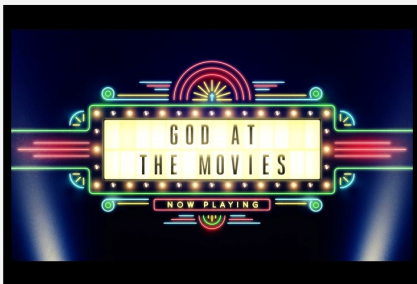




# SHARING Our Faith

A Quarterly Publication of Middlesex UMC  
Summer 2021

It's time! Join us on Sunday mornings this Summer as we worship and connect together!



**June 27th - July 18th:** Grab the popcorn and have a movie night each week in preparation for our annual MUMC at the Movies worship series where we'll discuss popular movies and relate them to our faith!

**July 25th - August 22nd:** Our world often tells us that being courageous is about strength, bravery, and heroic acts. We'll explore the letter to the first church of Philippi to expand our understanding of courage. Together, we will learn how courage can help us raise other people up, transform our communities, and face new and challenging situations.



Find more about what in person looks like now on our website.

Travelling or staying home this summer?

Join us online at [www.facebook.com/middlesexumchurch](https://www.facebook.com/middlesexumchurch).

## Preschool Graduation



This year has been one for the books, one we can hopefully close and never open again! Little Hearts and Souls Preschool was able to hold an in person graduation this year, which was amazing! We had 13 graduates who came through our program, and through all the obstacles, they were still able to have a fun and rewarding PreK year! I am so thankful for the Church Council believing we could have preschool in a pandemic and be safe, the congregation that stepped up and donated supplies so we could keep our budget on track, and all the prayer we received this year!

Thank you Church for believing in and supporting us throughout this crazy year!

# Harrisburg Area Community College Vaccination Clinic

By Judy Beleck, Director of Congregational Care

On April 28th, our opportunity to volunteer at the HACC Vaccination Clinic was both rewarding and fun. Rick and Ginger Gines, Barb Simpson, Elisabeth Sims, and Ed Beleck and I volunteered at the drive through clinic. We greeted, directed, and thanked hundreds of people for coming to get vaccinated. Little did we know the love, appreciation, and satisfaction we would receive from this experience.



Ginger and I checked each approaching car for the number of persons who needed a vaccine, as well as if this was their first or second shot and directed them accordingly. Barb took the person's vaccine card to update it with the new information and then marked their car windshield with the time they could leave to go home after they were vaccinated.

Ed, Rick, and Elisabeth monitored the time each vaccinated person had to stay (15 or 30 minutes) to ensure no reaction occurred. In addition, we had many laughs with people throughout our time there.



Barb shared that she loved her experience *"I could applaud people for getting the vaccine and encourage them to tell 10 of their best friends to get vaccinated as well."*

Ed and I were elated to be a part of this experience and were so impressed to see how completely organized and logistically efficient it was.

Elisabeth shared her thoughts by saying *"great experience seeing so many people getting the vaccination and proud to be helping in a small way."*

Rick and Ginger shared, *"We felt grateful to be a part of the solution for this pandemic and to work with such a wonderful group of volunteers."*

At the end of our shift, we broke bread and agreed that this was an experience God led us to and one we will never forget.



# Sharing the Love at Middlesex Elementary

by Sherry Healey, Director of Community Engagement

Hi, I'm Sherry Healey, the new Director of Community Engagement. I am very thankful for the opportunity to continue building relationships between MUMC and our community neighbors. I believe that our church can be a peaceful resource for those who are troubled, in need, and seeking the love of God. Together, I believe our congregation can *Be alive in Christ in our community so that our community is alive in Christ.*

I am married to Clint, and we have been serving in the Air Force for 28 years. We have two daughters, Makenzie and Katie, that we are so very proud of. We have all been active in MUMC both times we have been stationed here in the Carlisle area.

In my spare time I have a sewing business making quilts, masks and other creative items. I like to garden, read and work puzzles to relax. I also actively mentor our Air Force Spouses to help them acclimate to the Air Force way of life.

Being from Oklahoma and Texas, we are Oklahoma State, Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers fans, and this is always the year!



With your generosity, MUMC was able to bless Middlesex Elementary School on two separate occasions recently. Pastor Rachel requested donations for 11 local students to receive snacks and activities over the summer. Your generosity was overwhelming! We were able to gift each student with two bags filled with applesauce, fruit snacks, fruit bars, yogurt, granola bars, crackers, colored pencils, coloring and activity books, toys, and reading books.

MUMC also hosted a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for Middlesex Elementary School at the end of the school year, where your kindness provided 59 chicken sandwiches and 6 salads from Chick-Fil-A. In addition, our church donated chips, cookies and water to round out the celebration meal. We included colorings donated by our youth, thank you cards, and notes of appreciation from many of you. Fostering this relationship and celebrating with Middlesex Elementary School is a blessing to our church.



To say the school staff and faculty were appreciative of your kindness and outpouring of love is an understatement. Thank you for giving so generously and graciously.

You are changing lives in the neighborhood at Middlesex Elementary School!

*"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25*

# Vacation Bible School

By Carol Lawton,  
Director of Children's Ministries



This year we went on a loco motion adventure for Vacation Bible School! Our kids had a blast learning how Jesus' power pulls us through. Each day we started with singing and dancing to music. Afterwards, the groups traveled to all the stations. The children enjoyed learning the Bible lesson from our very creative volunteers. They won't be forgetting those anytime soon! Next up they traveled to imagination station, where they got creative with science and crafts. Games station was a big hit with all the kids! Learning to work together, while playing a game was so much fun. Can't forget snack time! They loved getting a little down time to eat and chat with their friends. Finally, we finished out the evening with more singing and dancing.

Each year watching these children grow in their relationships with God is such an enormous privilege. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our VBS this year a success! All of you are rock stars!

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## It's Brave to be Weird

by Makenzie Healey, Ignite Youth

I once heard someone say, "It's brave to be weird." This applies to my faith and peer pressure. I get quite a few strange looks when I walk into school, wearing my cross necklace. Many people have asked why I wear it and I always reply, "I'm a Christian." Saying that gets me even more weird looks but I have learned it's brave to be weird. I am not afraid to show and announce my connection with God.

Peer pressure is a common struggle for teenagers. Whether it is drinking alcohol or wearing popular but inappropriate clothing, it is not the right thing to do. Although those are easy for me to avoid, there have been other pitfalls I have had to navigate. During my struggles, I became closer with God. He and my parents helped me get back on the right path. And the right path can be weird and uncomfortable. It might seem like you are the only person on it. Do not be scared or embarrassed that you are the only one. Be brave.



Staying true to God helps me remember to do the right thing even if no one is looking. And my parents taught me that this is called integrity. But sometimes people are watching, and that can be tough. Just know that God is by your side, leading you in the right direction. So do not be afraid to wear a cross necklace to school. Do not be embarrassed to turn down a cigarette. Do not be nervous to read your Bible in public. Be weird.