

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 401 / Mark & Catherine Roebuck

Adult Group Gathering

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 – 9:30 a.m. Sunday School – 10:20 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.



Middlebury Church of the Brethren December 23, 2018



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION
ANNOUNCEMENT AND INSTRUCTION
All are invited to this celebration of God's table

December 23, 2018
Christmas Celeration

Opening Bell Ringing

***Opening Songs:** *O Come All Ye Faithful #212*
 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing # 201

Welcome Catherine Roebuck

Prelude *Angels From the Realms of Glory with Immanuel*
 Lorie Copeland *Arranged by Carol Tournquist*

Advent/Christmas Reading WL and Sharon Lemmon
 All is Well Response
 Prayer Response. WL

***Praise Team:** *The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-24
Joseph's Story Wayne Andrews
A Singing Response *What Child is This # 215*

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-45
Mary's Story Sherry Bickel
A Solo Response *Mary Did You Know* Jill Weaver

Intergenerational Bells

Joy to the World
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-14
An Angel's Story Britta Copeland Kinney
A Duet Response *The First Noel* Sherry Bickel and Lorie Copeland

A Singing Response: *Angels We Have Heard on High #197*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:15-20
A Shepherd's Story Dalis Andrews
A Singing Response *Away in the Manger #191*

Solo *O Holy Night* Virginia Mock

Blessing

Words of Grace (Let us pray this together)
The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ
The cup which we bless is the communion of the love of Christ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Reflection Solo

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head with Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)
Lorie Copeland

***A Singing Response:** *Silent Night, Holy Night* #193

***Blessing for the Road:**

May all wonder find a place in your soul
and dance with your unexpected steps;

May all joy be at home within your heart
and weave a sacred rhythm throughout this life and all to come;

May unsolved mysteries make your life an adventure
and pull you towards unknown places waiting for you since the very beginning;

May blessing be your forever-companion
and cradle you, strengthen you and love you always;

May all stillness snuggle into your soul,
forging a peace that gives to all things a place;

May the ebb and flow of life be a daily gift,
offering times of pain and celebration and healing;

and may God let you see what others miss:
promise cradled in every wonder,
the flow of life shaping a sacred story
where love, and you, dance together daily.

CLOSING Bell Ringing

*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.

December 23, 2018 This Week Activities/ Announcement



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE OF LOVE

9:30 am – Worship – Pastor Janet Shaver
Worship Leader – Catherine Roebuck

10:20 am – Fellowship time

10:45 am – Sunday school Classes –
Classes are listed on back of bulletin

2-4 pm – Pentecostal Church rents sanctuary
Tuesday 7pm – Board Rm rented



IN HONOR OF

Cancer victims
MCoB & Nappanee CoB

DONATED BY

Julie & Jerry Bontrager
Janet & Byrl Shaver

SAMARITAN FUND DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF

Edgar & Shirley Weldy

DONATED BY

Marek & Magdalena Tuszynska

IN HONOR OF

Faithful followers of Jesus at MCoB - Janet & Byrl Shaver



“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.

With health issues among us, vacations and travel, volunteers are badly needed to help with the Thursday meal. Please come at 4:30 if you can help with setup, serving and clean up.



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.

December 30, 2018 Next Week Activities/ Announcements

9:30 am – Worship – Jessica & Jason Klanderud

Worship Leader – Catherine Roebuck

10:20 am – Fellowship time

10:45 am - Sunday school Classes –
Classes are listed on back of bulletin

2-4 pm – Pentecostal Church rents sanctuary
Tuesday 7pm – Board Rm rented