



Middleton Community UCC  
 The Communicator  
 November 2011



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***"Count yourself blessed."***

That is year's financial stewardship campaign theme. It reminds us to be generous in response to a generous God. And it fits very well into this month, when our nation pauses to reflect and give thanks for all that we've been given.

I heard a sermon on the subject of giving thanks, many years ago, in which thanksgiving was called a counter-cultural activity. Rather than focus on what we've earned or what we deserve, giving thanks focuses on what we've been given.

It begins with remembrance, remembering who God is and what God has done:

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.*

*(Psalm 103:1-2)*

We are indeed blessed in every facet and in every time of our lives. Even in times of trouble, God is never far away and blessings continue to flow. God is good—all the time!

Remembrance leads to gratitude, to "giving thanks," remembering who God is and what God has done:

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—*

*who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*

*who redeems your life from the Pit,*

*who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*

*who satisfies you with good as long as you live*

*o that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*(Psalm 103:1-5)*

We can give thanks for big things ("Thank you, God, for my life and for your saving power") or for small ("Thank you, God, for that sunset, and that sunrise, and for the colored leaves, and the migrating geese, and the old friend I reconnected with, and the . . .). But in all times and circumstances, we build within us an attitude of gratitude that reminds us of the one who is the source and giver of every gift.

And finally, it leads to generosity. When we've been given something, it motivates us to give something in return. It leads us to be generous with others, even as God has been generous with us. It's the original "pay it forward" plan! Generous with our families, generous with our friends, generous with communities, generous with our church, generous with our world—our giving stimulates generosity in others and keeps it going within each one of us.

Thanksgiving Day comes every November. But what's to keep us from making every day a day of thanksgiving? Pause each day to reflect upon your life and the blessings you've received, no matter how small. Then thank God for them as you experience them or become aware of them. Finally, do your part to keep the blessings flowing. Be generous with what you have in service of others. There are so many opportunities, formal and informal, to be generous with your time, your talents, and your treasure. Be a blessing to others in grateful response to the blessings you've received.

***Consider yourselves blessed! See you in church!***

## Worship in November

### Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Nursery care available

Refreshments  
and fellowship  
after worship

### Very Cool Sunday School

(ages 3 years-5th grade)  
9:45 am

### Office Hours

Office hours are 8:00 am to noon, Monday through Thursday. The church office is closed on Friday.

### Be Our Friend!

MCC now has a Facebook page! If you're a



Facebook user, add our site to your list of friends. Search for "Middleton Community United Church of Christ."

### Visit our website:

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

We welcome your comments, thoughts, and suggestions!

### November 6

#### 21st Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

"Get Ready"

There were five wise bridesmaids, who took along spare oil for the nighttime procession to greet the groom. But there were five foolish ones who ran out and had none to spare. What does this story have to tell us about the Christian faith and our need to be prepared?

### November 13

#### 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 1:1-14; Matthew 25:14-30

"What's Your Talent?"

We've all been given so much, with the opportunity to do so much more with what we've been given. Today's Gospel reading, the parable of the talents, reminds us that the "return on investment" that's expected of us is not what we might think!

### November 20

#### Last Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-45

"On the Right or on the Left?"

The church year ends on this Sunday with the parable of the great judgment, in which sheep and goats are judged by what they've done for others. If we were in this parable, on which side—the right or the left—might we find ourselves?

### November 27

#### First Sunday of Advent

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

"Learn from the Fig Tree"

Ready to start your Christmas shopping yet? The holiday shopping season has begun and we've put together long lists of what we need to do. But the Advent season—beginning four Sundays before Christmas, provides a different to-do list. Apart from the shopping and cooking and partying, what does each one of us need to do to "prepare the way of the Lord"?



Worship

**Election Meeting,  
November 20 after worship**

## Count Yourself Blessed: 2011 Financial Stewardship Campaign

*"Give and it will be given  
you. A good measure,  
pressed down, shaken  
together, running over,  
will be put into your lap,  
for the measure you give will be  
the measure you get back."*

Luke 6:38

Stewardship Celebration Sunday  
was October 30, when we celebrated



the blessings of God, the  
significant ministries of  
the church, and the gen-  
erosity of many people  
as we receive and conse-  
crate your gifts.

