

First United Methodist of Middlebury

Newsletter - April 2022



To Alleluia - Or Not

Dear Friends,

As we observe this holy season, I am reminded of one of the strangest controversies ever to hit the Christian Church; whether one should or should not sing Alleluia during Lent. It is, believe it or not, one of the things that added to the conflict and separation between the eastern and western churches, and is still a controversy that is alive today. Consider these statements I recently found on the Internet.

From the Roman Catholic Church:

“The most universal liturgical change during the season of Lent is the rubric that strikes the use of Alleluia from any and every celebration.”

From the Orthodox Church:

“Quite naturally, this season of Lent is often described as The Season of Alleluia in the Byzantine Christian Tradition, because of the greater frequency of sung Alleluias in the Divine Services.”

The history behind this is that during the 12th century the western church created a service which involved taking the word Alleluia, written in gold letters, and burying it in the church cemetery at the start of Lent. Alleluia, a word which means Praise Yahweh and which is associated with joy and festivity, was thought to be too much of a celebratory exclamation for the sober, reflective time of Lent with its meditations on human sin and remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus. On Easter morning, the word would be dug up from the cemetery and carried into the church to the singing of one Alleluia after another. But during Lent, the word was not to be uttered.

The eastern churches took exception to this. Though seeing Lent as a time of repentance and somber reflection, they claimed that we remain a people of the resurrection who are expected to cry out our Alleluias every day. Thus, in response, the bishops of the east ordered that Alleluias be sung more frequently during Lent than at any other time of the year as a reminder of this. The issue, believe it or not, put an end to any attempt for the eastern and western churches to try to reconcile.

People are funny. Sometimes, I'm sure, to the point where it makes God cry. As a good 21st century Protestant I am somewhat outside of this 12th century Catholic controversy. Nonetheless, I am comforted by the fact that regardless of whether one sang Alleluias during Lent or not, all Christians agree that the Easter celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a fitting time for Alleluias galore. And so, we will begin our 10:00 service with “Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!” The choir will be there and will sing Alleluia, Christ is Risen. And all of us will shout our alleluias as a sign of joy and praise.

Blessings! David Schrader

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April Meetings and Events

- ◆ **April 3 , 11:30 - Lenten Study**
- ◆ **April 4, 4:00 p.m. - Chair Yoga Begins**
- ◆ **April 10, 3:00 p.m. - Crystal Valley Concert**
- ◆ **April 14, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Fellowship**
7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service
- ◆ **April 15, NOON - Good Friday Service (1st Mennonite Church)**
- ◆ **April 17, 7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service**
- ◆ **April 17 , 10:00 a.m.—Easter Worship Service**
- ◆ **April 24, 3:00 p.m. - Crystal Valley Concert**
- ◆ **April 25, 6:00 p.m. - Finance, & Worship Committee Mtg.**
6:30 p.m. - SOS
6:45 p.m. - Admin. Council meeting
- **April 28 -9:00 a.m. - Men's Fellowship**

Weekly

Sunday

8:30 Fellowship Time

9:00 a.m - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday

4:00 p.m. - Chair Yoga

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Come Play with me

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study

5:30 p.m. - Meal

6:30 p.m.- Handbell Rehearsal

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/01 - Duane Stickel

04/01 - Rosealene Long

04/04 - Dee Shoup

04/06 - Phil Pixley

04/08 - Jeanette Robinson

04/09 - Sarah Houser

04/12 - Dan Keim

04/13 - Terina Franks

04/13 - Roger Hellinga

04/16 - Kathy Huys

04/17 - Cheryl Baker

04/18 - Marilyn Ritter

04/20 - Scott Crist

04/25 - Peggy Hart

04/26 - Mary Lou Heign

April Anniversary

04/22 - Debbie and John Doeden

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HOLY WEEK Schedule

April 10 - Palm Sunday at 10:00 a.m. - The children are invited to help us start our 10:00 a.m. worship service by entering the sanctuary waving palms. Pastor David's message will be, *The Not Often Told Palm Sunday Story*. He promises you will learn a few things about this event that you probably did not know.

April 14 - Maundy Thursday Communion at 7:00 PM. This service will end with Pastor David giving us insight on the prophetic importance of Psalm 22, preparing us for our Good Friday reflections.

