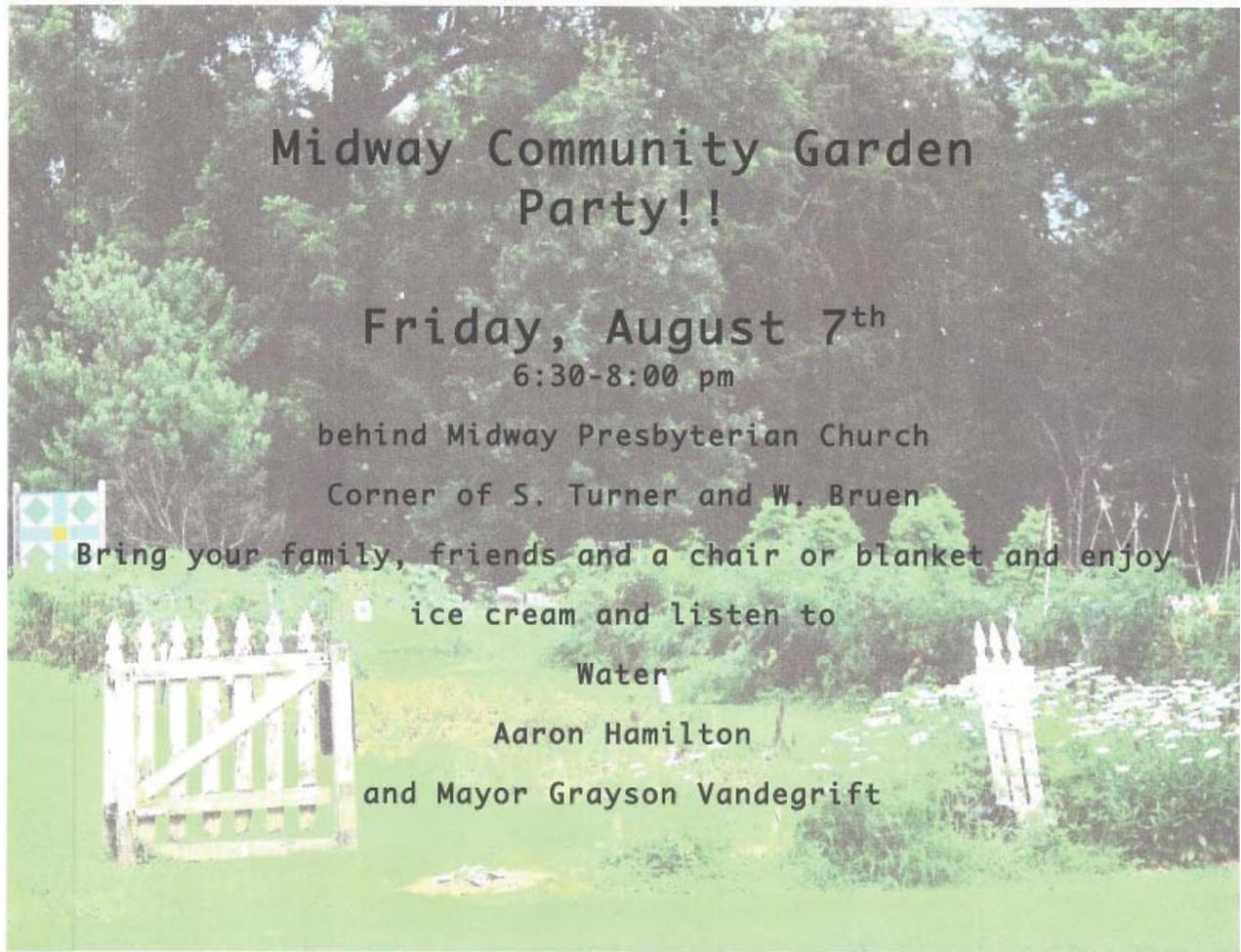
Bagels for our Teachers—
Tuesday, August 11, 8am we will be delivering bagels and coffee to the teachers and staff at Northside Elementary as a way to say, Bless You in your New School Year! If you'd like to help, talk to Pastor Mary or John Davis.

