



The Ambassador

September 2024

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From the Pastor

*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.*

I Corinthians 10:17

Dear Friends,

September is the month where summer officially comes to an end and we begin to take the first steps into fall. I am struck by the fact that even though it still feels like summer temperature wise, changes are happening that mark the passing of time. School routines are becoming established, the days are growing shorter, pumpkin spice everything is out for purchase. This changing of a season can change how we dress, what we buy, how we spend our time. But this time of transition can also be an invitation for us to reflect on how we are living and prayerfully ask God what changes God is calling us to make.

Our upcoming worship series, One Another (see page 2 for more information), will offer to us the opportunity to explore some of those changes. The Bible is clear that we are called to be one body. There are well over twenty different references in the Bible in how we ought to be in relationship with one another: love one another, encourage one another, accept one another, be devoted to one another, speak truthfully to one another, teach one another, forgive one another, etc. So many one anothers – all because our relationship with God, with each other, and with the world are essential.

Throughout this series this fall, I want to challenge you to identify a 'one another' that you want to become a defining characteristic of your life. Consider why the 'one another' you choose is so important to you. Picture what your life would look like if you practiced this 'one another' weekly or even daily. What would you need to start doing? Is there something you would

Staff

Senior Pastor Kim Armentrout
Assoc. Pastor Daniel Cardenas
Worship Mary Ellen Clinard
Building Supt. Greg Cooper
Office Mgr. Pam Fugett
Treasurer Betsy Koval
Financial Secy. Susan Beagle

Contact Us

120 S. Broad St.
Middletown, OH 45044
513.423.4629
office@myfumc.net
www.myfumc.net

Worship With Us

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

Inside

Music & Worship Notes 3
Mission Moments 6
Calendar & Birthdays 7

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need to stop doing? Embracing a particular 'one another' is an opportunity to experience God's grace as you seek to be faithful.

I am looking forward to our upcoming worship series and our time together as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus no matter what season it is.

Peace,

Pastor Kim <><



NEW WORSHIP SERIES “ONE ANOTHER”

Everything seems to be so partisan these days. Maybe it has always been so, but in years where there is a presidential election, our country seems divided and fragmented. People are quick to express opinions as facts and political preferences as gospel truth. And speaking of the gospel, the Bible says lots about divisiveness and unity.

The Bible makes it clear that as Christians, we belong to one another. We have one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one body, one faith, one baptism, one hope – we are called to community, we are called to oneness. What does this oneness look like? How does this community interact? Thankfully, the Bible answers these questions by offering us several 'one another' passages that describe how we are to live together.

In this season where we are reminded constantly of how divided we are, where we are shown maps of red states and blue states, let us stand together and proclaim a greater truth. Let us gather with one another in worship and around the communion table, demonstrating a different reality: In God, we belong to one another.

9.1.2024	One Another	Ephesians 4:1-6
9.8.2024	LOVE One Another	John 13:34-35
9.15. 2024	CARE for One Another	I Peter 4:8-11
9.22.2024	ENCOURAGE One Another	I Thessalonians 5:1-11
9.29.2024	LOOK OUT FOR One Another	Philippians 2:1-5
10.6.2024	LIVE IN HARMONY WITH One Another	Romans 12:9-18
10.13.204	BE KIND TO One Another	Ephesians 4:31-5:2
10.20.2024	FORGIVE One Another	Colossians 3:12-17
10.27.2024	DO NOT PROVOKE One Another	Galatians 5:22-26
11.3.2024	BELONG TO One Another	Romans 12:1-8



Music and Worship Notes

HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITY FOR OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY

For First Friday on Oct. 4, we will feature organist Collin Richardson. Collin performed for our series several years ago while he was finishing his Doctorate of Organ at CCM and is now the current vocal music director at Columbus Alternative High School under the auspices of Columbus City Schools.

In addition to performing on the organ for our concert, Dr. Richardson will also be bringing about 50 high school students in his select choirs to perform with him. This is a part of a 2 day 'tour' that will start in Cincinnati and culminate in a college visit at University of Dayton before returning to Columbus.

