

# *First Mennonite Church*

*Middlebury, Indiana*

*January 29, 2012 9:00 a.m. Worship*

## ***A January Journey with Ruth***

God Cares and provides. What will we decide?

### **Gathering in God's Presence**

**Gathering Songs with the Worship Team**

**God's Work Among Us**

**Focus on Worship**

**Gathering Prayer**

### **Praising Jesus' Name**

**In Song with the Worship Team**

**With Our Tithes and Offerings**

### **Hearing the Word**

**Gospel Readings:**

Mark 1: 35-39, Romans 12:1-6

**Children's Time**

**Old Testament Reflection:** Ruth

**Sermon:** "Three Strikes and Ruth's Babe"

### **Receiving God's Grace**

**Confession and Words of Assurance:**

Merciful God, we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive what we have been, accept us as we are, and guide what we shall be. Amen.

**Response Song:** God of the Bible (SJ #27)

**Dismissal of Bible Memory Participants**

**Sharing Time and Prayer**

### **Sent in the Power of the Holy Spirit**

**Sending Words**

**Sending Song:** Come, Come Ye Saints (H#425)

### **Assisting In Worship**

Worship Leader: Cheryl Miller

Song Leader: Maribeth Rhodes

Musicians: Worship Team

Scripture: Derek Yoder

Children's Time: Monica Beachy and Jen Bontrager

Ruth Monologue: Leah Bontreger

Sermon: Gary Martin

Sharing Time: Chris Blough

Visuals: Cheryl Miller, Sharon Wyse, and Erika Riegsecker

Sound: Phil Miller, Danny Ritchie, and Bert Yoder

Computer: Kelly Kurtz and Linda Young



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.

### **Nursery Helpers**

**Today:** Church – Eva Kurtz and Judy Oesch

Sunday School – Dale and Shirley Riegsecker

**Next Sunday:** Church – Kevin and Jenny Miller

Sunday School – Steve and Shelley Bontrager

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### **Stewardship Report for January 22**

Attendance: 179 Sunday School: 141

Offering: \$7629.01 ~ Designated: \$1070.00 ~ Total: \$8699.01

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## Sermon Notes

1. Most considered Ruth “called out on strikes”:  
Strike #1:  
Strike #2:  
Strike #3:
2. Ruth valued what she could \_\_\_\_\_ by being in \_\_\_\_\_ with people who were \_\_\_\_\_ from her.
3. Ruth did not allow the \_\_\_\_\_ to squeeze her into its \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. (Rom. 12:2)*
4. Would you know a Ruth if you saw one? Might the Holy Spirit bring us new life through the folk we tend to call out on strikes?

### **Reflecting on the entire Ruth story:**

God cares and provides what we need. Our choices can affect how God's love flows into our lives. Transitional period themes include:

1. **Intentionality:** decide to participate. Orpah *chose* the default mode, and was left out.
2. **Healing:** pray for personal and congregational renewal. Naomi *chose* to be emotionally honest with God and experienced healing and wholeness.
3. **Humility:** set ego aside; put the community's welfare first. Boaz *chose* to do the right thing.
- 4 **Welcome the stranger:** “outsiders” can be God's gift to us! Ruth *chose* to refuse to allow society to call her out on strikes, and became a vessel through which God brought Abundant Life to the world.

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



**Administrative Assistant:** Angela Blough 825-5135  
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**Transitional Lead Pastor:** Gary Martin 533-0926  
gary@firstmennonite.net

# Gleaning Right



## *This Week At First Mennonite*

Today	5:30 p.m.	<b>Guess Who's Coming for Dessert</b>
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	<b>Video "Against Great Odds"</b>
Wednesday	5:30-6:30 p.m.	<b>Wednesday Evening Meal</b> <b>Hosts: Good Samaritans</b>
	6:45-7:45 p.m.	<b>Passion/Spiritual Gifts Part 1</b>
Thursday	6:00 a.m.	<b>Men's Prayer Breakfast - Essenhous</b>
	Morning	<b>FMW - Quilting Only</b>
	7:00 p.m.	<b>Church Council</b>
Friday	5:00-???	<b>Ladies Night In</b>
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Conflict Transformation Sem. Part 1</b>
	10:20 a.m.	<b>Conflict Transformation Sem. Part 2</b>

