

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.

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 September 5, 2021



The Unexpected V.I.P.

September 5, 2021

Welcome and Announcements Julie Bontrager

Opening prayer Julie Bontrager

Prelude Sherry Bickel

*Praise music Som'landela Insert/screen

*Call to worship – Responsive

Leader: Come and sit with me; we shall study the Word

People: Together we shall read and understand

Leader: Come and kneel with me; we shall break the bread

People: Together we shall eat and be satisfied

Leader: Come and walk with me; we shall part the waters

All: Together we shall risk, and, behold, we shall be changed

*Opening song *What is This Place* #1

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

Offering prayer

Generous God, We give with joy into your kingdom today. May you bless our offering. Come, O Lord and work through these gifts. Extend your love through us, we pray.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for the People

Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness* #327

Scripture Acts 8:26-40 NT #127

Message **The Unexpected V.I.P.** Todd Eastis

*Closing song *Strangers No More*

***Blessing for the Road**

Go out into the world in peace, and in Christ's name be
the humble who make others proud
the poor who have riches to share
the weak who help others be strong
the empty who overflow with loving kindness.
And the largess of the love of God,
and the treasure of the grace of Christ Jesus,
and the buoyant health of the Holy Spirit
will be with you now and forever. Amen.

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 5, 2021

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.

- Katy Wilson's younger sister, **Cheryl Hohman** is working toward a liver transplant.
- Katy Wilson's older sister, **Helen Rinehart**, died on Tuesday, August 31st.
- Renee Black's great nephew, **Kierce**, has Covid and now missing school as the entire family quarantines.
- **Beth Muhlnickel's** brother **Tom**, who is having serious health issues.
- **Hanna Rhoads** recovering from a stroke.^{8/29}
- Northridge friends and family of **Ethan Michael Baker** who suicided on August 23rd.^{8/29}
- **Marj Miller**, who will be having a cornea transplant
- 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
- Jerry & Julie's grandson, **Sam Grewe**, won a Gold Metal in the Paralympic world champion in high jump. **Congratulations Sam!!!**
- **Ethan Bickel** as he adjusts to campus life away from his family^{8/29}
- **Beth Sholly's** nephew has had another stroke and in a rehab unit in Atlanta GA
- **Sue Boggs**, sister of Bev Short and Deneise Weyhmilller, was diagnosed with breast cancer and subsequently has had seven surgeries in just 10 weeks. Scans show cancer is gone but she has infection complications and has started 6-8 weeks of radiation.
- Prayers for **Deneise Weyhmilller**. She has been diagnosed with three hernias and will be having surgery in September.^{8/22}

September 5, 2021 Announcements

Our speaker today is **Todd Eastis**.

Sunday school today is Wired Word with Don Anderson.

Please read two nice thank you cards on the bulletin board.

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 – 574 215-2158

All women are invited to coffee and conversation at the Poyser farm on Tuesdays at 10:00 am instead of 3:00 pm. Call Martha Huebert with questions – 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.

Over →

- Please keep **Bev Short** in your prayers cares for her sister, Sue.
- Jill Weaver's sister, **Karen**, who has work challenges and asking for peace and calm.^{7/11}
- **Betty Hydorn** who was diagnosed with lung cancer and is going through extensive treatment while caring for herself.
- **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}
- 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

- Boca Haram persecution taking place with EYN Nigerian COB. Pray for healing and restoration.
- Severe flooding in Haiti