



For children 6 years and under, we have a play area along the back wall to your left as you enter the sanctuary. Please sit close to supervise children you bring. Clipboards with activities are available for children of all ages – ask an usher.

To access our livestreamed service use this link:

<https://youtube.com/@PEASE507> or go to www.mcob.org, click on **LIVESTREAM: Watch the Service Live** or **YouTube icon**. 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 at www.mcob.org. **Find us on Facebook** at Middlebury Church of the Brethren.

Our Mission Statement

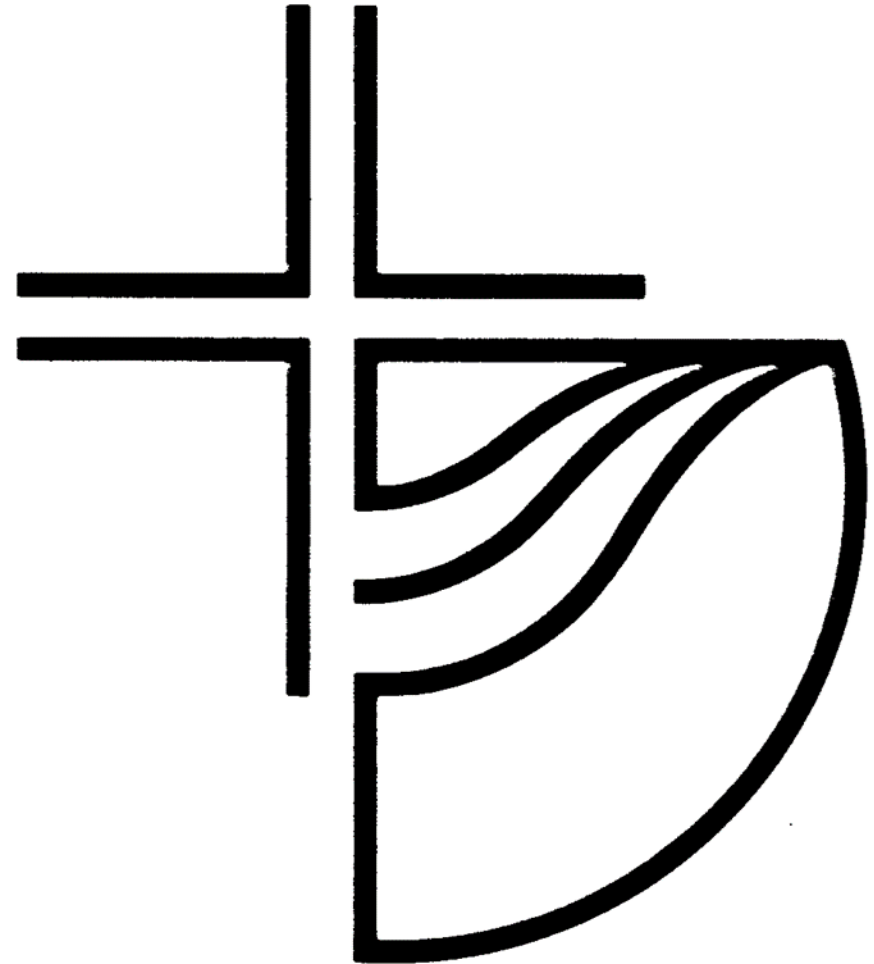
Believe God's Word. Live Christ's teaching.
Grow spiritually and share God's love, peace, hope and joy.

Middlebury Church of the Brethren

**507 Bristol Ave.
Middlebury, IN 46540
574-825-2955
mcob@mcob.org**

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



September 8, 2024

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

Worship—9:00am Fellowship—10:15am Sunday School—10:45am

September 8, 2024

We are all going to have favorites – things we prefer or people we connect with more easily – but James warns us about playing favorites. That is, when we favor some and reject others, especially along the lines of social stature or social acceptability, we have lost sight of God's way of inclusion and equity.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (responsively) adapted from Psalm 46

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

**People: *Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;***

Leader: who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

**People: *The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;***

Leader: The Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
and upholds the orphan and the widow.

**People: *The Lord will reign forever –
your God for all generations.
Praise the Lord!***

Opening Prayer

***Hymn of Praise** Joyful, joyful, we adore thee #71

Offering Invitation and Prayer

An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary for your gifts.

The Community Prays Together

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

One: In your mercy Lord

Many: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading James 2:1-10, 14-17 N.T. p. 229

Hymn of Faith The church of Christ cannot be bound insert

Message Playing favorites?

Moments of Silent Reflection

***Hymn of Witness** Will you let me be your servant #307

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

“The church of Christ cannot be bound” is #392 in *Voices Together*, used with permission, OneLicense #95081.

Preacher – Kurt Borgmann

Worship Leader – Renee Black

Pianist – Lorie Copeland

Flautist – Sherry Bickel

Guitarist – Jill Weaver

Ushers – Don Muhnickel & Dalis Andrews

Greeters – Julie Bontrager & Kent Bailey

Audio/Visual Support – Mark Roebuck, William Coffey, Matt Weaver, Jacob Cripe

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

Office Hours

Pastor Kurt: Wednesday and Friday, 9am-noon

Treasurer / Daycare Business Manager Lorie:

Monday through Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm

Office Manager Colleen: Wednesday through Friday, 9am-2pm

Bulletins are printed on Friday and cannot be adjusted after that. Please know that emails and voicemails that come into the office Saturday through Tuesday will not be seen until Wednesday.

Happening this Week

- Little Lites Grandparents Day: Tuesday, 9am in fellowship hall
- Book study: Wednesday, 10am in conference room
- Blood Drive: Wednesday, 2-6:30pm in fellowship hall
- Bonfire/hayride/carry-in: Saturday, 4pm at Poyser farm

Upcoming in Worship

September 15: “Taming the tongue” James 3:1-12

Sunday School Schedule Upcoming

Beginning September 1: *The Wired Word*, taught by Don Anderson

Announcements

Inspired, by Rachel Held Evans, will be the focus of a **weekly book study** led by Renee Black and Julie Bontrager, starting **Wednesday, September 11 at 10am** in the conference room. Books can be ordered on Amazon.com for the current price of \$11.19 apiece. If you are unable to purchase a book online, talk to Renee.

Blood Drive will take place here **Wednesday, September 11**, 2-6:30pm. Spread the word, and sign up to donate!

Fellowship and fun with Goshen City CoB! Saturday, September 14, 4pm at the **Poyser Farm** promises to be a good time featuring a **carry-in, bonfire, and hayrides. Bring food to share and a lawn chair.** Plan now to attend!

The quarterly denominational **Mission Offering** will take place **next Sunday, September 15**. An information card and envelope are in your church mailbox.

The **Sewing/Craft Group** will resume, meeting the **2nd Wednesday of each month**, starting September 18 (the *3rd Wednesday*, just for this month), at 1pm. Planning will be the focus of the first meeting, with service projects and banner making being considered. Join the fun! Contact Bev Short for more information.