Please be prayerful, thoughtful,  
and generous as you make your  
pledge and gifts in support of our  
church's ministry in 2012.

## Undie Sunday a Success

Thank you to all who helped make  
our second annual Undie Sunday  
drive a great success! Over 328 pairs  
of socks, underwear and sleepwear

were donated and delivered to a  
grateful Middleton Outreach Ministry  
clothing closet. Many MOM clients  
will benefit from your generosity.

## CROP Walk

Thanks to our CROP Walk partici-  
pants! They included Pastor Jim Iliff,  
Pastor Stuart Nixon, Laura Crow,  
Charlie Crow, Lindsay Gall, Ellen  
Opitz, Peter Opitz, Barb Weber, Chris-  
tine and Tom Odell (and Colten!), and  
Barb and Dave Werner.

The walkers were generously sup-  
ported by a number of family mem-  
bers, church friends, and others. We

surpassed our congregational goal of  
\$1,000.

Preliminary figures indicate that  
the total raised will be \$1,523.

A quarter of this amount will help  
Madison food pantries, and the bal-  
ance will help hungry people  
throughout the world. Thanks to all  
who helped with our team participa-  
tion this year!

## Daily Bible Reading Guide for November

1.....	Genesis 1.1-2.4a
2.....	Genesis 2.4b-25
3.....	Psalm 104
4.....	Psalm 105
5.....	Amos 9.5-15
6.....	Ezra 6:1-22
7.....	Ezra 7:1-28
8.....	Nehemiah 8:1-18
9.....	Haggai 1:1-15
10.....	Haggai 2:1-23
11.....	Psalm 132
12.1	1 Chronicles 15.1-16.7
13....	1 Chronicles 16.8-43
14....	1 Chronicles 17:1-27
15....	2 Chronicles 34:1-33
16....	2 Chronicles 35:1-19
17.....	Psalm 65
18.....	Psalm 66
19.....	Psalm 92
20.....	Psalm 96
21.....	Psalm 97
22.....	Psalm 98
23.....	Psalm 99
24.....	Psalm 100
25.....	Psalm 113
26.....	Psalm 118
27.....	Mark 13.1-37
28.....	Revelation 4.1-11
29.....	Revelation 5.1-14
30.....	Revelation 7.1-17



**We welcome new members who will be received  
into the church in November:**

Lars-Oluf & Candice Nielsen, Linda Fehling,  
Tim Jaberg, Steve & Mary Wilson, Erin Wilson,  
Dale Slusser, and Katie Tlusty



**Don't forget  
to "fall  
back"!  
Daylight  
Savings Time  
ends at 2 am on  
Sunday, November 6!**

## Join the Choir for Christmas!

You're invited to join the MCC Choir for the Christmas season. If you would like to sing at the 7:30 Christmas Eve service, rehearsals for that service will be on three Wednesday evenings in December (December 7, 14, and 21) beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss out on this joyful and meaningful experience! Childcare can be provided if requested. If you have questions, please call Bob Mirshak at 831-5354.



## Coffee & Conversation

Coffee and Conversation concludes its study of "Love Wins" by Rob Bell on November 2. You won't want to miss Bell's final argument for an inclusive heaven. For the remainder of the year, we will read some recent articles & blog posts. In January, we will dive into John Shelby Spong's "Sins of Scripture."

C&C meets from 8-9 am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings of each month at TNT Coffee & Café, Old Sauk & High Point Rds., Madison.

Articles will be available in Fellowship Hall. **All are welcome!** Join us for lively discussion. For more information, contact Laura Crow at [crows@chorus.net](mailto:crows@chorus.net) or 831-4694.

## Men's Group Meets November 12

The next Men's Group is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 8-10 am. At this session, we will be discussing an interesting, and to some of us, vexing topic: how do Tea Party Libertarians reconcile their beliefs with Christianity?

