



**THE MIDDLEPORT
COMMUNITY CHOIRS**
www.MiddleportCommunityChoir.com
FALL 2026 HANDBOOK



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Fall 2026 Performance Date:

- December 5 @ 4pm – Middleport United Methodist Church

Theme for Fall 2026

“Tell me the story of Christmas”

This year's Christmas program brings together music we have sung and loved over the years, as well as some new ones, to create a new telling of the Christmas story. Rather than presenting a traditional cantata, we will weave these familiar pieces together with an original narration featuring two voices: an adult storyteller and a younger person who simply begins by asking, “Tell me the story of Christmas.” As the story moves from the ancient longing for a Messiah through Mary, Bethlehem, the angels, shepherds, and wise men, the younger voice's questions gradually become deeper: Why do we continue telling this story after more than two thousand years, and what does it ask of us today? Along the way, our handbell choir will become part of the storytelling as well, and ultimately join the choir in celebration. At its heart, the program is about more than remembering what happened at Christmas—it is about the way this story has been passed from one generation to the next, and the responsibility each generation has to carry its message of hope, peace, love, and light into the world.

Program: (in order)

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	arr. Marianne Forman
Creation Will Be at Peace	Anna Laura Page & J. Paul Williams
Mary Did You Know?	arr. Craig Courtney
When salvation was born	Susan Naylor Callaway
Night of Wonder	Karen E. Black
Christmas Gloria	Jay Althouse
Do You Hear What I Hear?	arr. Harry Simeone
We Three Kings	arr. Craig Courtney
Shine for You	Ruth Elaine Schram
Ding Dong! Merrily on High	arr. Joel Raney

Website:

www.MiddleportCommunityChoir.com

- Check out the MEMBERS page to find rehearsal recordings
- Announcements, rehearsal recordings and member contact information will be available on the member page.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Rehearsals occur every Thursday and will begin promptly at 6:15 PM and end at 7:45 PM
- Please bring a pencil to every rehearsal. It is beneficial to keep it in your folder at all times. Please use pencils, not pens or highlighters. The music will be used again and the emphasis and directions may change. Please, no pen marks.
- During rehearsal time, please stay focused on what we are doing
- Please save business matters until after the rehearsal is completed
- Please do not rehearse (sing or hum) your part when I am working with another section. It is distracting to me and the other members.

- Please be aware that many people are sensitive or allergic to strong scents. The deep breathing that accompanies singing worsens when exposed to strong perfumes and other personal products.

Band App:

We will continue to incorporate the band app. It is very important that every member joins this list as this will be our main tool for communication. If you joined last season, you DO NOT need to sign up again.

You can join by accessing this link: <https://band.us/n/aaa1bclcd0Tb6>

Or, even easier, scan this QR code:



Music & Dues

- Semester dues are \$25. Checks are payable to **MIDDLEPORT COMMUNITY CHOIRS**
- Everyone should have a **black binder or music folder**.
 - We recently had some beautiful black binders donated to the choir. If you did not receive one, and would like one, please let us know.
 - If you need to purchase a quality choral folder, we recommend MusicFolder.com. Many of our members use their DELUXE BLACK FOLDER with the removeable 3-ring adapter.

CDs & Flash Drives

If you would prefer to have a CD or flash drive to listen and rehearse with, please sign-up and Ric will make a copy for you. Cds are \$2 each and flash drives are \$5 each. Or you can provide Ric with a flash drive and he will add the files at no cost.

Proper Dress for our December performance:

The Middleport Community Choir maintains a professional image. Part of that is uniformity in attire. Please plan accordingly now. Every member is expected to wear the dress below:

Women - all black; Blouse, pants or long skirt, or dress.

Men – black suit (black slacks, black coat, white shirt, black tie)

Important Dates

October 8 – no rehearsal

November 26 – no rehearsal

December 3 – dress rehearsal with Handbells

December 5 – Performance @ 4 pm. Call @ 3 pm.

Music Library:

Darrel Oakes handles the Librarian duties for the Middleport Community Choir. Please see him regarding any music needs. Additionally, if you still are in possession of Middleport Choir music, please return it to Darrel.

Contact:

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or problems. I am available by phone, text, or email. Text messages or via the band App are the best for a quick response.