

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

Children 10 yrs and older meet in Room 401 / Mark & Catherine Roebuck

Adult Group Gathering

Adult Group Discussion – 11:00 a.m. following Worship on ZOOM + Board room

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.

Interim Pastor – Debbie Eisenbise

e-mail: pastordebbie@mcob.org

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 September 26, 2021



The Courage of Esther

September 26, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Mark Roebuck

Opening prayer

Mark Roebuck

Prelude

Lorie Copeland

***Praise music**

They'll Know We Are Christians

Insert/screen

***Call to worship – Responsive**

L Now brothers and sisters, I want to talk about the special abilities given to you by the Holy Spirit.

P God gives us many kinds of special abilities but it is the Holy Spirit who gives them all.

L There are different kinds of service to God but it is the same Lord we are serving.

P It is the Holy Spirit who gives these gifts, deciding which each one should have.

A We are all the body of Christ and each of us is a necessary part.

***Opening song**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship #8

You are invited to leave your offerings on the table by the sanctuary doors.

Offering prayer

God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each day, and in the peace you give which passes understanding. Having received so much, we offer all we have, our time, talents and money for your glory. Bless these gift for the work of your church. Amen

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for the People

Hymn *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* #369

Scripture

Esther 7:1-6, 10-11

Pew Bible OT #448

Message

The Courage of Esther

Lorie Copeland

***Closing song**

Here I Am, Lord

#395

***Blessing for the road**

May this worship bring you blessing.

May this blessing bring you confidence.

May this confidence bring you courage.

May this courage bring you to action.

May you go and bless the world with confidence and courage.

Postlude

***Congregation stands in body or spirit, as you wish.**

If you are new or visiting.....WELCOME!

Please fill out the guest card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

JOYS and CONCERNS
September 26, 2021

September 26, 2021
Announcements

Please notify Dalis Andrews in the church office if you would like to add a prayer request, share a joy, or if something should be removed. Each prayer request will be removed after 30 days unless the office is notified.

- **Barb Anderson** who is having severe back pain.^{9/19}
- Keri and Don Anderson's grandson, **William**, who had some unexpected seizures.^{9/19}
- **Wayne Andrews** who is struggling with several health issues.^{9/12}
- Martha's sister-in-law, **Anna Wagner**, who has fallen and broken her foot.^{9/12}
- **Dana Snider** in the loss of his sister, Thyra Keiser.^{9/12}
- Roger Copeland's coworker, **Calvin**, who has been diagnosed with spots on both his brain and his colon, possibly being cancer.^{9/12}
- Katy Wilson's younger sister, **Cheryl Hohman** is working toward a liver transplant.
- **Gary Black** as they deal with setbacks of his wound healing.^{9/12}
- **Hanna Rhoads** recovering from a stroke.^{8/29}
- Beth & Jill's neighbor and friend, **Kay Ferry**, whose graft became infected, has had surgery and now at Holy Cross rehab for six weeks of antibiotics.^{9/5}
- **Beth Sholly's** nephew has had another stroke and in a rehab unit in Atlanta GA and doing better.
- **Sue Boggs**, sister of Bev Short and Deneise Weyhmiller, was diagnosed with breast cancer and is having continued problems with treatment and is going to be doing hormone therapy.
- Prayers for **Deneise Weyhmiller**. She has been diagnosed with three hernias and will be having surgery on September 27th.^{8/22}
- Boca Haram persecution taking place with EYN Nigerian COB. Pray for healing and restoration.
- Severe flooding in Haiti & New Orleans
- **Michael Yutzy update:** married to Alyssa, Roebuck's niece, has been diagnosed with cancer under his tongue that has metastasized into his tonsils. He has begun chemo and radiation.^{8/15}

Our speaker today is Lorie Copeland

Beginning October 1st Pastor Debbie will keep the following schedule with some exceptions. Additional times in the office are noted on the calendar outside her office door.

Mondays	Her Sabbath/day off
Tuesdays	11am-3pm
Fridays	11am-4pm

Pastor Debbie will be out of the office the week of October 11th for a silent retreat and off on Friday, October 22nd for the Northern Ohio District Women's conference.

Pastor Debbie's email: pastordebbie@mcob.org

Food Pantry – Supplies are always being collected or you may donate money for milk vouchers. Bring your donations to the church at the back of the sanctuary.

All men are invited to coffee and conversation at the Poyser farm on Wednesdays, at 1:00 pm. Call Steve Poyser with questions or for directions - 574 215-2158

All women are invited to coffee and conversation at the Poyser farm on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Call Martha Huebert with questions or for directions – 574 825-4304

Office hours for Dalis: 9:30am – 2:00pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Please know that emails and voicemails that come into the office Friday – Monday will not be seen until Tuesday.

There is a **Puzzle and Book Nook** in the hallway leading back to the daycare, just outside the sanctuary. Bring your old puzzles, books & magazines to exchange or just take one; **you do not need to bring a book, puzzle or magazine to take one.** Do not bring anything that you may not want to lose.

TO ACCESS OUR LIVESTREAMED SERVICE go to mcob.org, bottom left of page where you will click on YouTube; toward the top click on "Live." It doesn't go live until the loft activates it, so if it isn't there immediately, leave the page and try again.

- Please keep **Bev Short** in your prayers as she speaks about making a good marriage at a wedding on 10/16 of making a good marriage.
- **Betty Hydorn** who was diagnosed with lung cancer and is going through extensive treatment while caring for herself.

- Mike Byrd for declining health
- Andy, Dalton and Gretchen Showalter
- Eleanor Hawkins for leg pain
- Our peaceful existence in the world
- Little Lites Daycare
- Middlebury Church of the Brethren in Community