Jim Wallis of Sojourners critiques libertarianism in three areas:

- The Libertarian enshrinement of individual choice is not the pre-eminent Christian virtue
- An anti-government ideology just isn't biblical
- The Libertarians' supreme confidence in the market is not consistent with a biblical view of human nature and sin.

We will review a couple short

documents—one from Jim Wallis, and one from Wikipedia about Libertarian Christianity—to better understand the positions.

We have also invited Ms. Robin Ertl to join us for our discussion. Robin is an active member of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church and an engaged member of our community, volunteering at her church, MOM, Boy Scouts, and many other organizations. Robin is also a Tea Party advocate and Christian. We hope that Robin can help us understand how Christian beliefs are Libertarian convictions connect.

All are welcome! Printed materials are available on the Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

## Tuesday Night Fellowship

Tuesday Night Fellowship (TNF) will conclude its study of the New Testament book of 1 Corinthians on November 8. This letter was written by the Apostle Paul to a gifted but conflicted congregation in southern Greece. Study materials are available on the Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall.

On November 15 and 22, we will have "viewers' choice." Is there a

topic you'd like to explore? Is there a question you'd like answered? We welcome any and all ideas for these two sessions. Who knows, they could be really interesting and fun!

Each evening's gathering begins with a soup supper at 6 pm. The study will begin around 6:30 and will conclude by 8. This fellowship and study group is open to everyone. We hope to see you there!

## Confirmation Continues

Our 2011-2012 Confirmation year began on Sunday, September 18, at 8:30 am. Confirmation is a two-year process for high school freshmen and sophomores and older students who have not completed the process. We hope that each confirmand will use this opportunity to examine the Christian faith and grow in understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is a time that prepares them to take on for themselves the promises made on their behalf at baptism—or, if they have not been baptized yet,

to make those promises themselves at their baptism.

During this class year, we will focus on the basic beliefs of the Christian faith and how we live out that faith in everyday life. In addition to classroom time, there will be mission projects, time spent with mentors, and other special events. Confirmation Sunday (for second-year confirmands) is scheduled for April 29.

If you would like to be a part of the Confirmation process, please contact Pastor Jim (215-8924 or [jiliff@tds.net](mailto:jiliff@tds.net)).

## Tuesday Study Group

You are invited to join the Tuesday Women's Study Group. Pastor Jim concludes the bible study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians on November 8. Beginning on November 15, the group will begin discussing the book "The Worst Hard Time" by author Timothy Egan. It covers the untold story of those who survived the Great American Dust Bowl.

This group meets at the church on Tuesday from 9:30am-11:00am from September until June. We support the Orion Family Services, Akasha Boys Group Home located in Madison, MOM Food Pantry and Clothes Closet and various other Church and community activities. Join us for quality conversation, friendships and coffee. If you have any questions, contact Rose Ann Sprang (831-6486) or Carrie Doersch (238-2386).



## Luminary Set-Up for Christmas Eve

We're looking for two or three people to help us set out the luminaries (candles lining the drive and sidewalks) on Christmas Eve. It involves some preparation during the week prior to Christmas (putting sand and candles in the milk jugs) and then time (beginning about 3 pm) on Christmas Eve to set them out. Candle

should be checked and relit if necessary during the evening. Luminaries may be taken down that night after the late service, or sometime the next day.

More complete instructions are available at the church office. Please call 831-4694 if you are interested or if you have questions.

## Happy Birthday!

Laura Crow  
 Peter Cupery  
 Cristie Fredrickson  
 Elane Frye  
 Lindsay Gall  
 Tom Giessler  
 Leanne Howard  
 Juanita Judd  
 Rebecca Lorfeld  
 Bob Mirshak  
 Judy Nichols  
 Bill O'Neal  
 Andrew Peiss  
 Joseph Peiss  
 Doug Percy  
 Carol Phelps  
 Jenny Pleva  
 Alaina Ruffin  
 Emery Stluka  
 Katie Tlusty  
 Steve Wilson

Did we miss yours?  
 Call the church office  
 and let us know.

