



Middlebury Church of the Brethren

April 29, 2018

MIDDLEBURY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN "PROMISE"

We promise to walk in the way of Jesus' love by: Looking for the God seed in all people while practicing healthy processes of inclusiveness, showing grace and honesty.

- Building-up community by showing Hospitality, Equality and speaking truth in love.
- Willing to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit with our heart, mind, soul, and strength as we grow spiritually and are transformed in God's love, grace and peace.
- Study, Practice, and Commitment to Forbearance* as we search for common ground.
- Joyously Celebrating Life.

*Forbearance:

Forbearance is a Biblical concept.

The Greek words in the New Testament translated as carry meanings of patience self-control, restraint, mercy, long-suffering and the refusal to threaten (EPH. 4:2; COL 3:13, EPH 6:9, 11COR 12:6)

Forbearance does not jeopardize or denigrate individual conviction, but it does place boundaries on the quality and character of individual responses.

Forbearance does not require one to accept what another believes, but it does require one listen and try to understand what another believes without demeaning, personal attacks, or acting to disenfranchise the other person.

GROUP GATHERINGS after Fellowship

Children under 9 yrs meet in classrooms west of kitchen / Beth Muhlneckel & Britta Copeland

Children 10 yrs and older meet in Room 207 / Mark & Catherine Roebuck

Adult Group Gathering

Applying Scripture to Life.....Library classroom with Dana Snider

Wired Word & Sermon discussions.....Room #105 with Don Anderson

Beth Snider, Beth Sholly

Contemplative & Silent Meditation-Rear of Sanctuary.....Self directed



MIDDLEBURY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Middlebury Church of the Brethren is a welcoming and inclusive congregation offering Christ's hospitality to the world.

Pastoral Minister – Janet Shaver; cell 574-214-6741

e-mail: middleburypastor@yahoo.com

Worship – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – 10:45 a.m.



We have a Children's Play area set up in the sanctuary for parents with young children. We understand and accept that it isn't easy for young children to sit still throughout the service. The play area is along the back wall to your left as you enter the sanctuary. We ask that the parents sit close to the play area since this isn't supervised by anyone. God Bless the Children.

AN INTERACTIVE MESSAGE

April 29, 2018
Theme: Fruit and the Vine

Welcome and announcements

Opening Prayer

Prelude

*Praise Team

*Call to Worship: Responsive reading

Let us give thanks for the remarkable gifts of God's creating and redeeming love, the loving that casts out all fear.

For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore, to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities, to build theories and then cross-examine them.

We thank you, God of adventurous love.

For the love that enables us to marvel at our own existence, to ponder and remember, recognize our own needs and affirm our own knowledge and purpose.

We thank you, God of determined love.

For the love that helps us to communicate with one another, to express trust and respect, share heartaches and visions, to convey love and mercy.

We thank you, God of reconciling love.

For the love that inspires us to warmly encourage those around us, to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten.

We thank you, God of nurturing love.

For the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us in poetry and song, to delight in shapes and colors, intricacies and patterns, awesome forces and deep mysteries.

We thank you God of visionary love.

For the love that encourages us to express something of our faith; for creeds and prayers, hymns and readings, discussion groups and sermons.

We thank you, God of creative love.

ALL: Above all else we thank you for the love that allows us to admit that we have no words in which to adequately describe the process of faith in Christ, the awesome worship of our God, and the holy wonder of the Spirit.

We thank you for that point where our love becomes wordless adoration. Through Christ Jesus, who is the pure glory of your loving. Amen!

*Hymn *We Pray for Peace* Insert

You are invited to leave your offering on the table as you leave the worship space.



2 ¢ a Meal - The children may bring the change forward

Magic Penny: Love is something if you give it away,

Give it away, give it away.

Love is something if you give it away,

You'll end up having more.

It just like a magic penny,

Hold it tight and you won't have any.

Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many

They'll roll all over the floor.

Offering Prayer

In response to your great love for us, gracious God, we joyfully and gratefully offer the fruits of our labor and our lives in these gifts. Bless and multiply them, we pray, that the transformative power of your love will be a reality in our neighborhood and community. Amen.

Scripture: John 15:1-8 NT pg 109

Message: An interactive message Pastor Janet Shaver

*Hymn *Som'landela (We will follow)* Insert

*Postlude

*Congregation stands in body or spirit

New or Visiting.....WELCOME....Please fill out Guest cards located in the PEWS and place in the offering plate when finished.

April 29, 2018 Activities / Announcements

10:20 am – Worship – Pastor Janet Shaver

10:00 am – Fellowship time w/carry in breakfast

11:00 am – Sunday school Classes –

Classes are listed on back of bulletin

2-4 pm – Pentecostal Church rents sanctuary

Tuesday 7pm – Board Rm rented



TODAY – Café Style Worship – Fellowship at 10am while we enjoy the carry-in breakfast; Interactive worship to follow in the Fellowship hall.



TODAY – 5th Sunday



“Take a Break Thursday” free community meal at 5:30 pm.

Please come and enjoy the meal & fellowship. This is a partnership with Faith Mission of Elkhart.

No book study.



Saturday, May 5th 11:00am – 2:30pm – Little Lites Carnival & fundraiser with Nelson’s GG chicken, games & activities. Church volunteers are welcomed – see Lorie.

May 6, 2018 Next Week Activities/ Announcements

10:00 am – Worship – Pastor Janet Shaver

Worship Leader – Roger Copeland

10:45 am - Fellowship time: (coffee and refreshments)

11:00 am - Sunday school Classes –

Classes are listed on back of bulletin

2-4 pm – Pentecostal Church rents sanctuary

Tuesday 7pm – Board Rm rented



FOOD PANTRY Donations are always needed, especially hygiene products and household cleaning products. PLEASE PLACE THE ITEMS IN THE PLASTIC BIN AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.

You are always welcome to donate cash. If you choose to donate cash, please mark it on the offering envelope so we know it is for the Food Pantry. Thank you for your continuing generosity!



Got books? Specifically children’s books or books for young parents? Little’s Lites is going to create a “lending library.” Drop books off at the office.

Minutes for the March 14th Board meeting are posted on the bulletin board.