

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.



Middlebury Church of the Brethren



December 5, 2021 Second 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
Congregational Business Mtg 11:00
December 5, 2021

Gathering Music

Carol Sing

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

One: In the quietness of this winter season, God comes close with open arms.

All: We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.

One: God's embrace is wide.

All: A voice cries in the wilderness:

One: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

All: And even as we prepare, we know the Lord is already here.

Invocation

Interlude

Lighting the Advent Candle

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

All: God's tender mercy, restorative justice, and compassion.

One: We light this candle and feel God near to us, embracing us.

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

Response

Hope is a Candle (vs. 2)

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

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible Old Testament #889

Luke 3:1-18

One: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

All: He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

One: as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

One: John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

All: And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'

One: In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

All: Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'

One: He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'

All: Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?'

One: He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

All: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

One: John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

All: So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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**December 5, 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 – 2:00pm, 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.



REMEMBER the annual Congregational Business meeting today following Worship.



Plan to shop at the **Alternative Gift Market** today before and after the Congregational Business meeting, on Friday 12/10 from 11am-6, and on Sunday, and 12/12 during fellowship time.



December 12th we will be displaying your special nativity sets.
Bring your nativity to the church **by December 8th** to be part of the display. Why is your nativity special? What does it mean to you? Has it been handed down or was it a gift? Write it down and bring it to the office so it can be typed on a nice card to display with your nativity.

And much more over→

JOYS and CONCERNS

December 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. 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, is experiencing a deterioration in her health.^{11/28}
- 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*.
- **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}
- **Lucas Kauffman** update: Lucas has been very active with youth ministry in our district and now taking coursework to teach.^{11/21}
- **Lorie & Roger Copeland's grandkids.**^{11/21}
- **Teachers and bus drivers** feeling the effects of being very short staffed.^{11/14}
- **Emergency and medical staff** dealing with the continuing Covid and being short staffed.^{11/14}
- **Mike Sommer** in the loss of his uncle, Don Longo.^{11/14}
- Congratulations Logan Bickel and **Northridge football team** on going to the state championship level!^{11/14}
- **Sue Boggs**, sister of Bev Short, has had six cancer surgeries and although she is now cancer-free, doctors are looking for a way to continue treatment of her skin cancer issues.^{11/7}

over→

- **Deneise Weyhmiller**, who is having continued health issues. She is now in Alaska visiting her daughter and grandchildren.^{11/7}
- 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.^{11/7}
- **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



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.



LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP 7:00pm, December 21st

Image by Jared Michaels M-F I



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 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!

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.

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Message

***Postlude**

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

***Hymn** *Bless'd be the God of Israel* #174
***Benediction**

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 – Martha Huebert, Kent Bailey
Sound Loft – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver
Advent candle lighters – Tammy Houser, Martha Huebert

The call to worship, litany, and benediction are from resources provided by “Leader” magazine.
The hymn on the insert is from *Sing the Story*.

Upcoming in worship

December 12th – Zeph. 3:14-20; Phil. 4:4-7 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
December 19th – Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55 – 4th Sunday of Advent
December 26th – Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:1-20 – 5th Sunday of Advent

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