Outdoor Fellowship

The Wednesday Walkers continue to meet every week at 4 pm at the church. We will add weeding to our weekly walks as long as the garden needs attention.



Food Bank Collection
The food bank can always use the following items:
canned vegetables and beans
dry pasta | cereal | rice
canned meats and pastas
baby food | toiletries



Midway Community Garden Party!!

Friday, August 7th
6:30-8:00 pm

behind Midway Presbyterian Church

Corner of S. Turner and W. Bruen

Bring your family, friends and a chair or blanket and enjoy

ice cream and listen to

Water

Aaron Hamilton

and Mayor Grayson Vandegrift

Let's Celebrate!

Rick and Diana Horn's daughter Emily Sandefur is expecting twins! She and her husband Brian live in Montana, but Emily grew up here in Midway. Join us on August 9, after worship, as we celebrate the joy of twins with Rick and Diana! If you would like to contribute to a Target gift card for the Sandefurs, please see Sally Kinnaird!

.....
Emily Wilson is turning 6 on September 11, and she says she would like to celebrate her birthday with all of you after church on September 6, as we enjoy her favorite candy (Reese's Cups) and sugar cookies! And probably her favorite popcorn, too. :)

Church Finances

Congregation Giving for July 2015

Regular Offering-\$6,139

Building Fund/Capital Campaign-\$10,100

Backpack Ministry-\$140



The Kentucky Historical Society has approved our roadside marker application. We hope to have it installed and dedicated in 2016 as part of the celebration of our 175th anniversary. While doing the research for the application we were reminded of all those who have gone before us and we can't help but think that they would be pleased to see the vibrant, caring church that we are today.

We enjoyed hearing from **Emily Warren, YAV**, speak about her two years of volunteer experience on July 19. Her experience was very inspiring, and we are honored to have helped to sponsor her journey!

Committee Notes

Mission Committee, chaired by Janice Holland

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 9th, after service. We'll be discussing fall activities, including a potential mission trip.

For Fall Festival weekend, we are working with Membership/Fellowship to have a yard sale Saturday morning. Exact time to be posted soon! Proceeds will benefit the Backpack Program.

We are also having a booth at Fall Festival again this year to both Saturday and Sunday. We will be again painting faces for donations (to benefit the Backpack Program). Sign up sheet will be posted soon!

The Mission Committee had an ad in the Midway Children's Choir Concert Program in June.

We will have another Sunday in the Sandwich Ministry this fall. Date to be announced later.

Technology and Communication Committee, chaired by Bud Ratliff

We have a new sound system for the fellowship hall, and will be installing a console to organize the audio-visual equipment related to the television.

Property Committee, chaired by Judy Offutt

The Property Committee is experiencing a lot of "hurry up and wait" as we move forward with the repair and painting of the manse. The cornice work has been completed so a decision will be made soon as to who will do the actual painting. The cellar door in the courtyard has been repaired, which means that landscaping can go ahead as planned for the fall. The bell tower was cleaned out on Work Day, the elevator/lift has been inspected and the AC units have had their annual check-up.

Christian Education Committee, chaired by John Davis

The spectacular Sunday School Kick-Off festivities are now scheduled for August 30, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. First, there will be a pancake/sausage breakfast served to every Congregation member and guest in attendance.

After Breakfast, there will be special activities, such as crafts, art projects and games, at the tables for youth attendees. Members of the Christian Education Committee will assist the youth members with the activities. All Sunday School Teachers will be formally recognized during Worship Service on that date.

Also, following Breakfast, the Adult Class will begin their new lesson in the Library at approximately 10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday School Class will resume on September 6, 2015.

