

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 19, 2021 Fourth 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 19, 2021

Gathering Music

Carol Sing

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

based on Micah 5: 2-5a

One: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for God one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. So will God give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then all kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

All: And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord our God.

One: And all people shall live secure, for the one who comes shall be great to the ends of the earth;

All: And he shall be the one of peace.

One: Let us worship God who comes in Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Invocation

Interlude

Lighting the Advent Candle

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

All: The lowly lifted, and the oppressors laid low.

One: We light this candle and know that God is at work redeeming this world, and restoring us to right relationship with all of our brothers and sisters.

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

Response

Hope is a Candle (vs. 3)

insert

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

Offering Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for the People

Preparation for Hearing the Word

Joy to the World (vs. 1)

#318

Monologue

Solo

Mary Did You Know

Scripture

Luke 1: 39-56

One: In those days, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

All: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

One: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

All: And Mary said,

One: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.

All: God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown strength and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

One: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; and filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

All: God has helped Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy, according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sara and to their descendants for ever.'

One: And Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her home.

Reflections

Bulletin Continued on insert

BULLETIN CONTINUED

*Hymn *Longing for Light* insert/screen
*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 – Dalis Andrews
Pianist – Lorie Copeland Flutist – Sherry Bickel Song Leader – Tammy Houser
Soloist – Jill Weaver Ushers – Beth Muhlnickel & Jacob Cripe
Advent Candle Lighters – Dalis Andrews & Kent Bailey
Sound Loft – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver

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 21st – Longest Night Service 6:30pm

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 Year

January 9th – Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12 – Epiphany followed by a party and “unhanging” the greens

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**December 19, 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 6:30pm, December 21st.
Everyone is welcome.



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

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.

- 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.

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!!
These are for use **all** during the year for various events and displays or decorating purposes.

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 to **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!

