

A Message from Pastor Mary

Greetings In Christ,

I love summer (even the hottest days) but I also love the fall! It's around the corner! There's the beauty of leaves changing colors and the smells of pumpkin pie and fresh apples to excite our senses. Of course, with fall, there's football, Halloween fun, and back to school!

This fall, at Grace UMC, I invite you to a new Bible study on the Gospel of John. We are continuing with the **50-Day Series**. If you haven't already, sign up, take a book and read days 1 - 7 by the first meeting date on September 10.

Also, this fall, we will have a **Membership Class** at Grace. This will be a class to give you information on Grace, the United Methodist Church, and how to become a member, if you wish. Whether you are already a member and want to know more, or want to become a member, you are welcome to join us. The class will be held on Sunday, October 27, at 12:30 pm. We will provide a light lunch and meet from 1 – 2 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted the beginning of October and you need to sign up in order to have lunch!

Finally, this fall we will begin our classes for GPS. **Grief and Personal Support** class will meet every third Monday from 1 – 2 pm at the church. If you have experienced some kind of loss (person, pet, home, job, etc.) and find you need an extra prayer or help, feel free to come and receive the support you need and even give some support to others. It's nice to know we are not alone when we walk this road of loss. Our first meeting will be on September 16.

I pray you will find some way to celebrate the fall season and perhaps to also find some extra time to be a part of the church's worship and mission projects planned for the fall. Choir, handbells, ABBA care, Society of St Andrews are just a part of the other fall activities planned. Come join us!!

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Mary Lock

GRACE NOTES

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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

Our September focus for the Mission Statement is **Sunday School**, or **Christian Education**. Sunday school is not just a way to learn about the lessons in the Bible; you also learn how the Bible's lessons apply in real life. We currently have one active adult class but should have more adult and youth/children's classes. Watch for a Sunday School survey to help us have classes to match your needs. Meanwhile, be sure to visit our adult class on Sundays at 9:30. Our lessons are pertinent to today, and we have some great discussions.

The Mission Statement focus for October will be the **Prayer Shawl Committee**. The hats and scarves that we have been working on all year will be blessed so that they can be distributed to those in need in our community. We meet the second Thursday of the month from 10-11:30 in the church office. Not only are we using our talents for God's use, but we have social time, too! Are you curious about what we do? Come join us!

September is National Hunger Action Month

We will be supporting the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) in a variety of ways. One way is by learning more about the Society. There are calendars with prayer prompts and activities to help you be more aware of the hunger in our community, so be sure to pick up your copy today. We will also be using coin boxes and collection envelopes to donate to SoSA. These are due back at the church by October 6. Watch out for news about gleaning in our area. Sign up to glean at <https://www.mobilize.us/endlunger/>, or to volunteer in any number of ways at <https://www.endhunger.org>. Need help registering? See Michelle or Diane.

We will be celebrating **Children's Sabbath** on September 29. This is a 5th Sunday, so we will one service at 10:00 am followed by a potluck lunch. Pastor Mary will be asking the young people in our church to help with the service. After all, we will be celebrating them!



Laity Sunday is October 20. Who are the laity of the church? You are! Your help is needed with the services, so start thinking about how you feel lead to participate so you are ready to say, "Yes!" when you are asked. (There are behind-the-scenes jobs, too, if that is where you are most comfortable.)

Thank you to everyone who collected school supplies for Middletown ES during and after our Vacation Bible School and throughout July! The staff at MES were very appreciative of our donations and our caring support!



FUTURE EVENTS

Choir Rehearsals Beginning Again

After a hot, yet restful summer our Grace and Handbell Choirs are beginning rehearsals again for the 2024-2025 season!

Can you carry a tune? Does music ring a bell with you? Please feel free to join us as there are plenty of spots available. Let Ted or Michele know before September 8th so that we have enough music copies to go around.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

The first rehearsals will be: **Grace Choir** = Sunday, September 8th, 9:45 - 10:15 am, at the piano. **Handbell Choir** = Sunday, September 8th, 1 – 2 pm, at the bell tables.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Grace UMC will be participating again this year in the **Community Thanksgiving Dinner**; this is our third year! There will be a planning meeting on Sunday, September 8th at 1 pm, at Middletown Presbyterian Church. Anyone from Grace is welcome to participate!



Spring Craft Bazaar 2025

We are planning a **Spring Craft Bazaar** for March 22, 2025, the snow date is March 22nd. We will be having a planning meeting on September 12th at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in helping with the planning process, please let Michelle Cisel, Teresa Cutlip, or Diane Wittreich know.

The **Administrative Council** will meet on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30 pm.

Top of Virginia (**TOVA**) Quilt Guild will hold a **Quilt Sale** on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 9 am to 3 pm here at Grace UMC in the Fellowship Hall. Not only will they have the sale they will have demonstrations of quilting techniques. Some featured items include wall hangings, table runners, totes & bags, Christmas items, baby quilts and more. Come out to see the beautiful work these ladies do!

Charge Conference

SAVE THE DATE!!

The District and Charge Conference will be on Sunday, November 3 at 3 pm at Skyline High School, 151 Skyline Vista Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630.

Outreach/Nurture Committee

Thank you to all who volunteered or donated blood at our July 17th Blood Drive. We are making a difference in the lives of others! We collected 27 units, which was over our original goal of 18 units! The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2025, from 11 am to 4 pm.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Thank you, Pastor Mary, for all you do for our church and members. Show Pastor Mary your appreciation throughout the month of October. We will have a special celebration between services on Sunday, October 20, 2024, which is also Laity Sunday! More details to come.



Birthdays & Anniversaries*

September	Date	October
Sterling Zimmerman	1	
Ashley & Chris Margiotti*	2	Sandy Holt
	3	
Lois Clarke	4	Hollie Strosnider, Vickie & Gary Strosnider*
	5	
Sherry Jenkins	6	Barbara Steele
	7	Emmalynn Quimby
	8	
Thom Bailey, Matt Fauver	9	Kevin LeVan, Randy Jenkins, Janet & Tom Cirrani*
Anna Smelser	10	
Kayleigh & Brian Boone*	11	Melinda & Kevin LeVan*,
	12	
Barbara Baan	13	
Daniel Beatty, Jacob Pembelton	14	Stephen Beall
	15	Joan Pembelton
	16	Abby Bowers, Lisa Copeland
Ava Belle Furman	17	
	18	Christopher Hawkins
	19	
Courtney Hawkins	20	Joanne Thompson
Terri Lock	21	
Stacy Helsley	22	
	23	Ann & Jason Wisecarver*
Emily Cissel	24	
Tyler Strosnider	25	
Elizabeth Richardson, Bill Tucker	26	Jody Osborne, Joyce Tucker
Samara & Thomas Quimby*	27	Susan Thornton
Heather Campbell, Katie & Matt Fauver*	28	Cooper Beall, Mary Lou Stallings
Brian Cooley	29	Dave Scheetz
Betsy Jenkins	30	
	31	Cora Quinn Hahn

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>