Youth Group Forum: Representatives from several churches in the Midway Community will meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2015 to begin a group discussion about the possibility of having a Community Youth Group. Several churches in the local area have very small Youth Groups or no group at all, so combining with other churches may be a viable alternative. Other proposals may also be surfaced during the discussion. After this meeting of the church representatives, there will be a discernment over a 30-45 day period to determine the feasibility of this proposal or other ideas that are suggested. Then, the Congregation will be advised about the final decision of the forum participants, as well as a recommendation from the Christian Education Committee. Please contact John Davis, if there are any questions.

Membership/Fellowship Committee, co-chaired by Ellen Costigan and Sara Hicks

The next committee meeting will be August 9, after worship.

Thanks to Sally Kinnaird for representing Midway Presbyterian Church at Camp Burnamwood this summer. Sally was the nurse on staff for the 1st & 2nd grade session.

Would you like to join in the good work being done by these committees? Just contact the chairpersons listed or come to the next meeting! Dates will be listed in the newsletter, in the calendar, and in the weekly emails. Join in the fun and help spread the good work and good news of Jesus Christ!

AUGUST 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 10am Sunday School 11am Worship Pastor Mary vacation</p> <p>6pm AA</p>	<p>3 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>4 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7pm Session</p>	<p>5 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>4pm Walking 6:30-8pm LifeGroup 7pm AA</p>	<p>6 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>1pm Called Presbytery Meeting--Winchester</p>	<p>7 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30-8:00pm GARDEN PARTY</p>	<p>1 10am Garden Work Day 8:30 am YOGA Pastor Mary vacation</p>
<p>9 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Worship Noon Mission Com. Meeting</p> <p>6pm AA</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8am Bagels for Teachers—Northside ELEM, Midway</p>	<p>12 First Day of School For Woodford Co. 4pm Walking 6:30-8pm LifeGroup 7pm AA</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10am Garden Work Day 8:30 am YOGA</p>
<p>16 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Worship Noon Property Com Meeting</p> <p>6pm AA</p>	<p>17 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>18 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>19 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>4pm Walking 6:30-8pm LifeGroup 7pm AA</p>	<p>20 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>9am Midway Ministerial</p>	<p>21 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>22 10am Garden Work Day 8:30 am YOGA</p>
<p>23 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Worship</p> <p>6pm AA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 4pm Walking 6:30-8pm LifeGroup 7pm AA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10am Garden Work Day 8:30 am YOGA</p>
<p>30 9:30 am Pancake B'fast! 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Worship</p> <p>6pm AA</p>	<p>31</p>					

God the Father, God the Creator

Words are powerful things. Words describe and define. Often we use the word Father to describe God. In the Bible there is a rich tradition behind the word Father. Jesus and the apostle Paul call God, Father. That's because God to them was not a disinterested, faraway deity as some thought. God was close to them. They were a member of God's family. And in their patriarchal society, the father was the closest, most important family member because he protected you and provided for you and gave you legal rights.

Today, we still see God as a protector and a provider. But the words we use for God are more expansive. Today, we know fathers and mothers are equally important in families. And we understand God to be neither exclusively male nor female. Our Reformed heritage tells us that God has both masculine and feminine qualities. God is strong and nurturing. Almighty and merciful. Ordering life and creating life. Our language in worship describes that. And it explains who we believe God to be.

The Worship Committee and I want us to try something together. Let's try singing our doxology with more expansive words about God.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Don't worry. We aren't dropping all of our traditional 'Father' language. We will still use Father in our other worship responses (the Gloria Patri and the Lord's Prayer), because there is a lot of meaningful tradition and history behind this. And don't worry if you forget or if you still sing it with the traditional words. But please do try it as a way to contemplate how God is much more than a Him. Try it to be reminded of the mystery of the God who is bigger than our language. Try it as a way to reinvigorate our worship of the One in whom we are neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave nor free. For we are all one in Christ Jesus, by the love of our Creator, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Mary