## *Upcoming Events at FMC*

**This Wednesday, February 1, 6:45p.m.:** *"Find out what the Lord wants you to do! (Eph. 5:17)* It's unlikely that anyone will leave with clarity about this, but we will begin an intentional process of helping each other discern our Holy Spirit given passion, spiritual gift, personal style and calling. The first session is about PASSION: *the Spirit-given desire that compels us to make a difference in a particular ministry.* Your passion can be for a people group or a cause, or any combination of the two. What concern that could make a Kingdom difference, can keep you talking late into the night?! The session starts with a video you won't want to miss, about "Pastor Bob."

**Watch for "Life at First" coming this Wednesday!** This weekly newsletter will eventually be the primary source for all FMC information, leaving the Sunday bulletin focused primarily on worship. Most of you will receive this via email, others postal mail, and for those of you choosing to pick up a copy at the church, a stack will be placed on a shelf under the mailboxes. Please help yourself!

**Our next Ladies Night In will take place Friday, February 3.** Come any time after 5:00 pm. Don't forget to bring your projects and snacks! We hope to see lots of you there!

**GMSA:** On Wednesday, February 8 (6:45-7:45 pm) we will be meeting in the classroom beside the supply room. We will be making Valentine cards and gift bags. Plan now to attend!!!

## *News and Announcements*

**All CD recordings and Transitional Papers can be found on the display pillar beside the elevator lift.** Please help yourself to any copies you may have missed or would like to review. Also, please thank **Ed Laber** for constructing us such a wonderful CD display case!!!

**MYF Fundraisers:** The MYF will be having monthly fundraisers to help cover the cost of their international trip and future events. Currently, the MYF is selling three items: Subs for Super Bowl Sunday, Tupperware, and Air Fresheners. The MYFers have been asked to approach 15 individuals regarding these fundraisers. Please be aware that they are coming and help them out if you can!

**Attention Campers:** Would you like to join the FMC Campers at Amigo Park this year? Please pick up a yellow sign-up sheet on the ledge outside the sanctuary today. Past campers, please update your contact information with Shari Graber as soon as possible.

**Gospel Echoes Read-a-Thon:** Kids, if you would like to participate in this fundraiser for Gospel Echoes prison ministry, please see Shelley Bontrager in the Kids Room today after church. For those of you that have already signed up, please remember turn in your permission slips to Shelley. The reading begins this Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>!

**Wanted: ANYONE who has an interest in participating in Sunday worship with music.** Whether vocal/instrumental, young/old, beginner/accomplished, full-time/or occasional, you are welcome. The only criterion is that you have an interest in participating with music. Please see the new Music section of the hallway bulletin board for a sign-up sheet.

**The FMW project for this month is to donate blankets to LaCasa.** The blankets can be either twin or full size. All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated! Please place all blankets in the box outside the church office.

## *News and Announcements*

### **Check out the updated Missions bulletin board in the hallway!**

Recent newsletters have been added from both the Denlingers who are coming to speak on March 4, and the Lindell Detweilers who will be coming in July. Take a moment to catch up on the lives of these missionaries.

### **Pleasant Oaks Preschool is pre-registering students for the 2012-13 school year.**

This pre-registration is for families with children currently enrolled or have had children previously in our program. It is also for our church families. All church families receive a 10% discount on tuition. There is a non-refundable \$20 pre-registration fee due at the time of registration. If you would like pre-registration papers, please contact Angela in the church office. Open enrollment for the general public will begin in early February.

**Quilting for Bethany's Benefit Auction:** Bethany Christian Schools has set up a quilt at the school for friends to help quilt for its Benefit Auction on March 23. Come Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m. or anytime 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and invite others to join you. Check in at the office upon arrival. If you would like to stay for a complimentary lunch, call the school in advance at 534-2567.

