

**Christian Education** is at 10:00am. Ask an usher or greeter for details.



**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 children you bring. Clipboards with activities are available for children of all ages.

**To access our livestreamed service** use this link:

<https://youtube.com/@PEASE507> or go to [www.mcob.org](http://www.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](http://www.mcob.org). And **find us on Facebook** at Middlebury Church of the Brethren.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

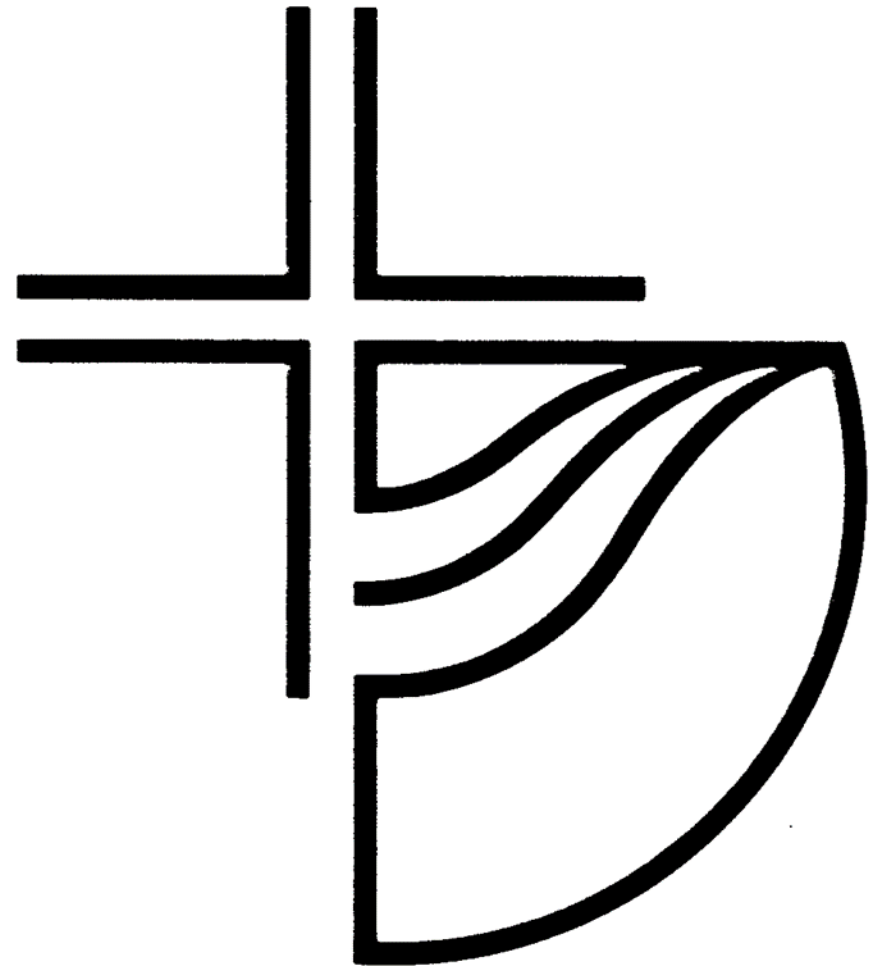
Believe God's Word. Live Christ's teaching.  
Grow spiritually and share God's love, peace, hope and joy.

#### **Middlebury Church of the Brethren**

**507 Bristol Ave.  
Middlebury, IN 46540  
574-825-2955  
[mcob@mcob.org](mailto:mcob@mcob.org)**

The Church of the Brethren symbol on the cover upholds images of life in Jesus Christ. The cross recalls our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:4) and testifies to God's plan to bring "all in heaven and earth . . . into a unity in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10 NEB). The circle, partially defined, represents the world into which we are sent by Christ (Matthew 28:19). The circle also affirms that as members of Christ's body we are members one of another (Romans 12:5)—a people who confess "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). The wave connotes new life in Christ, "born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5). The wave further evokes the waters of justice (Amos 5:24), the cup of water offered in Christ's name (Mark 9:41), the basin and towel (John 13:5), and "springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17). Images central to life in Jesus Christ thus are lifted up as images for Brethren to live by.

