

October/November  
2018  
Issue No. 5

# MIDDLE NEWS

MIDDLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## FROM MY HEART TO YOURS...

Thoughts from Pastor Linda



... The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people... 1 Samuel 13:14

**Humble shepherd...  
Gifted poet...  
Giant slayer...  
Legendary leader...  
Flawed man...**

David's charisma was unparalleled; he led God's people to the pinnacle of glory and strength. But at the same time, David's sin nature was untamed; he led his family into chaos and experienced great personal tragedy as a consequence of his scheming.

As we continue on our journey to "go and make disciples," David reminds us that God doesn't always use the biggest and best, the brilliant and beautiful, to be His heroes. Most often God uses nobodies to turn into His somebodies.

In a world desperate for heroes, models worth following... David offers us hope... and a glimpse into what it means to be a man or woman whose heart belongs to God - completely! Devotion doesn't mean perfection. Sin demands repentance. Motives matter! God is faithful and loves us in spite of us!

What does it mean to be someone "after God's own heart"? Join me this Fall, for a new Old Testament sermon series...

### **LIFE LESSONS FROM KING DAVID.**

To live a life God considers "great" is to live a life dependent upon the greatness of God. David helps us translate truth. David expresses every human emotion. David redirects our focus to the long awaited Messiah. David creates an appreciation for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

In Christ... through the Power of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Linda



## DUNAMIS - PRAYER RETREAT!

**Wed. evening, Oct. 10th - Sat. afternoon, Oct 13th**  
(at the former Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg)

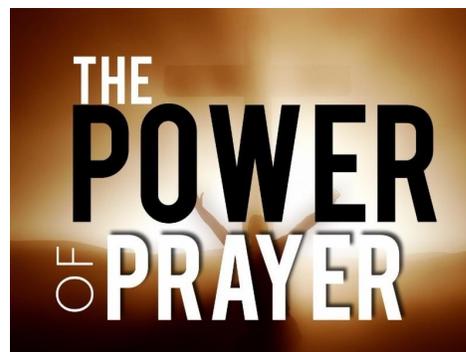
**Have you ever wanted to be more effective in your prayer life?  
Do you think God only answers the prayers of certain people?**

Whether you think you are simply “not good” at prayer, want to go deeper in your walk with God through prayer, or want to grow in your understanding of intercessory prayer, this conference/retreat will give you Biblical foundations and practical instruction to help you grow in both personal and corporate prayer, led by the Holy Spirit.

In the Power of Prayer, you will look at how any Christian can pray with vision and power. You’ll tackle growing in intimacy with Christ through contemplative prayer, the keys to praying with power, principles of intercessory prayer, revival prayer, and sharing in Kingdom advancement through prayer and vision, as well as practical teaching on how to be a part of life-changing prayer ministry in your congregation. Careful discernment guidelines will help you grow in confidence that you too can hear God’s voice and step out in obedience to His leading.

**The Power of Prayer** includes:

- Jesus Christ: The Basis of Christian Prayer
- The Life of Prayer: Nurturing Intimacy with God
- Intercessory Prayer
- Vision and Prayer: Sharing in the Advancement of the Kingdom of God
- Prayer and Spiritual Awakening
- Practical Instructions for Nurturing Your Prayer Life

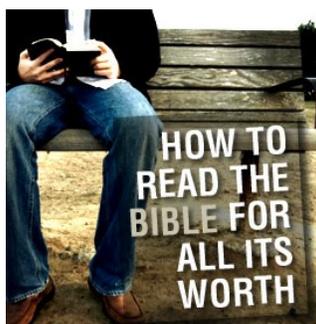


**Prayer is talking with God, but it can often be the most challenging discipline of the Christian faith.**

**Without the Holy Spirit and the power of prayer, we are limited by our own limitations.  
When we learn to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
there are no limits to what God can do, through us!**

If you’ve got vacation, this would be a great way to use it! If you’re retired, this is a no-brainer! This conference made a huge difference in Pastor Linda’s life, and she is so excited that it is being offered in our back yard! Pick up a brochure on the sign-up table and pray about attending!

**The Power of Prayer** will make a difference in your life, and in the life of this church family! Talk to Pastor Linda if you have any questions!



## NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays 9-10am)

**Are you excited about reading your Bible every day?  
Do you understand what you read?**

The Bible can’t mean today, something that it didn’t mean to the various authors and its original audience!  
**A class for beginners and seasoned veterans! Join us!**



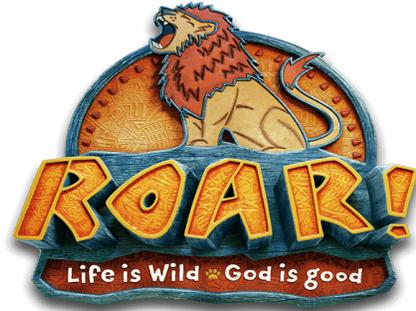
### MidKids Directory Contact Information

Melissa Withrow  
724-989-4895  
middy2@hotmail.com

### MidKids IN-ACTION Thursday's (6-7 pm)

MidKids IN-ACTION is a high energy, God-centered, mid-week program for 2nd - 6th grade children. Please invite every child you know to this heart changing opportunity to know Jesus Christ!

