

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.

Christian Education at 11:00am

Children under 9 years of age meet in classrooms west of the kitchen with Keri Anderson & Sharon Lemon

Children 10 years and older meet in Room 401 with Mark & Catherine Roebuck

Adult Group Gathering

Adult Group Discussion meets in the board room next to the offices.

You are also welcome to stay in the sanctuary for quiet time of prayer and contemplation.



For children 6 years and under, we have a play area set up along the back wall to your left as you enter the sanctuary. Please sit close to that play area to supervise your children/grandchildren. Clipboards with activities are available for children of all ages.

You are invited to join us in the fellowship hall for refreshments following the worship service.

Would you like to get in touch with us?
Please call the office at 574 825-2955



Middlebury Church of the Brethren



December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent

MIDDLEBURY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
a welcoming and inclusive congregation
offering Christ's hospitality to the world

Worship – 9:30am Fellowship – 10:45am Christian Education 11:00am
December 12, 2021

Gathering Music

Carol Sing

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

based on Philippians 4: 4-7

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, "Rejoice!"

All: We will let our gentleness be known to everyone, for the Lord is near.

One: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**All: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard
our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

Invocation

Interlude

Lighting the Advent Candle

One: We light a candle of peace. And we imagine:

All: A world without violence, a life without fear, and in this we rejoice!

One: We light this candle and feel God near to us, and sing a song of joy.

All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Response

Hope is a Candle (vs. 4)

insert

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for the People

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

Offering Prayer

Preparation for Hearing the Word *Joy to the World* (vs. 1) #318

Scripture Zephaniah 3:14-20 Pew Bible Old Testament #877

Message

***Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* vs.1, 3, 4 #71

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

If you are new or visiting, you are most welcome in worship and to stay for a time of fellowship afterwards. 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.

Interim Pastor – Debbie Eisenbise Worship Leader – Don Anderson
Pianist – Lorie Copeland Flutist – Sherry Bickel Song Leader – Tammy Houser
Ushers – Tom Miller & Sheila Poyser
Sound Loft – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver
Advent candle lighters – Jess, Jacob & Kylee Cripe

The call to worship, litany, and benediction are from resources provided by
"Leader" magazine.

The hymn on the insert is from *Sing the Story*, One License #47573

Upcoming in worship

December 19th – Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55 – 4th Sunday of Advent

December 21st – Longest Night Service 7:00pm

December 26th – Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:1-20 – Christmas Sunday

January 2nd – Psalms 174:12-20, John 1:1-18 – Christmas 2 and New Years.

**December 12, 2021
Announcements**

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's email: pastordebbie@mcob.org

Office hours for Dalis: 9:30am – 3:00pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Bulletins are printed on Thursday and can't be adjusted after that. Please know that emails and voicemails that come into the office Friday – Monday will not be seen until Tuesday.

Please check your mailbox for the **Joys and Concerns** list.



Image by Jared Michaels MFT

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP 7:00pm, December 21st.
Everyone is welcome.



Today is Birthday Sunday – Please join us for pre-packaged birthday snacks during fellowship time.



Plan to shop at the **Alternative Gift Market** today during fellowship time this week and next Sunday, 12/19. Online orders through SERRV can be made through Christmas to benefit Little Lites Daycare.



Tell us your favorite Christmas carols to sing during the Advent/Christmas season. There are cards in a basket on the table beside the sanctuary doors.

And much more over→

**JOYS and CONCERNS
December 12, 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. Each prayer request will be removed after 30 days unless the office is notified.

- **Kay Ferry**, friend and neighbor of Beth Snider and Jill Weaver, has moved to her daughter's home in Michigan and is dying.^{12/5}
- Prayer for **young drivers** learning to drive during the winter months.^{12/5}
- **Katy Wilson's nephew** who is in the hospital with covid.^{12/5}
- Congratulations to **Lauren Bemisderfer**, Keri and Don Anderson's granddaughter who, as a trainee, has been selected to dance in 18 of her dance company's productions of *Nutcracker*.
- Celebrating with **Gary Black** and the improvement in his health.^{12/5}
- Wayne's brother, **Ray Andrews**, who has been in critical health and now improving.^{12/5}
- Tom Miller's friend, **Cory Williams**, who is in kidney failure.^{12/5}
- **Family of Joey Sollen**, who was involved in an airplane accident and his body has not yet been discovered.^{11/21}
- **Marj Miller** whose cancer has spread and doesn't have long to live.^{11/21}
- **Lorie & Roger Copeland's grandkids.**^{11/21}
- **Teachers and bus drivers** feeling the effects of being very short staffed.^{11/14}

over→

- **Mike Sommer** in the loss of his uncle, Don Longo.^{11/14}
- Roger Copeland's friend's grandson, has been diagnosed with a genetic disease that affects only one in 50 million. **Noah** is just two years old and doesn't have long to live.^{11/28}
- **Daycare staff** for support and health and **daycare staff and children** with Covid 19 in October.^{11/28}
- Roger Copeland's friend's new grandson was born not breathing and has permanent brain damage but is now functioning okay. **Asher** is a newborn.^{11/28}
- **Wayne Andrews's** neck surgery has been postponed to January 3rd.
- Peaceful co-existence in our world. Especially prayers for peace in Nigeria for those in the Church of the Brethren enduring violence from the Boko Haram.
- Severe flooding in Haiti & New Orleans

All those who are not able to come to worship due to health concerns or other issues:

- Mike and Linda Byrd
- Andy, Dalton and Gretchen Showalter
- Eleanor Hawkins
- Betty Hydorn
- Hanna Rhoads



Do you have scarves or small table covers that you no longer use or want? Don't give them to the recycler or to Good Will – **we need them here at the church!** Please see Dalis with your cast-offs!!

Camp Mack is offering “Tuesday To-Go” meals. The menus offered each week are listed on the Camp Mack bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Individual meals are \$10.00 and meals to serve six are \$50.00. Catherine Roebuck is willing to go pick up the meals if people are interested in ordering – let her know if you would like to order a meal. Or you can order by texting **Mack2Go to 91999**.

We are using **individually packaged treats** that will be served during fellowship time. If you are planning to bring in a treat, please consider making sure they are individually packaged. If you have questions please contact Sherry Bickel. Thank you, Fellowship Commission!

Food Pantry – Non-perishable food and other items are always being collected or you may donate money for milk vouchers. Bring your donations to the church at the back of the sanctuary. Our supply of foods was depleted recently for a homeless person in need and we need to replenish. Also, canned goods should have the pop-top lids when possible.

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

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. You can also access copies of the bulletin and links to past services on our website: www.mcob.org. And find us on Facebook at Middlebury Church of the Brethren.