## Happy Anniversary!

Peter & Geri Cupery  
 Chris & Tricia Reed

Did we miss yours?  
 Call the church office  
 and let us know.

### *Dates to Remember:*

- **November 6**—No VCSS
- **November 6**—Apple *IT* Extravaganza!
- **November 6**—HS Youth Group: Dinner & Game Night
- **November 13**—Confirmation Movie Night
- **November 13**—MS Youth Group: College Care Packages
- **November 13 & 20**—Christmas Program Information Sessions
- **November 30, December 7 & 14**—Wed. night rehearsals for Pageant Drama & MCC Singers Youth Choir
- **December 11**—MS Youth: Sharing Christmas
- **December 17**—Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- **December 18**—Christmas Pageant
- **December 18**—HS Youth: Sharing Christmas
- **December 25 & January 1**—No VCSS
- **April 29**—Confirmation Sunday
- **May 6**—Youth Sunday

## Very Cool Sunday School News

**Very Cool Sunday School is closing in on the first stage of our faith journey!** We will conclude our look at Leaders & Followers of Ancient Israel on November 20. And then, after Thanksgiving we begin work on this year's Christmas Program! (See separate article below)

After the holidays, we will continue our theme of **Leaders & Followers** by looking more closely at

Jesus' life and some of the people among his followers, both then and now! Friends are ALWAYS welcome!

There will be **NO Sunday School** November 6, December 25, or January 1, 2012. Children are encouraged to worship with their families on these Communion Sundays. Nursery care for infants through preschoolers is available each Sunday.

## Music & Pageant & Youth Choir—"Take 2!"

Our **Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 18** during 9:30am worship. That means that preparations for our begin in less than a month!

Every **Very Cool Sunday School** class (PreK-5th grade) will have a designated part in the program. We will learn about the Christmas story and practice our parts during VCSS on November 27, December 4 & 11. Older students (in middle and high school) and adults are encouraged to make the Pageant a part of their Christmas preparations as well!

**On November 13 & 20, we will distribute important information on this year's Christmas Pageant.** We will have music available for both

Strings and Band groups, and we will have a chance to read through the scripts for those wishing to have a speaking role in the drama. Please plan to remain after church for one of these brief info sessions and "auditions". Drama cast members will rehearse on Wednesday nights beginning November 30.

**MCC Singers Youth Choir** for students in 6th-12th grade will be back in action on Wed. nights beginning November 30. Invite your friends!

MCC's Christmas Program is an ALL-AGES, ALL-CHURCH event. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Bergman (833-3669) or Laura Crow (831-1993).

## Very Cool Sunday School Offering

So far, our Very Cool Sunday School Offering has collected \$57.20 for Middleton Outreach Ministry. Boxes of Student Offering envelopes are available in Fellowship Hall. Individual envelopes are also available each week in the Worship Folders (coloring folders) at the back of the sanctuary.

In addition, both the MS & HS

Youth Groups will participating in **MOM's Sharing Christmas**. Students will be making plans to shop for gifts for Middleton Outreach Ministry clients, then wrap and deliver them to the families. Dates & details will be coming soon.

Please contact Laura Crow at 831-4694 or [crows@chorus.net](mailto:crows@chorus.net). if you have any questions.

## November Youth Activities

Both Youth Groups had a SPOOK-TACULAR time at the Treinen farm corn maze in October! Check out some of these upcoming events...

### HIGH SCHOOL (grades 9-12)...

- **HS Youth Dinner & Game Night.** Sunday, November 6 @ 6:00pm. Join us for "Meal in a Peel" (a.k.a. a baked potato bar). Bring your favorite topping and a game to play. We will also be doing some planning for future YG activities and for the HS Sharing Christmas activity.
- **Confirmation Movie Night.** Sunday, November 13 @ 6:00pm. Have you ever hoped for a second chance? "The Spitfire Grill" is a story about a woman released from prison and her hope of finding a fresh start in a small town.

