

Middle Spring Presbyterian Church

Picture about 800 people from the surrounding community gathered under the trees, sitting around picnic tables, enjoying good food and even better conversation. It's a warm June Friday night, the air is crisp, and the sky is blue. If you can picture this while also smelling ham bean soup and conjuring up your favorite ice cream flavor, then you get the beginning of the idea of what it's like to attend Middle Spring Presbyterian's Annual Strawberry Festival.

Each year the Women's Association of Middle Spring holds this festival in order to support local missions. They routinely raise several thousand dollars which is all given back to aid organizations in the community. The festival is much more than a fund raiser though. It's an opportunity for the church community to serve and the Shippensburg community to come together.

Beginning in May, every family in the church gets a call to say, "You are needed!" People respond by joining the cooking, serving, setup, and cleanup. The kitchen is a lively place at Middle Spring for the few days prior, while people gather to make chicken salad, chicken corn soup, beef bbq, ham & bean soup, and to cut up pies made by members of the congregation. The real fun starts when the ice cream starts rolling in, about 25-30 different flavors of homemade ice cream is served each year.

When the Shippensburg community gathers they are greeted with a warm smile and often by name. Children are offered a small toy to pass the time while waiting in line for food. Also, the ladies invite nursing homes to bring their residents on buses. These folks get special service as they are seated at a table and their orders are taken, so they don't have to wait in line. The ladies go the extra mile to be sure that the evening is affordable for even large families. Where else can you get a sandwich and two large dips of ice cream for \$3.00? It's rumored that the pastor's family of five, which eats A LOT of ice cream, spends just over \$20 to feed everyone.



Dishing up that homemade ice cream!

The Annual Strawberry Festival is always held on the third Friday in June beginning at 5:00 p.m. (June 15, 2017). You are invited to come and you'll probably see someone you know from the Presbytery too!

Scripture: No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:15-16 (NRSV)

Prayer: Holy God we give you thanks for the opportunity to serve you in our churches, in our local communities, and in the world. Enlarge our hearts to allow your love to flow through all of our giving. Amen.

Women's Association, Ways and Means Chair: Joyce Russell
Service Ministry Chair: Park Bierbower
Clerk of Session: Pat Mahan
Pastor: Kim Wadlington