

A Message from Pastor Mary

Peace of Christ be with you!

At a recent Bible study, I learned the importance of greeting others with the peace of Christ. Jesus himself, whenever he appeared to the Disciples on that resurrection day and in his last days on earth before ascending to heaven, greeted them with "Peace be with you." We are now the ones who are called to share Christ's peace. Especially for those who walk in turbulent times, the peace of Christ is much needed. Starting or even ending a conversation with this simple yet Spirit-filled prayer of peace from Christ, is a needed Christian discipline in our world today. I hope you will adopt it as one of your disciplines.

I also ask for your prayers and help. I hope to begin a grief and personal support group by the end of the summer/first of Fall. This will be a support group to help each other through some tough times. Perhaps you have walked that road before and would like to share. Maybe you are currently walking a path of sorrow and depression. While this is not to take the place of counseling, it will be a safe place to come for prayer and support. What I need from each of you is first: your prayers that God will guide the formation of this group. Secondly, if you might be interested in being a part of this type of gathering, I need your suggestions. What days or nights would be better for you? Weekdays or weekends? What time(s) work best? Morning or evening or even perhaps over lunch? Where would be the best place to meet? A local restaurant, someone's home, or even the church? If you could give me suggestions and preferences, I can set the day, time, and place to suit as many as possible. I will be naming this the GPS group (Grief and Personal Support Group). Sometimes in life, we sort of get lost and need extra help. It is what a GPS does for us on a trip and what this group will prayerfully do for those who need a little extra help in life.

May God be by your side and may you know His presence.

Blessings, Pastor Mary

GRACE NOTES

A NEWSLETTER FOR
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF GRACE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH, MIDDLETOWN,
VA

MAY – JUNE 2024



Pastor: Rev. Mary Lock

540-303-1076

marylock@vaumc.org

Worship Services:

Sunday Worship:

8:30 & 10:30 am

Sunday School:

9:30 – 10:20 am

Address:

PO Box 61, Middletown, VA
22645

Street: 7882 Main St,
Middletown, VA 22645

Phone: 540-869-1008

Website:

graceumcmiddletown-va.org

Email:

graceumcmiddletown@
gmail.com

LAY LEADER NEWS

Mission Statement:

The May committee being featured is our church library. Have you checked it out? Books range from Christian fiction to great resources with lots of faith-building in between. There are materials for all ages, so do take some time to browse. Materials can be checked out.

Beginning May 26, we will be focusing on the middle portion of our Mission Statement, "We will serve God." Here are some of the upcoming committees that help our church do just that. The Trustees will be featured in June. The Trustees' Chair is Randy Jenkins. Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is featured in July. The SPRC chair is Lisa Higgs. Be sure to ask the committee chairs or any of the committee members what they do for Grace and how their work serves God.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mother's Day (May 12th): Our Mother's Day service will be a variation on a hymn sing. Those hymn and Scripture recommendations from the ladies will be put to good use all month, so join us as often as you can to see where your recommendation will be used.

Also, we ask you to bring in a picture of your loved one on May 12th to display in the Garrett Room.

Graduations: Do you have or know of someone graduating HS or college? If so, please send the information to Diane by May 5th.

Father's Day (June 16th):

Gentlemen, your turn is coming! We will be collecting your hymn and Scripture recommendations during the month of May to use in June.

Also, we ask you to bring in a picture of your loved one for display on the table in the Garrett Room on June 16th. We will have a Father's Day Dedication form for you to complete in the May 19th bulletin and on the table outside of the church office. Along with the dedication form please include \$1 for each name, donations will go the Roof Repair Fund. Give to Sherry Jenkins (8:30 am) or Helen Steele (10:30 am). Please return no later than June 9, 2024.

Virginia Annual Conference News

The 242nd session of the Virginia Annual Conference will be held June 20 – 22, 2024 in Hampton, Virginia. The theme is **A Conference in Three Movements**. We are collecting conference kits for the conference. All items are due by May 19, 2024, and we are looking to collect 50 Hygiene kits and 30 Feminine Hygiene (see the Outreach table for both lists). Pastor Mary will be attending, and Diane Wittreich will be our Lay Delegate this year.