Watch the movie trailer... [www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi3476357913/](http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi3476357913/). BRING A FRIEND!

## Faith Five for November

"Faith Five" is a method for personal or family devotions that focuses on relationship—nurturing our relationships with one another and with God. It is a great tool for growing together in faith and exploring the connections between Faith and Life!

Gather everyone together at bedtime (or any time that works for you!) and simply follow these five steps:

1. **SHARE** the highs & lows of your day or week.
2. **READ** together the appointed bible passage.
3. **TALK** about how the verse relates to your own experience

### MIDDLE SCHOOL (grades 6-8)...

- **MS Youth Care Packages for College Students.** Sunday, November 13 @ 6:00pm. We will prepare & pack Thanksgiving-themed gifts for MCC's college students.

IF YOU HAVE A COLLEGE STUDENT—Please send Laura his or her current address and contact information no later than November 6. We don't want to miss anyone, but cannot send packages if we do not have a confirmed current address. THANKS!

There will be NO Youth Groups meeting Nov 20 or 27. But, it IS Laura Crow's birthday on November 26, so be sure to send her a text, FB post, email or other greeting on her special day. Reportedly, she will once again be 12 years old! You can also send any question or suggestions for future events to her at 616-2325 or [crows@chorus.net](mailto:crows@chorus.net)!

## Apple $\pi$ Extravaganza! Sunday, Nov 6 11:00am-1:00pm

We'll make 10 apple pies to freeze for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Plus enjoy some apple treats and fall crafts to celebrate the season!

FUN for the whole family!  
Invite a FRIEND!



## Leadership Opportunities at MCC

You are invited to share your gifts and talents through **the leadership ministries of the church**. This year, the opportunities are as follows:

### Board of Worship

Responsible for the worship life of the church, including worship, sacraments, sanctuary decorations, and music.

### Board of Finance

Responsible for church finances, budget preparation and monitoring, and the church's physical plant.

### Board of Christian Education

Responsible for the educational ministries of the church for children, youth, and adults.

### Board of Mission and Stewardship

Responsible for mission education, special offerings, mission projects, and the fall stewardship campaign.

### Board of Membership and Fellowship

Responsible for the fellowship life of MCC, including coffee hour, church dinners, inquirers' classes, membership, outreach, and hospitality.

Terms for all boards are for two

years, renewable up to six years.

Additionally, we are seeking:

- a **Moderator Elect**, who shares leadership of the Council and congregation with the moderator and is a member of the Board of Mission and Stewardship. In the second year of this two-year commitment, the Moderator Elect serves as Moderator, who chairs Council and congregational meetings and serves as lay leader of the congregation.
- a **Clerk**, who takes minutes at all Council and congregational meetings and maintains an accurate membership list.

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, or if you would like more information, **check the box marked "Church leadership" on the Pink Sheet**. Election to these boards and offices will take place at the Election Meeting on Sunday, November 20. New board members and officers assume their roles after the Annual Meeting in January. Contact Ron Dorsch (238-2386) or Pastor Jim (215-8924) if you'd like to volunteer or if you have any questions.



Don't forget...  
the 1st Sunday of the month is

## FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY!

Please bring:  
**blankets & pillows**  
or check out Middleton Outreach Ministry's "Top Ten List" at [www.mompop.org](http://www.mompop.org)  
Questions? Contact the church office (831-4694).

## We Are God's Witnesses Today!

Have you checked out the new "God's Witnesses" bulletin board in Fellowship Hall? In September, we posted some of YOUR stories about how God is or has been present in your life.

This month we feature some expressions from children in Very Cool Sunday School about what God's voice sounds like and what God is saying. Be sure to stop and read the wisdom of our children—you will be amazed!

Next, we will feature stories of holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years. Where do YOU find God in these seasons?

