

Please note that our online newsletter is modified from our print edition. If you would like to receive our unmodified newsletter, please contact the church office at 717-944-6181 or eumch.org/contact-us



The Messenger

Evangelical United Methodist Church

157 East Water Street, Middletown, PA 17057

717.944.6181 www.eumch.org



From the Pastor's Pen

I struggle to believe I have been your pastor for eleven months. For me, I have found our time together to be a blessing. I anticipate working with you as we try to discern what our ministry looks like in a post-pandemic world. One of my goals for the next year is to start a discernment process focused on God's dreams for us here at Evangelical.

For the last few weeks, in our sermons, we explored how to share the good news we find in Jesus. "Why Jesus?" is the name of the sermon series and the central question. Each week, we focused on a different reason for having a relationship with Jesus. My hope is these sermons help you answer the question for yourselves. When we can answer the question for our own lives, we can share that answer with others.

In the 2021-2022 appointment year (United Methodist pastors serve from July 1 through June 30 with the possibility of being reappointed to the same church the following year), I would like us to focus on the question "why Evangelical?" If you are parents with young children, why would you desire to be part of our church family? When you meet young Penn State students, why might they consider Evangelical as their church home? For a person making a difference in the world, how could we make a difference in the world together?

One way to wrestle with the question "why Evangelical?" is to ponder what makes us unique as a church. Each of you could name reasons "why Evangelical?", or you would not be part of our church family. I invite us to pray over the question "why Evangelical?" Thank you all for a blessed year. I pray we have more together.

Upcoming Worship Services

May 23 (Pentecost/Heritage Sunday)

Focus: The church/together/saving the world with bad coffee

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21

Sermon Series: Why Jesus?

May 30 (Trinity Sunday/Peace with Justice Sunday)

Focus: Called

Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1-8

June 6

Focus: Discernment and patience

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8: 4-11, 16-20

June 13

Focus: The importance of the heart

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

June 20 – Rev. Jim Williams (Pastor's vacation)

June 27 – Guest Speaker (Pastor's vacation)

PASTORAL COVERAGE: - Pastor Andrew will be on vacation June 20 through July 2. The Reverend Stevan Atanasoff (Geyers) will be covering pastoral emergencies. Please contact the church office at 717-944-6181.



For the summer months, our organist, Tessa Shaffer has requested some help from the congregation. She would like anyone to email her hymn ideas for future services. If you do not have email, please call the office with your ideas and Maryann will forward them on to her. Now is your chance to hear your favorite hymn during a summer service!

Help grow "Addicted to Christ" ministry.

Ron Martin is organizing this fundraiser.

"Addicted to Christ" is a new Biblical Counseling Ministry, the purpose of which is to reach the outcast and unloved, the addicted, and the prison-bound or ex-prisoner. It is operated by Rev. Ron Martin, an ordained ecumenical pastor in Dewy Rose, Georgia. Pastor Ron holds an Associate's in Christian Ministry, and is currently enrolled in a Bachelor's program. He is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors, and pastors a small local fellowship.

Pastor Ron is a volunteer worker for Gospel Express Ministries, a prison ministry located in North Carolina. He and his wife work directly with inmate mentoring and Bible studies.

The ministry's purpose is to reach those who are otherwise addicted, and to help them get addicted instead to Christ. It is based on Luke 14:7 and is intended to give the person who feels emptiness a confidential ear to hear. It will benefit those who want help, but don't have anyone to talk to.

The ministry is open to ALL who thirst for freedom in the Lord; it is a 100% Christian organization. Funds are needed to build a proper office/counseling space, support the financial needs of the ministry (Bibles, supplies, administration, etc.), and for outreach until the ministry can become self-supporting. A building is owned, but internal subdivision is needed. Lumber costs are out of this world, and this financial assistance would mean the world to this fledgling ministry.

There are a lot of people in deep need, especially now. Help me to help them.

Thank you and God bless.

Consider supporting Ron Martin, a member here at Evan with this link to his go Fund Me account.

<https://gofund.me/c3689fcb>

Congratulations!



Broghan Schlicher

daughter of Erich and Kim Schlicher,
received her

Masters Degree in Special Education
from Eastern University.

She is currently employed by Reid
Elementary School in Middletown as an
autistic support teacher. Her plans are
to continue teaching.



Brayden Harris

son of Michael Harris
and Amanda Rubio
will graduate from

Lower Dauphin High School in June.

He plans to attend

Millersville University

in the fall to study finance.



The Penn State Food Drive was held at our Church Parking Lot Saturday, May 1 from 9am-12:00pm. This helped supply their Food Bank at the Middletown Campus since the majority of their students are from out of the area or from abroad. They were able to collect a Pickup Truck full of food to stock their shelves. We will be working with them to hold another Food Drive this Fall. We are hoping to get a much larger contribution so we can also share with The Middletown Food Pantry.

The Alumni Committee from Penn State was very thankful for ALL who participated and donated. What a wonderful way to support those in need in our community!

Thank you to everyone,
Wendy Kauffman



The church received this thank you card in the mail.

This is what it said inside.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for your continuing support of our local food pantry.

Signed,

Middletown Food Pantry Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers



The reopening task force met to discuss several issues on Monday, May 17, 2021. The meeting began with the statistics for our area: PA PCR % positivity rate 7 day average is at 5.3%, for Dauphin county it is at 7.8%, indoor capacity is now at 50% and 48.8% of people have been vaccinated in PA. The members of this committee take very seriously their responsibility and are doing their best to keep everyone safe during this ongoing pandemic. After much discussion and prayer, you will find below a summary of the results of this meeting.

Communion – Supplies have been ordered to safely share communion, this will begin on the first Sunday after arrival, watch bulletin for announcement.

Worship Services – May 23 will be the last time for the 9am service due to low attendance, the sanctuary is large enough to accommodate all together at 10:15am.

Adult Sunday School – On Sunday June 6, in the education wing, classes will resume.

Children's Church – On Sunday, May 30 Children's Church will resume.

Choir – The small group of singers will be moving up into the choir loft and may be joined by a few additional members.

Committee Meetings – All meetings will continue via Zoom for now.

Masks – Signs will remain up; all are encouraged to continue wearing.

Congregational Singing – Pastor will continue to ask all to sing with their hearts but if one feels led to sing may do so softly under your mask.

Memorial Services – A request for a service has been made and it was decided that as long as all current guidelines are followed it could proceed.

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The Messenger



Deadline for articles is June 14, 2021 for our next edition of *The Messenger*.