**Save The Date**  
**ROAR! VBS 2019**  
**Life is Wild. God is Good!**  
**June 17-21**



### What is... Active Learning?

Active Learning is learning by doing! An Active Learning training and luncheon for the MidKids Team (plus anyone else who is interested) will be held after worship on **October 7**. We have an expert in active learning who will be leading our training session. She spent a decade traveling the country as a Certified National Workshop Presenter for GROUP Publishing, specializing in Children and Youth Ministries. You guessed it! I'm talking about our very own Pastor Linda. She will be presenting her Active Learning Workshop here at Middle. We are blessed to have a leader with such in-depth experience! So, don't miss out! Join us for lunch and a lesson on Active Learning.

### What's Up Next With MidKids Worship?

This past September in MidKids worship, children have been journeying through the book of Genesis. They've visited the Garden of Eden, floated in the ark, traveled with Abram to the land of Canaan, laughed with the expectant Sarah, and prayed with Hagar and Ishmael. What wonderful imaginations children have!

This October, we will continue the journey, playing tricks on Jacob and Esau, relating to the sibling rivalry of Jacob's 12 sons, and learning about forgiveness with Joseph.

Coming up...November's great 'Exodus' into the life of Moses will be one to look forward to! Invite a young friend to join the fun in MidKids Worship!

## A FANTASTIC SHIP WRECKED VBS!

This past summer's VBS theme was *'Shipwrecked; Rescued by Jesus'*, where we learned that when we're lonely, when we worry, when we struggle, when we do wrong, and when we're powerless...JESUS RESCUES! What a wonderful week of praising God! We had 24 children worshipping with us for VBS, along with their parents and our dedicated volunteers.

Snack assistant, Alice Colfer says "I was pleased to see the enthusiasm and eagerness of all the kids, every day during VBS!" The creative snacks were definitely a favorite for many and it was also fun seeing the crazy experiments, laughing at the silly skits, playing the goofy games, and experiencing the animated bible stories. Our Spotlight photographer, Kathy Higgins said "I liked the small groups and seeing the bond the children had with their crew leader." Children were certainly building relationships with others and with God.

And how wonderful it was witnessing the little hearts touched through our mission project, where we collected \$300 to purchase seeds for children in Haiti. Our station leader, Diane Finley shared her reflections on VBS, explaining that "Since this year was the first year for me to be involved with VBS, I was surprised at how big a project it was. There was certainly a lot of time and creativity that went into developing the Shipwrecked program. It was enjoyable, because it made learning about Jesus entertaining. I thought the videos and songs were wonderful."

Diane goes on to share a heartwarming experience after VBS week, "One Sunday after VBS ended, Amber and I were in the nursery with Carter, Kelsey, and Hadlee. They were busy playing with their toys, and all at once Carter started singing, "My lighthouse, my lighthouse", one of the songs the kids learned in VBS. Amber and I looked at each other and just smiled. What a nice feeling to know that a little one remembered one of the VBS songs and wanted to sing it while playing."

Tracy Lemmon, Pre-school director at VBS, was pleasantly surprised at how involved these little ones were in all of the activities. She expressed, "I love helping the children learn about God." And Tracy's favorite part about VBS is "seeing how happy VBS made the children". VBS was certainly memorable for the children, the volunteers, and everyone involved. The love of Jesus was poured into so many little hearts! And those little hearts are pouring His love back out to others. What a privilege to experience such a special time of worshiping and serving God!



### ‘STICKY FAITH’ at MidKids in Action

Check out some fun pics of the kids playing some ‘sticky’ games while learning that it’s not enough to just *hear* the word and then let it fly right past us or bounce back off. We want to *understand* and *do* the word. We want God’s word to really stick!



### A GREAT BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST COVENANT PARTNERS!



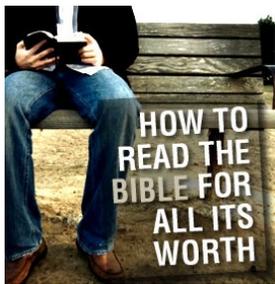
- John Donato
- Lorie Donato
- Deanna Durbin
- Wayne Harris
- Kristan McClurg
- Kathy Richter-Harris
- Wayne Richter

Deanna was baptized on July 22, 2018.  
Everyone else will “officially” join our church family this October 14!

### MT. PLEASANT AREA THANKSGIVING SERVICE @ MIDDLE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18th @ 7pm!

We will be hosting the Mt. Pleasant Ministerium’s annual Thanksgiving worship service this year! Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special worship service. Pastor Linda will be preaching and the other area pastors will be leading the other parts of the worship service. We’ll serve some light refreshments following the service!