**SHARE YOUR STORY TODAY!**

Please send responses to:

Middleton Community Church

ATTN: Laura Crow

645 Schewe Rd.

Middleton, WI 53562

or by email to [crows@chorus.net](mailto:crows@chorus.net)

Stories can be kept anonymous

## 11-1-11—11-11-11 Mission:1

From November 1-11, MCC will be joining with other UCC churches across the nation on a shared mission to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. Called Mission:1 this outreach effort will, over the course of eleven days:

- Collect more than 1 million items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- Make an extra push to gather contributions of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, and \$111,111 for East Africa Famine Relief.
- Joining with Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" cam-

paign by offering more than 11,111 letter to congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide.

Look for more information from the church as we get closer to this major mission project. From November 1-11, an online tote board at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) will tally our collective count of food-stuffs, donations and letters. The world needs the distinct values, vision and voice of the United Church of Christ – Continuing Testament. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.

## Faith Formation Discovery Summit

Last spring the Board of Christian Education hosted a Discovery Summit. We invited church members who had participated in adult faith formation activities to meet on a Saturday morning. The purpose was to gather responses about spiritual needs and desires to help us determine how those needs can best be met. Those who attended were honest and helpful and we learned a lot.

We would like to convene a second Discovery Summit to learn more and we would appreciate your help. The second Summit is Thursday, November 17 from 6:30-8:00p.m. We will explore questions to help us:

- ❖ examine how the faith community of Middleton Community

UCC can nourish a variety of adult faith journeys and

- ❖ discern how to strengthen the kind of relationships that sustain us and our faith when we are together and when we are apart.

Hospitality and childcare will be provided. Feel free to talk with a member of the Board of Christian Education about this summit. If you are willing and able to join us on November 17, please contact the church office at 831-4694 or [mccucc@chorus.net](mailto:mccucc@chorus.net).

Board of Christian Education: Lynn Burke, Gayle Love, Pat Foersterling, Heidi Riechers, Barb Snell, and Karil Walther

### Stay Connected With MOM

Join the e-mail list for MOM's monthly eConnections newsletter! Find out about their monthly needs as well as other fun ways to get involved in serving the community. Go to [www.mompop.org](http://www.mompop.org) and look for the "Join MOM's eConnections!" box. You can also send MOM an email at [econnections@mompop.org](mailto:econnections@mompop.org). Join now!



## MOM Services and Service Opportunities

Here is a variety of opportunities to serve your community through Middleton Outreach Ministry:

**MOM Thanksgiving Baskets Program:** If you are interested in helping organize and distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families in need, please contact Volunteer Program Manager Esther Kim at [esther@momhelps.org](mailto:esther@momhelps.org) or 826-3409.

**MOM Sharing Christmas Program:** MOM is starting up their Sharing Christmas program which helps provide Christmas to those families in need. If you are interested in donating gifts for a family, please go to their website to register. Registrations re-

ceived by November 18 will have a match by Thanksgiving. If you are interested in volunteering to help organize or hand out gifts, please contact our Volunteer Program Manager Esther Kim at [esther@momhelps.org](mailto:esther@momhelps.org).

**MOM benefit: Home for the Holidays:** On December 3 and 4, Home for the Holidays features a live radio play at the Middleton Performing Arts Center to benefit MOM. If you are interested in donating small auction items from a wish list or helping organize the event and silent auction, please contact Volunteer Program Manager Esther Kim at [esther@momhelps.org](mailto:esther@momhelps.org).

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Charles & James  
Mulder-Philyaw  
2648 Dungarvan Rd.  
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Jahn & Esther Tinglum  
6225 Mineral Point Rd  
Apt. D94  
Madison, WI 53705

Leah Young Weiss  
108 Fairview Way  
Waunakee, WI 53597



## Coffee Hour Hosting

Your help is needed to provide an important part of our church's ministry of fellowship: coffee hour!

Light snacks and refreshments create a welcoming environment for mem-

bers and guests.

Thanks to all who have already volunteered for this ministry. Won't you consider taking part as well? Check the sign-up sheet on the coffee hour table for available dates.

