



# The Ambassador

October 2024

Est. 1805 | Published Since  
1951

## From the Pastor

*“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ has forgiven you.  
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,  
and walk in love.”  
Ephesians 4:31-5:2*

Dear Friends,

I have a little ceramic tile in my office that reads, “Live in Grace, Walk in Love.” It is beautiful! It has a tree with curlicue branches and a little blue bird perched in it. It was given to me as a gift several years ago and I enjoy looking at it just as much now as I did when I first received it.

Honestly though, Live in Grace, Walk in Love is much easier to look at than live out. While I am well aware that I live in grace, it is the walking in love that is the bigger challenge for me – am I the only one? There are times when I think that if I really wanted to be more faithful, I would take that tile off the bookshelf and wear it as a necklace or as I sign that hangs off my head about a foot in front of my eyes. I need a constant prompt that encourages me to think through my actions, asking myself, “Am I being loving right now?” Am I the only one who needs such a reminder?

The entire “One Another” worship series is designed to help us be faithful as we take our faith that we nurture in worship and practice it in the world. Last month I encouraged you to identify a ‘one another’ characteristic that you want to become a defining part of your life. What is God calling you to practice more fully? Caring for one another? Living in harmony with one another? Being kind to one another? Embracing a particular

## 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  
Pastor Daniel 4  
News 5-6  
Calendar & Birthdays 7

 **first  
church**  
M I D D L E T O W N  
*a united methodist community*



'one another' is an opportunity to experience God's grace as you seek to not only live in grace but also walk in love.

Being faithful is hard which is why I am so grateful that we get to be on this journey together. It is a blessing to learn how to live in grace and walk in love with you!

Peace,  
Pastor Kim <><

### One Another worship series continues this month...

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. Join us in person or online as we continue our One Another worship series.



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

### Harvest of the Heart

During the month of October we will be collecting items for the Pauline Stalker Food Pantry. Yes, that's the official name of what we often refer to as the Food Pantry. Saying it out loud puts a human face to this ministry. It's not just a cupboard that needs filled. This is a vital ministry that is helping to meet the needs of our neighbors. Donating to the Food Pantry is one way that we can live into First United Methodist's motto "Christ our Life, Service our Lifestyle". On Sunday, Oct. 6th, we will handout a complete list of party items. Please place your donations in the "moat" in front of the pulpit. Here are the top 15 most needed items: Toilet tissue (4 pack), Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Vegetable/Canola Oil, Flour, Sugar, Salt, Vienna Sausages, White Rice (3 lb bag), Shampoo (V05), Apple Juice (1/2 gal), Evaporated Milk, Paper Towels, Ramen Noodles (Beef/Chicken), Bar Soap (Ivory/Zest). We typically buy all of these items either at Aldi or The Dollar Tree.



# Music and Worship Notes

## Music and the "One Another" Series

I really enjoy getting a copy Pastor Kim's sermon series concepts and accompanying scriptures, and hunkering down to select hymns and anthems that help accent or emphasize the focus of the topic. I first noticed something with the "Friends" series, and now with the "One Another" series, I think it's a truth—in our hymnal and in our anthem library the majority of our music is about our relationship with God, what God has done in our lives, and the glory and majesty of God. All beautiful and important reflections of our faith. What I discovered is our much smaller numbers of hymns and anthems about our RESPONSE to our relationship with God; that being, what we go and do for others BECAUSE of what God has done for us.

In each of our hymnals, there are sections titled "Born of the Spirit", "United in Christ", and "Called to God's Mission" and "Social Holiness". Doing a little math, the hymns in those sections about reaching out to one another are only about 13% of the hymns in all three books. I would say the anthems in our music library are about the same percentage.

As we discover and sing new hymns and learn new anthems about serving others, we are helping to grow and expand our spiritual music library that includes more messages about serving others in a Christ-like way. Just like we sing in our Benediction during this series, we are "drawing the circle wider still". There's always room for more music!

### **First Friday to present Columbus Alternative High School Chorale Oct. 4**

This month, we will host the 50-voice Columbus Alternative High School Chorale in concert and it will also feature some solo organ pieces by their director Dr. Collin Richardson. Dr. Richardson played an organ concert at a First Friday Concert several years ago as he was working on his Doctorate at CCM in Organ Performance. We are so happy he wants to come back with his choir in October! Columbus Alternative High School is a magnet school for the performing arts and they have created a concert for us with a wide variety of music. High school singers always bring incredible energy to any concert! You really don't want to miss this one!

