



# The Middleburg MESSENGER

# JANUARY 2025

Mailing Address: P O Box I, Middleburg, OH 43336  
Street Address: 11824 St. Rt. 287, East Liberty, OH 43319

## **FOLLOWING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE NEW YEAR: A PATH TO GROWTH, FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION**

---

Welcome friends, as we cross the threshold into the year of 2025, and entering our *third* year (already) of being Middleburg Community Church. Wow! It's hard to believe we're a quarter of the way into the 21<sup>st</sup> century already! Included in this newsletter is the list of our church leaders for this year. Please make yourself aware of where you are serving and notice who is serving in new or other ways. We appreciate everyone who has agreed to serve especially in key leadership positions! We will recognize and thank our 2024 leaders and commission our 2025 leaders in January, as has been our tradition in recent years. I'm excited for our future in 2025!

What can we look forward to this year? I am praying for a fresh spirit of discipleship and evangelistic outreach in addition to continued ministry that honors God and serves our community. We really do well at being a missional church. Praise God! Praise God for all He is doing through you, your service, and your generosity! I shared with you the vision for us that I envision with God in last month's newsletter. God is going to continue to draw us closer to Him and bring us into the future that He has planned for us. Our role is to surrender in obedience to His divine plan, whatever that may mean for us. It most likely means some sort of change. It will all be good change even if it sometimes doesn't feel like it at the time. But, our faith has to be in the Lord to lead us and to point us in the right direction for what He wants us to become, as we work with him. The Spirit will lead us as long as we seek the Lord's leading for everything we do. Seek Him and we will find Him.

I am praying for a renewed sense of passion for Christ's mission in our hearts, a passion that moves us into action, action that spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ to people who don't yet know of him. There is also a desire to encourage people who have made this community of faith their home to become full-fledged official members. Hopefully, we can explore together the reasons for resisting membership while understanding the predicament that it creates for us as a body when we're selecting leaders and people qualified to lead are not allowed to lead because of this one step of commitment. People struggle to trust, and yet stay on the fringes where they have no power to vote on the concerns they may have now or in the future regarding the direction of the congregation. Are you really dedicated to this faith community? To God, yes, but are you committing to an accountable relationship with other believers, to one another in Christ's family here? We really have to understand what biblical church membership really means as well as why it matters and what it requires.

Above all, we have to remember that as much as we desire to see our church continue to grow, growth will only happen when we seek the power of the Holy Spirit to act. Pray fervently for the growth you desire to see here. It is God who builds His Church. We're just fortunate to be invited to assist. We also must learn real forgiveness. There are people no longer attending because persons

**in this church** have offended them. The offenses have been outside worship and the church building, in other avenues of life. People have spoken against their brother or sister with no sense of remorse. The problem is...no one has directly confronted their offenders. That's hard to do, you know. Those who have offended don't even KNOW or realized they have caused such deep church hurts. And...even if they do...they don't seem to care that it has led people to "leave the congregation" even if only halfway. I'm not talking about differences of opinion or the differences that occur over our stance in understanding and interpretation of the Bible as the authority of God. This is about a lack of interpersonal communication in conflict, and forgiveness as the first step toward resolution and reconciliation to our problems with others IN the church family. There are biblical steps to take if you are willing to make the effort to maintain relationships. I can guarantee there will be more preaching on this in 2025. It's hard to let go of our hurts, but it's the only way to relieve the pain upon us. But, people and hearts can change. Some are willing to and some are not. Give them to God and let go of the burden.

God's light is revealing these things to us for real change in the new year that is approaching. We learn to share our hurts and find a way to resolve our pain by letting go of these offenses and giving others a chance to grow in awareness of the wrongs they have done, but also to be able to move on (in community and fellowship) in the grace of Jesus Christ. No condemnation or blame. We are to live in peace and unity with one another, bearing with one another as we support and encourage one another in love. It's hard, grueling work. But it's holy and sacred work. It's worthy work. Will you promise to pray with me for our church congregation and relationships within our church? Truth be told, we're **all** difficult people to be around sometimes. But here, you're still accepted and loved with a godly affection. We accept one another because we really do care about each other and we miss you when you're not here with us. The Body suffers when a vital part is cut off or missing. We need you to be whole and complete in Christ. You have gifts that are necessary here. If you are one who is staying away for some reason or hurt, please pray and reconsider renewing your commitment with us in 2025.

