

First Mennonite Church

Middlebury, Indiana

(574) 825-5135 www.firstmennonite.net

Worship 9:00 a.m. -- Sunday School 10:20 a.m.

Transitional Lead Pastor: Gary Martin

Elders: Dean R. Miller, Maribeth Rhodes, Merle Mullet, Chris Blough, Ron Rheinheimer

“Welcoming the Unexpected”

Advent 1: November 27, 2011 “Learning to Pay Attention”

We long for dramatic revelations of God, but God often enters our lives in unexpected ways that catch us unaware if we aren't alert and watching. Even small moments can be vessels of God's awesome deeds. God is near—so keep awake and pay attention!

Worship Leader: Maribeth Rhodes

Song Leader: Dale Schlabach

Opening Hymn: #184 Hark! The glad sound

Welcome and Announcements

Hymns of the Advent Season: #178 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
#182 Oh, how shall I receive thee

Focus for Worship:

Leader: Get up! Pay attention and prepare to follow.

People: The Shepherd of Israel leads us like a flock.

Leader: Get up! God's face is about to shine upon you.

People: No ear has heard nor eye seen God's full glory!

Leader: Get up! God's salvation is near.

People: The mighty One tears open the heavens and comes down.

Tithes and Offering

Children's Story: Sonya Miller (Jesus Loves Me)

Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 64:1-9

Message: “Downloading the Divine” – Gary Martin

Hymn of Response

Moment in Mission: Weldon Friesen

Dismissal of Bible Memory Participants

Sharing Time and Prayer: Dean Miller

Benediction:

Leader: Go into the world, awake and aware of God's presence!

People: We go into the world, listening for God's voice.

Leader: Go into the world, watching for the activity in God's kingdom!

People: We go into the world, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Leader: Go into the world, receiving the hope of salvation!

People: We go into the world, reflecting the Spirit's radiance.

Sending Song

During the season of Advent, we will be blessed by a liturgical dance presented by three young ladies from our congregation. In anticipation of the joyous arrival of Jesus, they will dance to “Joy to the World”, adding a verse to the song each week. In keeping with the element of surprise, as Jesus did not come as expected, they will appear in a different part of the service each week, as will the arrival of the Advent candles. BE ALERT! You won't want to miss any part of our services! KEEP AWAKE! What awesome surprises will God have for us this season? Let's be watching for them and prepare to share them each week!



Welcome Visitors!

Welcome to all of you who are visiting us today!

Coffee and tea are served in the kitchen following worship. Sunday school is offered for adults in our fellowship hall and sanctuary; for all youth and children in the basement. Nursery care is available during our worship service and Sunday school hour. Children's bulletins are also available on the ledge just outside the sanctuary. May you have a meaningful time of worship and fellowship.

Sermon Notes

1. Jerusalem had been waiting for hundreds of years for homeland security: "God, where are you?"
2. What can hinder us from recognizing God's presence? (Isaiah 64)
 - v. 3 Have I forgotten that God worked in unexpected ways in the past?
 - v. 5 Am I following in God's ways?
 - v. 8 Am I in the potter's seat or on the potter's wheel?
 - v. 11 Am I focused on "pleasant places" in the past?
Am I focused on *when* God is coming? (Mark 13:24-37)
3. God says: "I've been here all the time. Your attitudes and perspectives need adjusting, not mine."
4. The straight story: it's the long journey which includes challenges and requires patience, which makes arriving so meaningful. May it become our story, this Advent.

Daily Advent meditations written by Goshen College faculty, staff and students and based on the texts and themes we are following at FMC, are available at <http://blog.goshen.edu/devotions/subscribe>.

This Week At First Mennonite

Today	5:00 p.m.	Searchers, Navigators, MYF Game Night: Bring snacks and games.
Tuesday	5:00-7:00 p.m.	JYF and MYF Meal Prep
Wednesday	5:45-6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Meal Hosts: JYF and MYF
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Memory in Kids' Room
	7:00 p.m.	Service of Remembrance
Thursday	6:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast at Essenhaus
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Friday	5:00 - ???	Ladies Night In

Upcoming Events at FMC

As we anticipate the holiday time of year, the annual Service of Remembrance will be November 30 at 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have passed away this year and in past years. The service will include scripture, stories, song, and the lighting of candles. You are encouraged to invite family and friends to participate in this experience.

Ladies Night In: Our next gathering will be Friday, December 2 from 5:00-???. In honor of the holiday season, please plan to bring a white elephant gift along with your usual crafts, projects, and snacks. Also, if you are able, please bring \$5.00 to give to the Amish family Jan Yoder spoke of last week. Finally, for ease of planning, it has been decided that LNI will always be the first Friday of each month.

On Sunday, December 4, the Searchers class is hosting a Potato Bar fundraiser after Sunday school. All donations received will be given to Menno-Hof. Please plan to attend and enjoy a hot potato and a delicious dessert!

The Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, at 4:00 pm. This year's program is entitled, "A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S". Plan to attend and bring finger foods to share afterward.

News and Announcements

The MYF is now selling Live Wreaths & Poinsettias! The 22"-24" wreaths come undecorated & decorated. The poinsettias are florist quality and come in 6" & 8" pots. The poinsettia color choices are red, white, and pink. Delivery will be the first week in December. The MYF will be taking orders in the foyer after church and then again after Sunday School. Today is the last day to order. Payment for these is due before November 30th.

FMW Reminder: This month's project is to purchase fruit for the fruit trees delivered to the shut-ins.

News and Announcements

Would you like to see “The Glory and Majesty of Christmas” at the Blue Gate on Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 pm? If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. The cost will be \$19.00 per ticket if we have a group of 25 or more. A drawing will be held to give two **FREE** tickets away to two lucky winners on the sign up. Do not miss this fun and enjoyable evening!

I would like to send out a HUGE thank you to everyone who remembered my birthday last week! Never have I received so many cards, gifts, and well wishes for my birthday and cannot express how special you made me feel! I am truly blessed by my FMC family!
--Angela Blough

A HUMONGOUS “THANK YOU” from the preschool to everyone who supported our gourmet dips fundraiser! We sold a total of 505 packages and profited \$1,010.00. This will help our operating budget and our tuition scholarships.

Please check hallway bulletin board for additional announcements!

Nursery Helpers

Today: Church – Joe and Patti Keller
Sunday School – Jim and Arlene Schrock
Next Sunday: Church – Nancy and Leah Bontreger
Sunday School – Mike and Amy Ritchie

Stewardship Report for November 20

Attendance: 190 Sunday School: 145
Offering: \$6433.00 ~ Designated: \$1165.00 ~ Total: \$7598.00

Second Sunday in Advent at First: A Gift Receiving Guide December 4, 2011

Theme: Repentance raises valleys, lower hills, and challenges the ways we're accustomed to living. Are we ready for things to be different, to let God's coming alter the landscape of our lives?

Texts: Psalm 85:1-13; Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Sermon: "Repentance Alters the Landscape"

Reflection Questions:

1. Are we ready for things to be different?
 2. Do we really want God to change our lives, and congregational life?
 3. When is the last time God surprised me? Our congregation?
 4. Am I looking for God in all the wrong places?"
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