

## 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 / Keri Anderson,  
Sharon Lemmon, Beth Muhnicker  
Children 10 yrs and older meet in Room 401 / Mark & Catherine Roebuck

### Adult Group Gathering

Adult Group Discussion – Room 105

Contemplative & Silent Meditation-Right 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.***

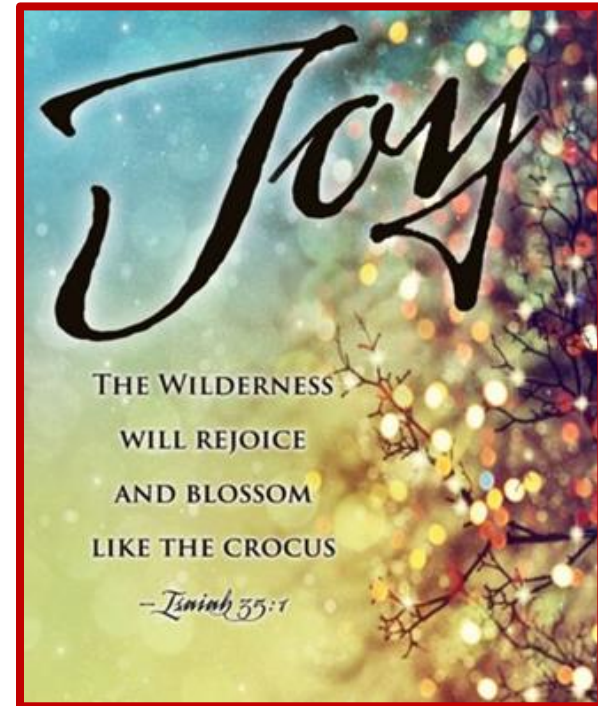
Pastoral Minister – Janet Shaver; cell 574-214-6741  
e-mail: [middleburypastor@yahoo.com](mailto:middleburypastor@yahoo.com)  
Worship – 9:30 a.m. Sunday School – 10:20 a.m.



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 15, 2019



# GROUNDING IN JOY

**December 15, 2019**

**Theme: Joy**

Welcome and Announcements		Keri Anderson
Minute for Mission	Destiny Rescue	Chris Russell
Opening prayer		Keri Anderson
Prelude - <i>Please quiet your hearts &amp; minds</i>		Sherry Bickel
Advent Candle Lighting - Joy (Isaiah 35:1-10)		Keri Anderson & Jeannie Berkey
<i>Reader 1:</i> O God, we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of joy. (With the first and second candle already burning)		
<i>Reader 2:</i> Restore our joy, come bloom in our parched soul. Prepare our hearts, O God, for your gift of joy.		
<i>Reader 1:</i> Isaiah announces our refreshment in the desert. Your way is our way and we will walk without fear. We will not be thirsty because you are with us.		
<i>Reader 2:</i> We will sing and your joy will be upon us because you are with us.		
<b>People:</b> Faithful God, We look to you in our anxious times and trust in your promise of shalom. Teach us your way so that we may bring shalom to your world. Amen		
<b>People (sing): Emmanuel</b> Emanuel, Emanuel His name is called Emmanuel God with us, Revealed in us His Name is called Emmanuel		
*Praise music	<i>Longing for Light</i>	Handout/screen

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

Offering prayer WL

Gracious God, we thank you for this season of carols and gifts and for your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer you our lives and these gifts: our hopes and our plans, our work and our play. May love and justice blossom from our gifts. Amen.

Hymn	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Three</i>	#71
Scripture	Isaiah 35:1-10	OT #663
Message	<b>Grounded In Joy</b>	Pastor Janet Shaver
*Hymn	<i>Joy To The World</i>	#318

\*Blessing for the Road

Be people of joy.

Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.

Share joy by seeing the good in each other.

Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.

Share joy by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, hope and love with those you meet. Amen.

\*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 15, 2019 Activities/ Announcement

### **Week 3 of Advent - JOY**

**9:30 am** – Worship – Pastor Janet Shaver  
Worship Leader – Keri Anderson

**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

**Ushers: Today: JoAnn & William**  
**Dec 22: Don M & Beth S**  
**Dec 29: Ken & Dalis**

**Alternative Gift Market** today and Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**Destiny Rescue** joins the Alternative Gift Market today and will do a Minute for Mission during Worship.



**Today we have been blessed with Nativities/Crèches that you have shared. Please take a moment to read the cards attached – learn about why each one is special, where it came from, and who shared it.**

**Thank you to all who shared their special Christmas crèches!!**

**Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall** have been reserved for Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

### **FOOD PANTRY**

Supplies are always needed; however, these items are always **especially** needed: cooking oil, all personal hygiene items, and toothpaste. Also, you may donate money for milk vouchers.

## December 22, 2019 Activities/ Announcements

### **Week 4 of Advent - LOVE**

**9:30 am** – Worship – Pastor Janet Shaver  
Worship Leader – Keri Anderson

**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



**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Matt & William will provide a hot dish and you are all invited to bring a dish for a Christmas carry-in lunch following Sunday School.

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** – Worship meeting

**Check the bulletin board, District Section,** to see the Holiday shopping opportunities in various churches.



**Fifth Sunday 12/29** – Magic penny offering



**RECYCLES!!** At the end of the mailboxes (near the office door) is a box with a slot for recycles. Please feel free to recycle your bulletins (NOT the music handouts) and other church papers that you have finished using.