

June 27, 2018

On July 21, Sixth Street Christian Church will be having its annual basement sale. No, we are not selling the basement (ha-ha), but we will be offering the greatest collection of stuff for sale that Middletown has ever seen ... or at least that's what we hope. Our basement sale does two things: it generates resources that can support church programs and serve the community, and it encourages people to get rid of their clutter. It can be hard to let go, however, especially if what you might give away has a history you want to hang on to. I have a clipboard that my grandfather used in his medical practice. The wood is chipped, the clip at the top is rusted and doesn't work very well, but because my grandfather carved his initials on it, I may never give it away. I also have a hard time giving away things that may be useful someday. "That's a perfectly good 2 X 4. I should hang on to that." Or, "All that needs is a coat of paint, and it will be good as new." The more stuff I hang on to, the more cluttered my house becomes, and if I want to continue living there, I'll have to make a choice: what can I let go of so I have room to live my life? People can get cluttered too. When we get used to thinking or doing something a certain way, it can become the only way we see, especially if that way has borne fruit in the past. Sometimes we continue repeating the same pattern long after it's stopped working, and sometimes we're faced with a choice: what can we leave behind so there is room for something else? I don't believe God calls us to leave everything behind and start from scratch. What I do believe is that we need the Holy Spirit to teach us what to do and who to be so all can come to serve the Lord. For the Spirit to do that, it needs room to move.