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School is back at Grace! Join us at Camp Firelight June 27 - 30. We will meet Thursday and Friday from 6 pm - 8 pm. On Saturday, camp is 10 am - 12 pm. Sunday we meet at Middletown Park! We will gather at 10:00 am and have our church service at 10:30 am. The campers (kids) will share their camp adventures and we will finish with a potluck picnic and outdoor fun. More details about the Sunday activities will be coming, so stay tuned!

Campers are already signing up, so let's give them a great Bible School! Volunteers are needed both before and during Bible School. Online registration for campers and volunteers is open, and, if you are challenged online Diane is available to help during church office hours. (Paper registration forms are available to get you started.) To register as a volunteer online, click [here](#) or go to <https://graceumcmiddletownva.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-volunteer>

Our church picnic will be at Middletown Town Park Shelter on Sunday, June 30, 2024. We will gather at 10 am and our service will be at 10:30 am, the picnic will begin after the service. A sign-up list will be posted outside the church office closer to the event.



Outreach/Nurture Committee:

We are now collecting items for VA Annual Conference Kits. Items need to be at the church by May 19th. See the lists on the Outreach table in the fellowship hall. We will announce a date soon for assembling the kits.

Future Events

The **SPRC** will be meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:30 pm

The **Administrative Council** will meet on Wednesday, June 12th at 6:30 pm.

Deadline for the July/August Grace Notes Newsletter articles is June 23, 2024.

Our next blood drive will be Wednesday, July 17th from 11 am to 4 pm. If you have any questions about the frequency of donating, please contact the local chapter of the Red Cross for further information. To schedule your donation, click [here](#) or go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=graceumc> or use the attached QR code.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES*

May	Date	June
	1	
	2	Evelynn Quimby
	3	
Mason Beall	4	
Ann Copeland	5	Wes Thornton, Jan & Gary Tusing*
	6	
	7	Joshua Garrett
Adam Hawkins	8	
Stacy & Chris Helsley*	9	Tracy Madagan, Amy & Todd Bowman*
Kate Hawkins	10	
	11	Marci Beard
	12	Suzanne Ketner
	13	Sarah Hawkins
Anne Legge, Thomas Shull,	14	Betty White
	15	
David Campbell, Bill Sperow	16	Adam Bowers, Marvin Carper
Marvin Carper, Eve Ellison	17	Jennifer & William Rust*
Dorothy Conner, Jacob Helsley	18	
Veronica & David Zimmerman*	19	Clay Knick, Corene Roberts
Mary Dicks	20	
	21	Jacelynn Quimby
	22	
	23	Todd Bowman, Hollie & Jeffrey Strosnider*, Marci & Dan Beard*
	24	Heather & David Campbell*
	25	
Michelle Cissel, Lindsey Higgs	26	Veronica Zimmerman
	27	Gene Jenkins
Amy & John Keller*	28	Thomas Shull, II, Carrie Madagan, Diane & Marvin Carper*
	29	Lisa Knick
	30	
Zachary Clowser, Megan & Adam Bowers*	31	

Please let us know if your special dates are missing or incorrect! 540-869-1008



Grace United Methodist Church
PO Box 61
Middletown, Virginia 22645

Church Office:

Diane Wittreich, Administrative Assistant
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 am – 2 pm
Phone: 540-869-1008

Prayer Requests during the week: Call or email the church office or call Barbara Steele 540-869-2430. Please leave a message if prompted.

Grace Thrift Shop Hours: Thursdays & Fridays, 10 am – 3 pm; Saturdays, 10 am – 1pm. Donations accepted during shop hours.

Electronic Donations: Visit our website and look for PayPal Donate link, or visit:
<https://paypal.me/GraceUMCMiddletownva>