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever!* **Psalm 136:1**



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth!

Are you excited about reading your Bible every day?  
Do you understand what you read?

Learn to be a better reader of the Bible as Pastor Linda teaches one of her favorite Bible study aides. This is a practical approach to reading God's Word that's worth getting up early to attend!

For beginners and seasoned veterans!  
Bring a friend!

## Operation Christmas Child

Our annual Shoebox drive will commence the **first Sunday in October thru November 4th**. On November 4th, during worship, Pastor Linda will dedicate the shoeboxes!

Middle will pay the \$9 shipping fee for all our boxes. We'll do this online through **Follow Your Box**, so we can discover the destinations of our shoeboxes!

The information table will have brochures, with BOY/GIRL tags ready for you to detach. There will also be a flyer with all the details... a list of gift suggestions to include and a list of items that cannot be sent. And... prayer bookmarks to remind you to pray for the child who will receive your box.

If you need more info, call Alice Colfer  
@ (724) 423-5177.

Thanks for making a difference  
in a child's life!

Check our webpage [middlepc.org](http://middlepc.org) for a link to the Operation Shoebox website!



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



DIG IN Curriculum is

- Relational and experiential
- Relevant and active learning based
- Designed for a large group opening and age specific breakout classes

## News from the Deacon's

### Blackburn Center Donations Needed

The Deacons are again coordinating a collection for the Blackburn Center, which provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Westmoreland County. Pick up a list of items needed at the sign-up table in the café area. There is a container on the floor by the table for your donated items. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any deacon! Thank you for your help!



### Here's a few needed items to get you started!

- Dish sets (plates & bowls, service of 4)
- Drinking glasses/cups
- Kitchen utensils
- Pots and Pans
- Skillets
- Small appliances: electric can openers, coffee makers, toasters, mixers, etc.
- Hair brushes
- Hair care products for women of color
- Durable bath and hand towels and washcloths
- Bed-in-a-bag sets (twin & full)
- Blankets - cotton, twin & full
- Paper products

**NEW SMALL GROUP FORMING THIS FALL...**

Pastor Linda and Don will be starting a new small group for "singles" that will meet once a month following worship. This will be a great way to build community AND grow your faith!

**Their first get-together will be on Sunday, October 14th, following worship!**

**OFFERING COUNTERS**

- Oct 7 Dave Lemmon
- Oct 14 Dale Flaherty
- Oct 21 Janet Reid
- Oct 28 Cory Hildebrand
- Nov 4 Kathy Higgins
- Nov 11 Jackie Hauser
- Nov 18 Linda Gaffney
- Nov 25 Dave Lemmon

**COMMUNION DATES**

- October 7th (Worldwide)
- November 11th
- December 24th (Christmas Eve)



**October 12th & November 9th**



They are currently studying **Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World!**

**PINE SPRINGS CAMP**



Scholarships are available for adults and children, aided by donations made to the **PINE SPRINGS JUG** in the sanctuary.

**Your pocket change makes a difference in a child's life.**

This summer we helped 14 people attend camp!



**CONTACT INFO FOR PASTOR LINDA**

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**HOUSE #**  
(724) 542-4402

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linda.s.snyder2@gmail.com

**ADDRESS:**  
109 Green Meadow Lane  
Mt Pleasant, 15666

**HELPER'S GUILD MEETING**



Helper's Guild is a woman's group whose purpose is to serve the church, financially and spiritually.

**Their next meeting is OCTOBER 13th at noon.**



**Janet Reid** has received the District 14E Lioness of the Year Award! She has been a member of the East Huntingdon Twp. Lioness Club since 1990, when her mother, Mary Zelmores, sponsored her to join the club.

**Ryan Lemmon** is adjusting to college life and is gearing up for the archery season..

We were delighted to see **MaryBeth Hauser** and **Bill Petrakis** back in worship after spending some time in the hospital!

# COMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 7th	World Wide Communion Sunday
	MidKids Team Training
Friday, October 12th	Charis Small Group
Saturday, October 13th	Helper's Guild
Sunday, October 14th	Singles Small Group
Sunday, November 4th	Operation Christmas Shoebox Dedication
Friday, November 9th	Charis Small Group
Sunday, November 11th	Singles Small Group
Sunday, November 18th	Mt. Pleasant Thanksgiving Worship Service @ Middle

**Adult Bible Study/Children's Sunday School @ 9am**  
**Crossroads Café @ 10:30am**  
**Worship @ 10:30 am**  
**MidKids in Action - Thursday's from 6-7pm**

## **MIDDLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**PO Box 981**

**Mount Pleasant, PA 15666**



Check out our webpage...

[www.middlepc.org](http://www.middlepc.org)

**MIDDLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EXISTS...  
TO REACH THE LOST AT ANY COST!**

**WE ARE A HISTORIC CONGREGATION...  
READY FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD!**