

First Mennonite Church

Middlebury, Indiana

(574) 825-5135 www.firstmennonite.net

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Transitional Lead Pastor: Gary Martin

Elders: Dean R. Miller (596-1995), Maribeth Rhodes (825-9672),
Merle Mullett (596-7362), Chris Blough (520-6732),
Ron Rheinheimer (596-0660)

“Welcoming the Unexpected”

Epiphany Sunday: January 1, 2012 “Embracing A Wide Body”

God comes into the world to bring life to all humankind. When the Light of God shines through us, people *will* be drawn—from all sorts of backgrounds and places. How do we prepare to welcome and embrace a “body” that is wider than we’d dared to imagine?

Worship Leader: Brad Miller

Song Leader: Maribeth Rhodes

Worship Team

Welcome and Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us arise and shine, for our light has come

People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Where once darkness covered the earth,

People: people stream to the brightness of a new dawning.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around!

People: We will see and be radiant.

All: Our hearts thrill and rejoice, for the light has come!

Worship Team

Recognition of January Birthdays

God’s Work Among Us

Tithes and Offering

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew

Message: “Through the Church” – Gary Martin

Hymn of Response: #218 As With Gladness Men of Old

Sharing Time and Prayer: Merle Mullett

Blessing:

Leader: This grace has been given to us:
to reveal the mystery hidden for ages,

People: so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might be made known.

All: Our light has come! Let us share what we have received with boldness and confidence.

Sending Song: #210 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (verse 3)



Welcome Visitors!

Welcome to all of you who are visiting us today!

Children’s bulletins are available on the ledge just outside the sanctuary. May you have a meaningful time of worship and fellowship.

Sermon Notes

1. People form clans.
2. God had a plan: break down barriers that divide. Eph. 2:14; 3:1-4
3. Isaiah foretold it. Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:5
4. The wise men symbolized it. Mt. 12:1-12
5. Jesus fleshed it out. Eph. 2:11-22
6. Paul proclaimed it...everywhere, in all his letters! Eph. 3:10
Through the church, the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
7. The church informs “the powers” of the wisdom of God by...
 - being the church: a community of diverse folk
 - doing the work of the church: breaking down barriers
 - possessing a bold and confident faith in Jesus.

Reflection: Are there “shades” to be lifted in congregational life so the Light of Christ is visible to all peoples?

Nursery Helpers

Today: Church – Kelly Kurtz and Michelle Mullet
Sunday School – No Sunday School
Next Sunday: Church – Rick and Dawn Miller
Sunday School – Kevin and Jenny Miller

This Week At First Mennonite

Wednesday	5:45-6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Meal
		Hosts: Maranatha
	6:00 p.m.	POPS Board Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Move MYF!!! <u>HELP WANTED</u>, please see sign up on bulletin board.
Thursday	6:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast - Essenhous
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Friday	5:00 p.m.-???	Ladies Night In
Next Sunday	10:20 a.m.	Congregational Meeting

Upcoming Events at FMC

FMC Holiday Office Schedule: The church office will be closed Monday, January 2 in observance of the holiday and so Angela can recover! ☺

Ladies Night In: January 6, 2011 will be our next evening together. Ladies, if you have never joined us, there is no time like the present! You can come any time after 5:00 pm, bring snacks, and a project to work on. T-shirt designs will be presented!

A congregational meeting is scheduled for January 8, at 10:20 a.m. to present and respond to a proposal for transitional congregational priorities through Easter. Adult S.S. classes will not meet. The Elders and a Transitional Task Group (Merle Mullet, Jared Beasley, Bernie Miller, and Dennis Rheinheimer) are preparing the proposal.



News and Announcements

A new small group is forming for individuals who are both looking for support for any life situation and are also willing to be supportive to others. The group will begin by telling life stories, and will also help each other discern passion, spiritual gift and calling. If you are interested or have questions, contact Gary Martin (825-5135 or 533-0926 or gary@firstmennonite.net) as soon as possible since “seats are limited!” When enough have inquired, an exploratory meeting will be scheduled at a time which works for all. The group will likely meet twice a month, evaluate group life every three months, and end when the group decides to end.

A message from Gary Martin: If you need to reach me, please call the church at 825-5135 or my home at 533-0926. E-mail can often be just as quick: gary@firstmennonite.net. Regular office hours will be announced next Sunday. *We encourage everyone to contact any of the Elders or Gary whenever there is a pastoral care need, surgery scheduled, or a prayer concern.*

A group is being formed to travel down south for a service/work project January 14-21. If you are interested in sharing your talents while working in some warmer weather, please contact Jason Riegsecker or Glenn Weaver.

The FMW project for December is to pack MCC Health Kits. Each kit requires 1 toothbrush (adult size, leave in wrapper), 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (minimum 6oz, leave in box), 1 large bar bath soap, 1 fingernail clipper, and 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color). Please place all donations outside the church office.

Thanks to all of you who came and supported Benjamin Miller and Mission Year at the fundraising meal Wednesday night.



Because the Mission Commission gave seed money to pay for the food, all the proceeds went directly to Mission Year. \$1000.00 was raised! Benjamin is grateful!

Please check hallway bulletin board for additional announcements!

Stewardship Report for December 25

Attendance: 168 Sunday School: no class

Offering: \$4426.00 ~ Designated: \$420.00 ~ Total: \$4846.00

Looking Ahead to Next Week

“Gleaning Right” mini-series begins January 8

God is there, God cares, God provides...and yet our decisions can impact how we recognize or experience God's grace. Ruth's sister Orpah will be with us next Sunday. To prepare, read Mark 1:16-20, and The book of Ruth. Copies of Ruth in the Contemporary English Version are available on the ledge outside the sanctuary.

Questions for reflection:

1. Were “Elimelech type” decisions made which took your family far away from their comfort zones?
2. Have you ever felt abandoned by a loved one who died, whether literally or figuratively when they became emotionally distant or unavailable in other ways?
3. Have you endured gossip from the community: people making up details about your story because they didn't take time to get to know you?
4. Have you or the congregation avoided less traveled roads in the past? At what cost? How can we encourage each other as the body of Christ to make less traveled road decisions?