## Sound Operators

Have you ever wondered about our sound system? Are you just dying to try experimenting with all those tiny knobs? Or maybe you just want to practice with a microphone, before doing a solo or reading scripture? Or you think you might be willing to vol-

unteer at the sound board, adjusting volume levels during the service? Well, the friendly sound team is happy to talk to you, and show off the equipment. Just contact Bill Love (831-2776) or Andy Phelps (833-0562) or any of the sound operators.



*Thanks to everyone who helped with our Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting week in October. Our next hosting week will be February 5-12, 2012.*

## Fair Trade Sale is Coming Soon!

This year, our annual Fair Trade Sale will begin on Sunday, November 20, and run for five weeks through Sunday, December 18. The sale will include many popular items, including Christmas Ornaments, Chocolate, Tea, Coffee, Soap, Soup Mixes, Dip Mixes, Nativity Scenes, Jewels of Hope, and others. All these come from fair trade sources from around the world, and even from the USA.

This is a Missions fundraising effort, to help support the Youth Mission Trip to Jamaica, but also our ongoing Missions activity in this community. When someone asks our church for help, for example: a single tank of gasoline to go job hunting, or a night's lodging to someone who has

just lost their home, these needs are filled from our Missions Fund.

Fair Trade is a partnership based on respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade for the people who grow or make these products. These producers are paid a living wage, and treated as partners, and this trade is economically and environmentally sustainable.

The neatest thing about this Fair Trade Goods Sale, is that you're giving twice: First to the people in developing countries, and second to our neighbors here at home who need our help, some now more than ever.

One final thought: these items can be great Christmas presents, so you can make three gifts in one purchase!

## The Road Home Bulletin

Did you know? Contrary to expectations, homelessness actually fell during the recession. According to a recent report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 34,877 fewer people were homeless in the middle of the recession than at the start. Why? Because the stimulus package provided significant investment of funds for homeless prevention and re-housing. And it worked.

At The Road Home, these funds resulted in record rehousing and housing-retention rates for families. "Jerilyn" and her baby daughter were in our shelter program during this time. With only W2 income and owing money to a past landlord, Jerilyn could not find a property owner to rent to them. The Road Home used \$500 of the stimulus funds to pay off her debt to her last landlord so she

could be accepted to an affordable apartment, and \$1,000 for her entry costs. Following this relatively small investment, Jerilyn has been able to maintain housing for over a year.

However, new projections suggest that homelessness will rise 5% over the next three years. The economy has not recovered and the unemployment rate is still high. The number of families in poverty is up and incomes are down. And the stimulus funding dried up months ago. This means that about 74,000 more people will be homeless by 2013 unless we can make additional investments to effectively address the challenges. What will it take to make homelessness a national priority? You can help by signing up for advocacy alerts through the National Alliance at [www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org).



## Poinsettias

Please help decorate our sanctuary for our Christmas Eve worship services by ordering a poinsettia.

*We'll have prices and the order forms in the November bulletins.*


MIDDLETON COMMUNITY  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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 Address Service Requested

## Middleton Community Church Vision Statement

*As a faithful church, we will provide opportunities for growth in our witness to the grace and love of God through worship, fellowship, education, and outreach.*

<p><b>Middleton Community UCC</b>          645 Schewe Road, Middleton, WI 53562  <i>(2 miles west of the Beltline, at the corner of Old Sauk and Schewe Roads)</i>  <b>9:30 am Worship Service &amp; Very Cool Sunday School</b>  <i>Nursery Care Available</i>  <i>Handicapped-Accessible</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Staff</b></p> <p>Pastor .....James Iliff          Director of Music ..... Bob Mirshak          Faith Formation .....Laura Crow          Children’s Choir              Director .....Mindy Nelson-Bergman          Keyboards ..... Barbara Brown          Secretary .....Diane Koch          Custodian..... Irvin Dennis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How to Reach Jim Iliff</p> <p>Church office:                   831-4694          Cell Phone:                     215-8924          Email:                             <a href="mailto:jiliff@tds.net">jiliff@tds.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday–Thursday</b>  <b>8:00 a.m. to noon</b>          (Closed Fridays )</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>