We would like to host lunch for these students, Dr. Richardson, and their chaperones after the First Friday concert. Menu will probably be something like sloppy joes and buns, deli meat and cheeses, salad/veggies/fresh fruit, chips, and cookies. If you would like to help in any way, whether by donating food or helping serve, please contact Mary Ellen at music@myfumc.net or call the church office. Thanks in advance! They are very excited about performing here!



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CHOIR SEASON BEGINS SEPTEMBER 4th!



While our choir season doesn't really ever end, we still like to kick off the beginning of fall with a potluck, fun games, and a sneak peek into what the music will be for the upcoming season.

We will be hosting our annual Choir Potluck event on Wednesday, Sept. 4 beginning at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall followed by a couple of games and then rehearsal. This is a great time to try the "choir experience" and get to know some great people. HINT: Many choir members don't read music! We work several weeks in advance and also have recordings that can single out your part of the anthem. Everyone is willing to help get you to the point where you feel comfortable. Many choir members travel for extended periods of time and are still able to learn the music.

Newcomers are always welcomed! Contact Mary Ellen if you are thinking about giving us a try and she will talk you into it!

A Note from Rev. Daniel Cardenas, Associate Pastor

The Shapes of God.

Ezekiel 1:26-28



Certainly, the Bible teaches us that God is Spirit (John 4:24) which means that nothing on earth, under the sea, and up in heavens looks like God. In the Ten Commandments, it is written: *"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea to worship them or to bow down to them"* (Exodus 20:4). However, this does not mean God shows us and shares his glory with us to be known using distinct shapes and forms. For example, in the book of Ezekiel, he shares an amazing view of God's glory displayed by several figures like fire, rainbows, or clouds.

Ezekiel wrote:

"Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man. From what appeared to be his waist up, he looked like gleaming amber, flickering like a fire. And from his waist down, he looked like a burning flame, shining with splendor. All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the Lord looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone's voice speaking to me."

Ezekiel 1:26-28

As we can see, Ezekiel speaks, and he shares through images and shapes how majestic and great is our God. Through visuals, God shows his glory and talks to us, letting us know his attributes and his personality, and that happened all throughout the Scriptures. We can see God as a strong tower or as a Good Shepherd or like a safe refuge where we can go and take shelter. Even, God shows himself as a Father who loves his beloved children and he is always waiting for his lost and wayward child.

Not only does God allow us to see these images of him to show and share his glory, but he also does that to let us identify ourselves with God. For example, when we feel lost we can identify with the picture of the Good Shepherd because we know that God does lead us through the valley of death, or we prefer the image of a strong tower, knowing we can have shelter during the fiercest storm, or as parents we can identify ourselves with the image of God as a Father because we live vividly the parenthood day by day with our children.

Since we have Eliette living with us, Anahi and I experienced a big change in our theology. Since then, God has been a good Father to us (does not mean he wasn't before), and we feel his abiding presence among us ready to fill us and comfort us in those bad days as we do to Eliette's needs. Having Eliette makes that image of God as a Father more powerful to us. When she cries, we run to see what is happening or what is needed, and that reminds us of God's willingness to help us in trouble. God has been such a great Father to us, but now we experience him much more since we are now parents.

So, does not matter what you are living today, God is willing to be your Shepherd, your tower or refuge, and your Father. God can be known through many images and shapes, therefore do not hesitate that we can be filled with hope, grace, and encouragement by his abiding presence, even in the daily things that we do like parenthood.

Con cariño y afecto.
Rev. Daniel Cardenas

CELEBRATING MAD (MUSIC, ART, & DRAMA) CAMP

We had a wonderful time at MAD Camp. We were delighted to host thirty three children, ages pre-school through sixth grade. The young people created amazing art, learned songs, and put on musical at the end of the week based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. They say a picture is worth a thousand words so enjoy the pictures and see the joy that is captured in the snapshots

We are so grateful for the wonderful generosity from you, our church! Supplies were donated in abundance.! Scholarships were available to any who needed it! Volunteers came to serve! MAD Camp could not have happened without you. Thank you so much!



SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 10:00 a.m. UNTIL 2:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what gifts God has given you? Or have you ever wondered if God maybe forgot to give you any spiritual gifts at all? If this sounds like you, then please plan to come to the spiritual formation retreat this fall!