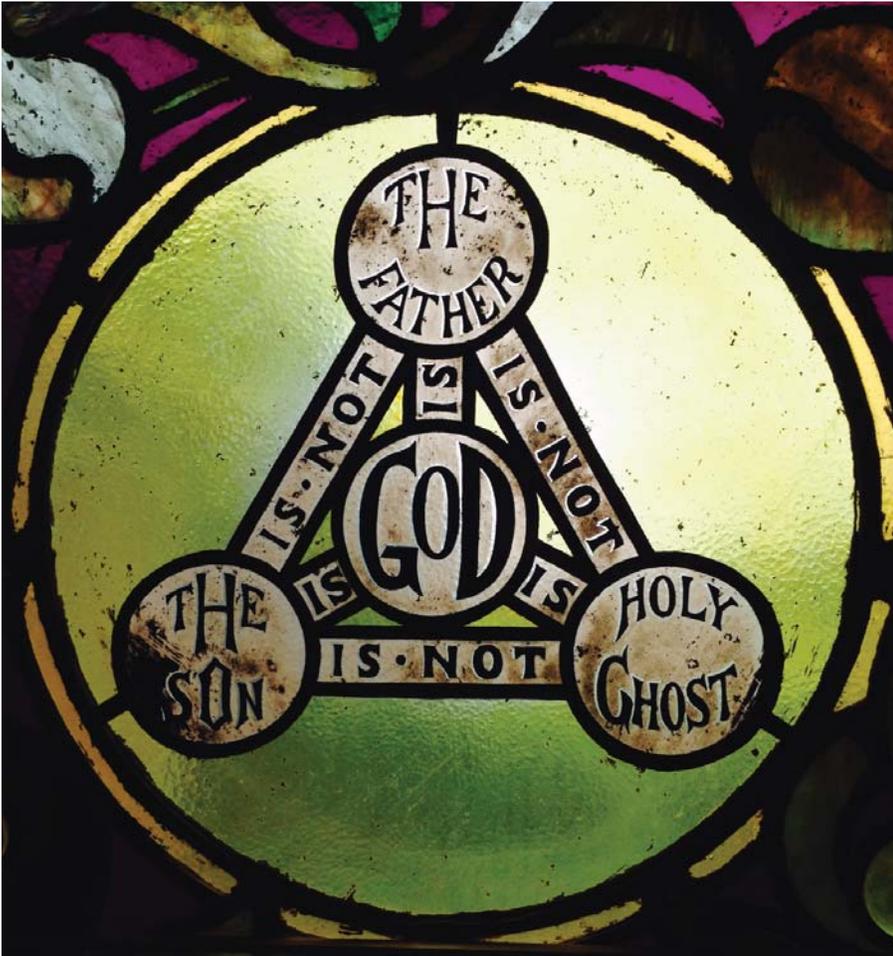


As our youngest members go back to school, whether it's Montessori, pre-school, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, or college, let's pray for their safety, their ability to learn, and their ability to witness to others through kindness and grace. We love our Amazing Youth!

LifeGroup will meet again on August 6, for the second of our series on Paul. Our first session was good with animated discussion! Join us as we continue to study Paul!

Meals on Wheels Program- Volunteers Needed

The Meals on Wheels Program managed by the Woodford County Senior Citizens Center provides necessary food during lunch time for individuals not able to prepare their own meals. The MPC currently alternates with the Midway United Methodist Church every week of the month to provide those meals to those in need. If you would like to participate in this necessary program, please contact John S. Davis at jsdthree876@cs.com or by phone at 859-873-2190.



This beautiful pane of stained glass is part of a larger window at First Presbyterian Church, Winchester. It has recently been cleaned and restored. This window was saved from the original church building near downtown Winchester that burned many, many years ago.

This window concisely explains the concept of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, or as we more modernly represent it in the reformed faith: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

There is a called meeting of the Presbytery on August 6 at 1 pm at the Winchester church. We will hear a report from the Designated Transitional Presbyter Search Committee and to act upon their recommendation to hire a new executive presbyter. In accord with our manual, no other business can properly be considered. The meeting will include worship and the sacrament of communion. This is a very exciting time for Transylvania Presbytery!

*Witnessing to the Love of God in Jesus Christ,
By Feeding the Hungry and Hungry of Heart*

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