

**Christian Education** is at 11am: **children under 9 years of age** meet in classrooms west of the kitchen with Sharon Lemmon & Jill Weaver; **children 10 years and older** meet in Room 401 with Mark & Catherine Roebuck.



**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.

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

Cover photo: the big blue spruce in our MCoB front yard was only 18 feet tall when it was moved from the grounds of the old Mill Street church building when we moved to this location in 1996. It is obviously thriving here, as is our congregation. Today, as we welcome new members into our fellowship, we are reminded that we grow best when rooted in faith.



## **Middlebury Church of the Brethren**



# **September 3, 2023**

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

Worship—9:30am Fellowship & Reception for New Members—10:45am

**September 3, 2023**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Preparing for Worship**

Alleluia

audio track

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Alleluia!

Two: Alleluia!

**All: Gracious God, we celebrate life.**

One: Your creation burst with beauty and mystery, with seasons that are both predictable and surprising.

Two: We thank you for new lives, changing lives, busy lives, and slowing lives.

One: And we pray for those of us who are leaning toward the end of life.

**All: Grant us patience**

Two: When our steps are halting, painful, or impossible.

**All: Grant us peace**

One: When the world is changing all around us, too much and too fast.

**All: Grant us healing**

Two: For our worn bodies, our aching hearts, and our troubled spirits.

**All: Grant us grace**

One: When the past limits our vision and we are filled with regret.

**All: Grant us love**

Two: When we fear the for the future of our world and our loved ones.

**All: Grant us joy**

One: As we celebrate life, this gift from You, and anticipate the day when we will see You face-to-face.

Two: Take our hands, O God and lead us home.

**All sing together vs. 1 of Precious Lord Take My Hand, #575**

One: As we long for You, O God, we know we are home here in this fellowship, this sanctuary, this congregation,

Two: Where Your love reigns and Your Spirit encourages us to embody hope and lives lives of faith,

**All: And so we worship You.**

**Interlude**

**Reflections and Prayers for our Congregation**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People**

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

**Affirmation and Offering Prayer**

One: Love cannot remain by itself; then it would have no meaning.

**All: Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.**

One: Whatever form we are, whatever our abilities, whatever our resources,

**All: It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing; a lifelong sharing of love with others.**

One: This Labor Day, let us consider God's call to us to a labor of love: living compassionately, sharing generously, offering grace and peace to all.

**All: God, bless our intentions and our efforts, and these gifts to Your service, we pray.**

One: Amen.

**Preparing to Hear the Word**

Christ be in my Mind

insert

**Scripture**

Romans 12:9-21

NT p. 162

**Message**

**Reception of New Members**

**Hymn**

Will You Let Me be Your Servant

#307

**\*Congregational Welcome # 796**

**\*Hymn**

Beauty for Brokenness

insert

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

\*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

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 – Interim Pastor Debbie Eisenbise

Worship Leader – Mark Bickel

Guitarist – Jill Weaver

Flutist – Sherry Bickel

Ushers – Dalis Andrews & John DeWilde

Greeters – Steve & Sheila Poyser

Deacons – Bev Short, Julie Bontrager, Steve & Sheila Poyser, Don & Beth Muhlnickel

Sound Tech – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver

“Alleluia” is from Ukraine and #135 in Voices Together. The call to worship is #979 in Voices Together written by Ingrid Loepp Thiessen. The offering prayer is based on a quote from Mother Teresa (#1037 in Voices Together) “Christ be in my Mind” is from our Hymnal Supplement and used with permission of the composer. “Beauty for Brokenness” is #712 in Voices Together.

### **Upcoming in Worship and Fellowship:**

**Sept. 10:** Romans 13:8-14 + commissioning District Conference Delegates, communion; lunch and farewell to Pastor Debbie

**Sept. 17:** Hymn Sing

**Sept. 24:** Guest Preacher

**Oct. 1:** World Communion Sunday

### **Happening this Week:**

- Little Lites Daycare closed: Monday, Labor Day
- Corn Crib Party: Friday at Poyser farm
- Fall Fest booth: set-up on Thurs.; Friday & Saturday, downtown Middlebury

### **Announcements September 3, 2023**

#### **Office hours this week:**

**Treasurer / Daycare Business Manager Lorie:** Mon.–Fri.: 8:30am–5:30pm.

**Pastor Debbie:** in the office Tues. – Fri.

**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.–Tues. will not be seen until Wed.

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

**To help beautify our worship center on Sunday mornings: please bring fresh flowers** from your garden (live plants or cut flowers). Please let Sheila Poyser know if you can bring some or if you have any questions.

**Consider nominating people for Annual Conference positions** using the insert handed out on Aug. 20. This will be sent out electronically in the weekly email in Sept., too. And please be in prayer for the wider church.

**Quarterly denominational offering** will be collected on **Sun. Sept. 10**. Envelopes are in boxes and information is posted on the bulletin board. Please give generously.

### **Getting Out of Doors**

One of our “Three Kings,” Queen Sheila, commanded that we take our health seriously and get outside more.

- **First & third Sundays of every month at 4:30pm: Wild Church of Goshen** (on Facebook at Outdoor Sanctuary or call 574-903-4816): first Sundays: Ox Bow Park; third Sundays: Goshen Rieth Interpretive Center across the street from Shanklin. Bring lawn chairs and walking shoes.
- **Other local outdoor activities:**  
<http://insideoutsidemichiana.blogspot.com/p/natural-resources.html>

Clear your calendar and **sign up to help** at our **Fall Festival booth, Sept. 8 & 9**. Your help is needed to sell the dog biscuits we baked to raise funds for a therapy dog organization. **Sign up today!**

**Fri. Sept. 8, 6pm** during the Fall Fest you and your friends are invited, rain or shine, to Steve and Sheila Poyser’s farm, 13178 CR 14, for a **Corn Crib Party**. Fellowship, bonfire, s’mores, hayrides, hilltop viewing of Essenhaus fireworks—what could be better?! RSVP to Sheila to purchase a delicious smoked pork chop dinner to be picked up ahead of time at the fire station.

**Pastor Debbie’s last day** with us is **Sept. 10**. To bid her a fond farewell, we will make **Stone Soup** during fellowship time that Sunday and eat it with a **potluck** meal together. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for needed veggies. Please bring a dessert or side dish to share.

**Parking attendants and ushers** are needed for the **Northern Indiana District Conference** this fall (**Sept. 16**). Please see Don Anderson to volunteer.