April 15- Good Friday Service at Noon. We will be joining the community Good Friday service at the 1st Mennonite Church from noon - 1:00 p.m.

April 17 - EASTER SUNDAY

Pastor Caleb will be leading the sunrise service at 7:00 AM.

Pastor David's message at the 10:00 service will be *Looking for God in All the Wrong Places* and will celebrate the divine joke God played upon worldly power and the forces of evil. He promises that it will be "spiritual," but that you will also laugh.

PALM SUNDAY

The children will help us start our 10:00 worship service by entering the sanctuary waving palms. If you want your child to participate please contact Pastor Caleb:

Email: caleb@fumcmiddlebury.org

Phone: 815-303-8782

Interim Senior Pastor: Pastor David Schrader

Email: pastordavidschrader@yahoo.com Phone: 574-855-8401

FAMILY MINISTRIES: CALEB STROM
Email: caleb@fumcmiddlebury.org Phone: 815-303-8782

ADMIN ASSISTANT: JEANNE WEAVER
Email: admin@fumcmiddlebury.org Phone: 574-825-2585

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HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are applying for the FUMC Scholarship please turn in your application to Pastor Caleb by May 2nd.

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything for the monthly newsletter please send an email to admin@fumcmiddlebury.org or leave a note in the correspondence box attention Jeanne Weaver. The deadline is the 25th of every month.

Sisters of Strength

Our Missions Statement:

To use our unique gifts in loving service by the women of FUMC and meeting needs through vision, teaching, mentoring and doing life together.

We meet the 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Come and join us, bring your ideas and plan to have a great time of fellowship.

Our next meeting is April 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Crockpot Cook-Off

Sunday, May 1, 2022



What is a Crockpot Cook-off, you ask??? Cooks prepare soups, stews, desserts, etc. -- any food that can be prepared in a Crockpot. After church everyone will meet in the fellowship hall to partake of the delicious food items that are prepared. Everyone will be able to taste a small sample of each item. To vote for your favorite item, you will place a monetary donation in the jar beside the Crockpot. You may vote for whichever item is the best in your opinion. Winner will receive the coveted traveling trophy and bragging rights for an entire year!

Table service and drinks will be supplied by Sisters Of Strength (S.O.S.).

This is S.O.S.'s first fundraiser since 2019. Everyone is welcome! Vote early and vote often!

If you would like to prepare a food item for the cook-off, please contact Rosa Troyer at 574.849.0430 or rosatroyer@msn.com. We would like to have an idea of how many to plan for.

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Greetings from Pastor Bob and Nancy Vale

Greetings Middlebury Church Family.

From Bob & Nancy Vale.



We want to take a bit of time to let you know how excited Nancy and I are to become part of the Middlebury First United Methodist Church. You have a rich history in that community, for being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. It is our honor to serve along side of you as we make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Let me share with you a bit about Nancy and myself and our family. Nancy and I have been married for 38 years and we met at Fort Wayne Bible College. Nancy is a 4th grade schoolteacher in the South Bend school system. She loves gardening, animals of all kinds, playing the piano, and our back yard chickens. I love to fish in my kayak, play guitar and garden as well. I graduated from Erskine Seminary.

Let me tell you about our children. Rebecca is our oldest and is married to Will Palmer. They live in Alexander, Virginia. Rebecca is a Purdue graduate engineer working in Washington D.C. restoring historic buildings. Will works on Capital Hill on the staff of a congressman and is also attending law school. Joshua and P.Q. live in Wilmington, N.C., where Joshua works for an insurance company and P.Q. is finishing up her schooling as a Physician Assistant. No grandchildren yet, we are waiting until their schooling is complete & praying for little one's after that.

In my earlier years, I was a helicopter mechanic in the U.S. Army and served in the first Gulf War. I was also a youth pastor and praise and worship leader at the South Bend Clay Methodist Church before becoming a senior pastor and elder. Over the past 18 years, I have served as a senior pastor at the Argos UMC, the Osceola UMC and the La Porte UMC. All were wonderful experiences and now God is calling Nancy and myself to serve with you as partners, to grow the ministry and serve the people of your church. May God bless us all as we serve the Middlebury community and make the world a better place in Jesus' name!

Pastor Bob and Nancy Vale (Phil. 4:13) I can do everything through Christ.