Praying for Peace for all,

~Pastor Carolyn

Friends, it is so hard for me to thank each one of you individually for your thoughtfulness of remembering me at Christmastime with your cards and gifts. It will always be especially hard because of the absence of Dan and the haunting memory of his last Christmas spent in the hospital. Please know that I appreciate every card, every kind thought or word expressed, every cookie or special treat, every gift card or other expressions of your love and appreciation for me. I am truly blessed to serve alongside you. You are a wonderful congregation of friends, my brothers and sisters in Christ. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!! ~Pastor Carolyn



**JANUARY 16**  
**Community Meal @ 6 PM**  
 There will be a 'variety' of soups & desserts...no salads please.

**January Anniversaries**  
 Doug & Emma Murphy 1/12

**LADIES BREAKFAST**  
**WILL BE MEETING QUARTERLY**  
**STARTING IN FEBRUARY**

Please check sign-up sheets in the narthex such as : Greeters, Scripture Readers, Communion Servers, Community Meals etc.

**January Birthdays**

Ron Beidelman	1/1
Doug Henry	1/2
Kim Allen	1/9
Connie Hagar	1/10
Celeste Allen	1/11
Greg Sater	1/12
Joseph Mears	1/20
Marc Marshall	1/23
Jordan Allshouse	1/31

How Can I Still Give To The Church? You can continue your giving of your tithes and offerings by mailing a check to the church or by utilizing bill pay options online from your checking account. If you need assistance with this, please contact the church office.

**CONTINUED UPDATE ON BACKPACK MINISTRY . . . DECEMBER 2024**

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
High School	5	5	5	CHRISTMAS
Middle	15	15	15	BREAK THRU
Elementary	33	33	33	JANUARY 3 <sup>RD</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	

Please continue to pray for our Backpack Ministry. Monetary contributions as well as volunteers to help pack and deliver these backpacks continues to be needed. If you are interested, please contact Dana Henry. We also continue to need donations of apples and mandarin oranges. Thank you!



A huge "Thank You" to these Ben Logan students who spent time helping us pack backpacks recently. They are a part of 'ROC' (Key Club & Interact combination). Word is that they plan to make this a monthly activity. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Please review the calendar below for meeting times. Contact the committee leader if you have any questions if your committee is meeting on a certain date. We will send out a one-call with instructions and cancellations as they are decided.

## JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 1:30 pm Prayer Gathering 6 pm Trustees	8 7 pm Praise Team	9 6:30 pm Finance 7 pm Ad Council	10	11 9 am-1 pm Revive Logan County @ Bellefontaine 1 <sup>st</sup> Church of God
12	13	14 1:30 pm Prayer Gathering	15 7 pm Praise Team	16 5 pm Outreach 6 pm Community Meal 7 pm SPRC	17	18
19	20	21 1:30 pm Prayer Gathering	22 7 pm Praise Team	23	24	25
26	27	28 1:30 pm Prayer Gathering	29	30	31	

*Please make Pastor Carolyn or Judy aware of any changes in meeting dates and/or times so that we can keep everyone informed....Thank You!*

### Church Hours and Contact Information

**Please like us on Facebook and stay tuned to One call for instructions to join us online for services and meetings.**

**Pastor: Carolyn Christman** Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. *Also available by appointment*

Pastor's Email: [cjchrist4u@gmail.com](mailto:cjchrist4u@gmail.com)

*Please respect Pastor's Sabbath Mondays & Saturdays as her days off by limiting calls/texts to prayer requests & emergencies only.*

**Parsonage Phone:** (937) 666-000

**Pastor's Cell phone** (937) 248-8930

**Facebook Page: Middleburg Community Church**

**Secretary: Judy Slemmons** Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

**Church Office Email:** [middleburgcch@gmail.com](mailto:middleburgcch@gmail.com)

Church Treasurer Email: [middleburgcctreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:middleburgcctreasurer@yahoo.com)

**Church Office Phone:** (937) 666-2844

Website [www.middleburgmc.com](http://www.middleburgmc.com)