## **Nurturing Our Faith**

Rachel Gaus (pictured) serves as the chair of MPC's Midtown Mission Garden. Her history with the garden goes back to its inaugural year. In 2017, Rachel was working for The Arc of Midland when she was given the monumental assignment of planning the garden and scheduling the volunteers. She is proud of our community's effort and support that gave the garden a strong start. When Rachel left The Arc for her current job as a school social worker for Midland County Educational Service Agency, she continued to help out. Recently, she wanted to get more involved in church life and naturally felt at home with the garden ministry. She is grateful to Bill Schramm for his vast gardening knowledge and endless patience. With the core team in place to tend the garden all season, extra helpers are needed for the communal work days. Everyone is invited to drop into the first Garden Party on Wednesday, July 17 for various gardening and harvesting tasks.

Just as gardens have both bountiful periods and withering moments, so do our faith journeys. When Rachel was 19, her 18-year-old cousin died in a farming accident. She shares that she was angry at God for years. What turned her relationship back toward God was motherhood. In 2022, she and her husband Joe became pregnant. When they learned that the baby faced severe complications, Rachel felt an overwhelming sense of peace. Even though she had distanced herself from God, she realized that God had never left her side. That May, their daughter Alice was stillborn at 20 weeks. She relied heavily on prayer and faith to help her through this difficulty.

Rachel will celebrate Mother's Day in Midland with relatives and one-year-old daughter Goldie (pictured). Rachel feels it is important to raise a child in church, to be taught to rely on God, to nurture personal faith, and to be protected by a faith community. She says, "Why wouldn't we want to be with someone who loves us and cares for us no matter what, to be a part of something that is greater than ourselves?"



## **Events**

Sunday, May 12 • 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services Happy Mother's Day!

**Sunday, May 12 & 26 • 9:30–10:30 & 12:00–12:30 Presbyterian Coffee Project:** Stop by the lobby to purchase Equal Exchange coffee bags, tea boxes, chocolate bars, cocoa mix, and olive oil. Cash only.

Wednesday, May 15 • 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women *Horizons* Bible Study

Wednesday, May 15 • 1:00 p.m.

**Presbyterian Women Meeting:** Let's meet in the Small Dining Room to discuss the next program year.

Sunday, May 19

9:00 & 10:45 a.m. • Worship Services and Pentecost Offering Collection 12:00 noon • Baccalaureate Reception

Wednesday, May 22 • 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. "Welcome Home" Luncheon: Home to Stay invites

MPC members to a free luncheon at the country club. RSVP to info@myhometostay.org.

Wednesday, May 22 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation** 

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner, guest speaker, and awards ceremony. Contact Kindra at children@mempres.org for details.

Sunday, May 26 • 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

**Worship Services** 

Monday, May 27

**Church Building Closed for Memorial Day** 

Wednesday, May 29 • 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Health Talk:** Great Lakes Home Care Unlimited and our Faith Community Nurse Kellie invite you to Mayton Hall for a free breakfast and health discussion on physical therapy. RSVP to moffice@glhcu.com or 989.486.8283.

Wednesday, May 29 • 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Celebration:** Children and youth who attended Wednesday music and Lighthouse meet at Pizza Sam's for an ending party! Pizza, ice cream, and games are provided. Pick up at the Tridge.

Sunday, June 2 • 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Worship Services Fifth-Grader Recognition

Sunday, June 2 • 12:00 noon

**Summer Service Project:** Fifth-grade graduates, Middle School Youth Group, and 3H unite for lunch and a fun VBS service project.

June 5, July 10, August 7 • 7:00 p.m.

**Summer Movie Nights:** Featuring PG animated classics and theater treats, everyone is invited to the air-conditioned comfort of the Assembly Room. Movie titles and details are on Realm.

Saturday, June 8

Youth & Young Adult Ministry - Cedar Point

Sunday, June 9 • 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Worship Services and VBS Volunteer Commissioning

June 10-12 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**VBS:** Register at www.mempres.org/vbs by June 2. Helpers in grades 6–12 and adults 18+ are needed!

June 12-13 • 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

**Luminous Lock-In:** Youth in grades 6–12 jump into 14 hours of fun at an under-the-sea, glow-in-the-dark adventure! Register on Realm.

Sunday, June 16 • 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Worship Services and VBS Recognition Happy Father's Day!

**SAVE THE DATE** 

June 23, July 14, August 11 • 5:00–8:00 p.m.

Summer Game Nights: Everyone is invited to enjoy dinner (provided) and games together in Mayton Hall.

**SAVE THE DATE** 

Wednesday, July 17

**Midtown Mission Garden Party** 

## **Regular Events**

Sunday

9:00 & 10:45 a.m. • Worship

9:00 & 10:45 a.m. • Children's Sunday School

9:45 a.m. • Adult Bible Study in the Colonial Room

12:00 noon • Middle School Youth Group

5:00 p.m. • High School Youth Group

5:15 p.m. • Chain Breakers Men's Disc Golf Group

Monday

1:30 p.m. • PW Knitting & Crocheting Group

5:30 p.m. • Covenant Ringers

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. • Bells of Praise

Wednesday

6:00-6:30 p.m. • Joyful Noise

6:30-7:30 p.m. • Middle School Lighthouse

6:35-7:15 p.m. • Kingdom Kids

7:00 p.m. • Adult Bible Study

7:30-8:00 p.m. • Middle School Music

7:30-8:30 p.m. • High School Lighthouse

**Thursday** 

9:30 a.m. • Women's Bible Study

7:00 p.m. • Chancel Choir

**Ongoing** 

**HELP Food Pantry:** cereal, grocery bags **VBS Registration:** www.mempres.org/vbs

Midtown Mission Garden: eggshells, coffee grounds