During our time together we will study the Bible and learn more about what spiritual gifts are and what they are used for. We will spend time with each gift and explore how God uses each gift for the good of all. We will also have the opportunity to take a spiritual gifts assessment and see how God is moving in our lives.

If you are interested in participating, please let the church office know. There will be a sign-up sheet in the North Foyer around mid-September. There is no cost for this retreat and lunch will be provided. See Pastor Kim if you have any questions.

THANK YOU

Ron & I want to thank you all for the many phone calls, cards, & prayers over these many months. Our church friends' support has been a much-needed source of inspiration that keeps us both moving forward. We enjoy sitting together and reading all the positive messages. Ron is doing better and hopes to continue to improve. We miss you all and thank you for your friendship.

Love,
Mary & Ron Davis

MISSION MOMENT

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

We have enjoyed a special celebration with our children and grandchildren in England recently! Hannah and Nathan are living there still - she just got her "permanent leave to remain" visa - like a U.S. green card, I think. Luke and Laura flew over with the kids, and Rachel and her fiancé, Scott, also came! It was a great week together - celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary from back in June. We are also very excited to look forward to welcoming Scott into the family in 2025, we hope!

Les is now back in Nepal, and I came on to the U.S. and plan to be in church on Sept 8, so will look forward to seeing some of you then!

Please do continue to pray for the hospital work in Nepal. Especially as they are trying to complete the waste water project which has been underway for almost a year. Pray for the work to be done well, and for the bioreactor machine to come up from India without any problems on the roads or with customs.

We appreciate your prayers and support and also those who keep in touch with us! Thank you!

Love from Debbie and Les

SPIRITUAL FORMATION ACADEMY

Pastor Kim applied and has been accepted into the Upper Room's Spiritual Formation Academy. The academy is an eighteen month experience designed to deepen a person's faith by cultivating spiritual practices. Over the course of the next eighteen months, Pastor Kim will be away three weeks at a retreat center in Illinois, she will participate in three, two-day online sessions, and will have monthly check-ins with her spiritual formation group. Please pray for Pastor Kim during her time at the Academy. Her first sessions begins on Friday, Sept 6th and lasts through Wednesday, Sept 11th. Pastor Daniel will cover pastoral care during her absence.

GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

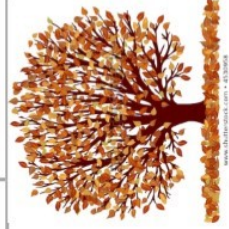
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

As promised, Pastor Kim will be hosting a meeting after worship on Sunday, September 22nd to share the major items and decisions that were made at the General Conference that was held in May. In addition, she will share about the changes that have happened or will be happening at the conference and district levels, too. If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in receiving the handouts that she will share, please contact the church office and let us know. We will be glad to pass along whatever Pastor Kim shares. Thanks!

September 2024

September Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	2 LABOR DAY/ OFFICE CLOSED 8 am Breakfast Club	3 NO Pantry	4 6:30 pm Choir Kick Off	5	7 Noon First Friday Concert	7
8 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 8 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Legal Clinic	10 2 pm Pantry	11 7 pm Choir	12 10 am Investments	13 10 am UWF Executive Board	14
15 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16 8 am Breakfast Club	17 2 pm Pantry 4 pm CMC 5:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm Council	18 7 pm Choir	19	20 AMBASSADOR DEADLINE	21 9 am Hope Circle @ Bob Evans 10 am Elizabeth Circle
22 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23 8 am Breakfast Club	24 1 pm SPRC 2 pm Pantry 6:30 Trustees	25 7 pm Choir	26	27	28
29 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship/	30 8 am Breakfast Club	<p><u>Dates to Remember in October:</u> Oct. 4: First Friday Concert at Noon Oct. 6: World Communion Sunday Oct. 19: Spiritual Formation Retreat</p>				



Happy Birthday!

2024 First Friday Concert & Artist Series

September 6, 2024

Father, Son, and Friends

**With guitar, fiddle, and bagpipes,
this classic Celtic Band will be
sure to put a smile on your face!**

**First UMC - Middletown
@noon
Free Admission**




first
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MIDDLETOWN
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120 South Broad Street
Middletown, OH 45044