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help us host the choir after the concert with a lunch in the Fellowship Hall!

### **Election Day Communion Tuesday, November 5, 2024**

**Noon and 7:30 p.m.**

On a day where we are led to believe that we are divided as a country into red states and blue states, divided as a people between republican, democrat, green, libertarian and independent, we will gather as one around a communion table. The communion table - a place where Jesus calls us to become one with him and one in ministry around the world. Please join us in either the afternoon or evening for a time of prayer and holy communion. If you have questions, please see Pastor Kim.



During the Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate and recognize the Hispanic population's contributions and achievements. In this celebration, the Hispanic countries and citizens share a little bit of their culture, food, and colors. Everything turns colorful, tasteful, and delightful.

So, as community we couldn't let this month just pass us by. We decided to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month with an amazing tribute to our Middletown Hispanic community by doing something to honor them.

The first tribute is the ESL program at Rosa Parks Elementary School. Our community partners: FUMC Middletown, First Baptist Church, and Rosa Parks Elementary School, are working together towards a community well-being by bringing English as a Second Language to the Hispanic community here in town. We started some weeks ago with a good attendance numbers and, by the grace of God, we have been maintaining that amount of students as well as adding new volunteers to this wonderful program.

The ESL program has been a great opportunity to share our gifts and friendship with the Hispanic community among us. Together, despite our differences, we spend time participating in delightful conversation and we learn from each other.

Secondly, as a volunteer, I am teaching Spanish lessons to the Rosa Parks Elementary School staff. Along this lessons, I share some of my culture and roots to the school staff while they learn Spanish. This chance was born from a truly and deep desire from the staff to communicate effectively with Spanish speaking students and their families that recently come to our town.

With these community activities we are not only engaging and reaching out with our Hispanic population but we are honoring and celebrating the gift of being one body and letting our light shine.

Please keep these activities in your prayers, not only this month, but all year long - pray for the teachers, the volunteers, and the families involved.



Con cariño y amor.  
Rev. Daniel Cardenas ☺



## New Church Sign

Please take the time to check out our new church sign out at the corner of Second & Broad Streets. Thank you to the Trustees who planned and designed it and to the Memorials Committee who paid for it. Thanks also to all of you who give memorial contributions and make improvements like this possible.

## Nominations

The Nominations Committee begins their work in the month of October. This committee is tasked with the responsibility of making sure each of the committees and teams of our church have the people they need. If you are interested in serving on a committee or work team, please contact the office and let us know. We would love to help you connect!

## Spiritual Gifts Retreat

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

Sign up for our Spiritual Gifts Retreat happening this month. Pastor Kim will lead us in some time of Bible study exploring the different lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible. We will spend time with each gift and learn how God uses these gifts for the well-being of the entire community. If you have ever wondered about spiritual gifts and which ones you may possess – this retreat is for you!

If you are interested in participating, please let the church office know or sign up on the sheet in the North Foyer. There is no cost for the retreat but we need to know how many people to prepare for. If you have a Bible, bring it. Everything else, including lunch, will be provided! See Pastor Kim if you have any questions!



## New Superintendent Named to Our District

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer has announced the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen as Great Miami River District Superintendent effective January 1, 2025. This appointment coincides with the appointment of the current superintendent, Rev. Jenn Lucas, to Resurrection Mason.

"I could not be more pleased that Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen has accepted my invitation to become a conference superintendent assigned to the Great Miami River District," Palmer said. "Suzanne's love for Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church is obvious through her excellent preaching and her outstanding leadership in the churches she has served and as the Chair of West Ohio's Board of Ordained Ministry. She is one of the most thoughtful people I know."

Many of you know that Suzanne served in the Ohio River Valley District as the Assistant to the Superintendent under Todd Anderson and then as Regional Missional Specialist. "I am looking forward to this new opportunity as we move into the next chapter of what it means to be United Methodist in West Ohio. In each of my appointments I have experienced the Holy Spirit working through the Bishop and cabinet as I have stepped into a new role, whether in a local church or extension ministry position," she said.

