

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



January 2, 2022 New Year's Sunday

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

Worship – 9:30am Fellowship – 10:45am Sunday school – 11:00am
January 2, 2022

Gathering Music

Carol Sing

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #212

Invocation

Scripture Psalm 147:12-20

One: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

All: Praise your God, O Zion!

One: For God strengthens the bars of your gates, and blesses your children.

All: God grants peace within our borders, and fills our fields with the finest of wheat.

One: God sends out a word to all the earth;

All: God's word travels swiftly.

One: God gives snow like wool, and scatters frost like ashes.

All: God hurls down hail like crumbs.

One: Who can stand before this cold?

All: God sends out a word, and melts all of them;

One: God makes the wind blow, and the waters flow.

All: God declares a word—statutes and ordinances to Israel.

One: God has not dealt thus with other people; they do not know God's ordinances.

Unison Response: Thanks be to God who calls us, instructs us, and guides us, and has given us Jesus our Christ that we might live in faith.

Interlude

Candle Lighting

One: This morning, we light the Christ candle and welcome a new year of witnessing to our faith.

All: We look forward to the surprises and challenges we will encounter,

One: For we know God is with us,

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

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 *Listen, Listen God is Calling* (sing twice)

Listen, listen God is calling,

To the Word inviting,

Offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Scripture

John 1: 1-18

Message

Affirmation of Faith

on back of announcement sheet

***Hymn** *This is a Day of New Beginnings* #640

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

Permission for "Listen, listen God is Calling" is given through One License #01607

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 – Julie Bontrager

Pianist – Lorie Copeland Song Leader – Tammy Houser

Ushers – Todd Grathen & Dalis Andrews

Greeters – Bev Short & Bill Hawkins

Sound Loft – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver

Candle lighters – Sheila & Steve Poyser

Upcoming in worship

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

January 16th – *Psalm 36:5-10*

January 23rd – *Luke 4: 14-30*

January 30th – *Guest Preacher*

January 2, 2022 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.

The Little Lites' grant money has arrived!!! \$134,300.



An **Epiphany Party** will end the season on **Sunday, January 9th** right after Worship. Plan on staying for the party and then join in helping to unhang the greens.



Paper mittens are still available on the trees if you would like to help with items for 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

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!

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.

Affirmation of Faith

One: This new year, we hear God calling us to be alive:

Left: To think freely, practice patience, smile often and savor special moments.

Right: To live God's message, make new friends and rediscover old ones.

Left: To tell those we love, that we do; to forgive an enemy.

Right: To feel deeply and forget trouble; to keep a promise.

Left: To pick and share some daisies; to look for rainbows, gaze at stars, and see beauty everywhere.

Right: To work hard and be wise; to try to understand; to make time for myself and others.

Left: To laugh heartily and spread joy; to take a chance and reach out and let someone in.

Right: To try something new: to slow down, to be soft sometimes.

Left: To celebrate life, believe in myself and trust others.

Right: To see a sunrise, listen to the rain; reminisce.

Left: To cry when I need to.

Right: To hope; to grow; to be crazy.

Left: To count my blessings; to observe miracles and make them happen.

Right: To discard worry: let go, give in, and give. Trust enough to take what is offered.

Left: To trust life, have faith, enjoy.

Right: To wonder, have some good ideas, make some mistakes, learn from them.

Left: To comfort a friend, hug a kid.

One: This new year, we hear a call to explore an unknown future with God at our side to guide us, protect us, and encourage us each and every day.