# **Middlebury Church of the Brethren**



## **February 18, 2024 First Sunday in Lent**

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

Fellowship—9:30    Sunday School—10:00am    Worship—11:00am

**February 18, 2024**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

In this morning's scripture text, it is the Spirit that drives Jesus into the wilderness. The same Spirit that moments before was saying, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased"? It's almost enough to give us whiplash...or at least an uncomfortable feeling. Does God "drive" us into places and times that test us or tempt us? If so, does God also give us gifts to sustain us? And what is the goal, the spiritual purpose of wilderness?

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer (responsively)**

Leader: God of all thirst,  
Our hearts are parched from wandering in deserts  
Far from your life-giving springs.  
Call us to your well.

**People: Fill our cups with your grace.**  
**Let your love overflow in our hearts,**  
**and make us fully alive.**  
**Amen.**

**\*Hymn for Lent**    Abre mis ojos (Open my eyes)    insert

**Offering Invitation and Prayer**

Please leave your offerings on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

**The Community Prays Together**  
**Sharing our Joys and Concerns**  
**Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Reading**                      **Mark 1:9-15**                      NT pg. 34

**Hymn**                      I am weak and I need thy strength                      #553

**Message**                      **Into the wilderness**

**Moments of Silent Reflection**

In this season of Lent, let us pause together for a few moments at this point in the worship service to reflect and pray about how the Spirit of God is stirring in our lives and calling us forward.

**\*Hymn**                      Guide my feet                      #546

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

\*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

*The "Call to Worship," by Marlene Kropf and the "Opening Prayer," by Ruth Yoder are from "Sing the Story," Supplement II of "Hymnal: A Worship Book." "Abre mis ojos (Open my eyes)" is #65 in "Sing the Story," used with permission OneLicense #87653.*

If you are new or visiting, please fill out a visitor card available in the entryway and join us for fellowship. You are most welcome here!

Preacher – Kurt Borgmann  
Worship Leader – Bethany Rudd  
Pianist – Lorie Copeland  
Guitarist – Jill Weaver  
Flutist – Sherry Bickel  
Ushers – Todd Grathen & Beth Sholly  
Greeters – Steve & Sheila Poyser  
Sound Tech – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver

## **Sunday School Schedule Upcoming**

**Now through Feb. 25:** “Faith and Pleasing God,” taught by Julie Bontrager

**March through May:** “The Wired Word,” taught by Don Anderson

## **Upcoming in Worship**

**Feb. 25:** Second Sunday in Lent, Pastor Installation  
Mark 8:31-38 “Life saving”

## **Happening this Week:**

- Nurture Team: Wed., 9:30am in pastor’s office
- Sewing / Craft Group: Wed., 1pm in fellowship hall
- Leadership Team: 4:30pm in conference room

## **Announcements February 18, 2024**

### **Office Hours:**

**Pastor Kurt:** Wed. & Fri.: 9am-noon

**Treasurer / Daycare Business Manager Lorie:**

Mon.–Fri.: 8:30am–5:30pm.

**Office Manager Colleen:** Wed. & Fri.: 9am-3pm; Thur. 10am-2pm.

Bulletins are printed on Friday and cannot be adjusted after that.

Please know that emails and voicemails that come into the office

Sat.–Tue. will not be seen until Wed.

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

Britta Copeland **thanks** the congregation **for** all the **blankets** donated **for foster children**.

Mark your calendar for **March 16, 2024**, the **2024 NIDCOB**

**Women’s Retreat. Registration due Feb. 28.** More information is posted on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes, and registration forms are available at the welcome desk.

### **Service Opportunities:**

- ✓ **Blood Drive, here, Tue., Mar. 12, 2-6:30pm.** Sign up to donate! Spread the word!