## Pastor Appreciation

Staff Parish Relations Committee has designated Sunday, October 27 as Pastor Appreciation Day. As is our custom, during the service, we will present Pastors Kim and Daniel with a gift to show how we value their efforts on our behalf to our spiritual guidance and well-being. Following the service, we'll host a reception in the Commons in their honor. If you care to make a personal thank you to them, you can deposit cards or notes at the reception.

We are asking the congregation to contribute toward their gift. Donations should be received by Oct. 20. Please note on your checks or cash envelopes "Pastor Appreciation". Thank you for your generosity. Please join us on Oct. 27 to add your thanks for our wonderful pastors.

## West Ohio Conference Welcomes New Bishop



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area, including the East and West Ohio Conferences. His assignment began September 1, 2024.

Bishop Jung was the resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and had served in that role since September 2012. He played a key role in Wisconsin's Imagine No Malaria Campaign, raising over \$1 million. He visited every congregation in the annual conference and provided oversight to the planting of over 30 congregations. Under his commitment to increase racial justice and radical inclusion, the Wisconsin Conference has reached 49% of its appointments being served by cross-racial leadership.

He has served as president of the General Board of Global Ministries, chair of the UM Korean National Plan, and a member of the Board of Directors for Bread for the World. Bishop Jung serves as a member of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea at Geneva, Switzerland, and is actively involved in Korea peace and reconciliation efforts. Previously, Bishop Jung served as president of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and as a member of the Board of Directors for the General Board of Discipleship, the UM National Hispanic Plan,

## UWIF Annual Nut & Candy Sale- NOW - October 27th

The United Women in Faith's annual fall Nut & Candy fundraiser has begun! Do you need nuts & candy for the upcoming holidays? Do you need candy to give as a gift? (They make great stocking stuffers!) Well, the United Women in Faith are your source for these wonderful, highly rated, healthy treats!


Ask any UWIF member for an order form or check the table in the North Foyer to find an order form so you can place an order for these fantastic bags of nuts & candy. Money is due with the order. All orders need to be in by Sunday, October 27th. The nuts & candy will be available starting Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Remember, all proceeds from this fundraiser benefit in-house and local missions. The UWIF thanks you for your continued support.

October Birthdays

October 2024

- 1 Glenn Slama
- 4 Virginia Jenkins
- Bob Rogers
- Jennifer Tucker
- 6 Betsy Koval
- 9 Tom Heberling
- 11 Bob Wieneke
- 15 Gary Fourman
- 23 Karen Walke
- 26 Becky Rutledge
- 27 Sue Diefenbach,
- Deena Langwothy
- Charlene Mackall
- 30 Kay Fraley,
- Rick Fugett
- Larry Kreps
- 31 Michelle Ward

Happy Birthday!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2 pm Pantry 3 pm Nominating Committee	2 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir	3	4 Noon First Friday Concert	5
6 COMMUNION/ WORLD COM- MUNION SUNDAY 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	7 8 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	8 1 pm SPRC 2 pm Pantry	9 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir	10	11 10 am UMW Board	12
13 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Harvest of the Heart	14 COLUMBUS DAY 8 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study 6 pm Legal Clinic	15 2 pm Pantry 3 pm Nominating Committee 5:30 pm Finance Mtg 6 pm Ad Council	16 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir	17 1 pm Elizabeth Circle	18 AMBASSADOR DEADLINE	19 9 am Hope Circle 10-2 Spiritual Formation Class
20 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship UWIF Soup Lunch 2 pm John Wagner Harvest of the Heart	21 8 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	22 2 pm Pantry 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg	23 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir	24	25	26
27 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Pastor Appreciation Harvest of the Heart	28 8 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Sonshine Bible Study	29 1 pm Congregational Care 2 pm Pantry 3 pm Nominating Committee	30 6 pm Hispanic Bible Study 3 & 7 pm Choir	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!		



# **2024 First Friday Concert & Artist Series**

**October 4, 2024**

**Colin Richardson  
and the Columbus**

**Alternative H. S. Chorale**

**Come and enjoy our 32-rank  
Reuter Pipe Organ, along with the  
raised voices of a 50 member choir**

**First UMC - Middletown**

**@noon**

**Free Admission**

  
**first**  
church  
MIDDLETOWN  
a united methodist community  
120 South Broad Street  
Middletown, OH 45044