**Bethany's auction will be held March 23.** Please notify Ron and Kris Rheinheimer of any contributions you intend to donate by February 13 for inclusion in the catalog.

**Men's Gloves Needed!** The Window in Goshen is desperately in need of men's gloves. If you can help, please drop off all donations at the Window. Thank you!

**Bethany Christian Schools invites applications for the position of maintenance director.** with responsibility for overseeing general maintenance of the facilities, mechanical systems, and vehicles and controlling the building management system. Starting date: as soon as the position is filled. To apply please complete an application, which is available on Bethany's website ([www.bethanycs.net](http://www.bethanycs.net)) or at the school office. For information, call principal Allan Dueck at 534-2567.

## *News and Announcements*

### **"75 Hours with The Book" at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary:**

The AMBS community invites area church members to join in reading aloud through the entire Bible, between Friday, Feb. 3, and Tuesday, Feb. 7. Readers will gather in the Chapel of the Word in Waltner Hall and will read in the language or version they prefer. We encourage youth groups, small groups, friends and families to sign up and read together. Times are available at all hours except between 2:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. To sign up as an individual or group and select your preferred time, contact Campus Pastor Janeen Bertsche Johnson at 296-6216 or [bjohnson@ambs.edu](mailto:bjohnson@ambs.edu).

### **You're invited to the 2012 Celebrate MCC Gathering with MCC Great Lakes!**

The two-day event will take place on February 24-25 at Berlin Mennonite Church (4718 US Rte. 62 E., Berlin, OH 44610). Join fellow MCC supporters from across the region as we explore MCC's theme of "Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ." For more information please see the hallway bulletin board or call the MCC Great Lakes Office at (574) 534-4133 or register online at [greatlakes.mcc.org/annualgathering](http://greatlakes.mcc.org/annualgathering).

## *Looking Ahead to Next Week*

### **Next Sunday, February 5: Conflict Transformation Seminar**

Part 1 is our worship service focused on Jesus teaching his followers about resolving their differences. The sermon, "Dealing Direct" is based on Mt. 18:15-20.

Part 2 is a combined adult/MYF/JYF Sunday School class led by Pat Martin, entitled "Listening Skills"

Part 3, "Communication & Conflict Transformation Skills" is offered three times: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb 8, 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, Feb., 12, 10:20 a.m. (an optional S.S. class)

All three sessions provide practical help for communicating in all of our relationships: family, marriage, church, and workplace!

## Milepost 76

## Missions and Missional

Luke makes it clear early in Acts that the early church was staying closely connected in two arenas of the Christian life: with the Holy Spirit and with each other. In Acts 11:19-20, Luke tells how the early church finally began to flourish in the third relationship arena: those beyond the body of Christ.

*Some of the Lord's followers had been scattered when Stephen was killed. They went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, but **they told the message only to Jews**. Some of the followers from Cyprus, and Cyrene went to Antioch and **started telling Gentiles the good news about the Lord Jesus**.*

Somewhere Jesus' followers got the idea they should only tell Jews about Jesus—people who were like them. Mennonites followed this pattern: we started churches for ourselves when enough of us moved to an area. It all broke loose in the First Century church when “outsider” Jewish believers from Cyprus and Cyrene (Africa!) started telling the Good News to Gentiles in Antioch. Isn't it just like an outsider to not follow the rules?!

There were so many new gentile believers at Antioch that church leaders found themselves in a conflict. Yes, evangelism does create problems: the kind of problems the church needs! In Acts 15, some leaders insisted that Gentile believers be circumcised: “That is what the Bible says, and that's the way we've always done it.” Other leaders said, “No that's our own cultural stuff: we should not require circumcision.” Fortunately, the fresh new winds of the Holy Spirit prevailed.

Jesus set a clear example: he welcomed everyone, and especially *broken* people into the Kingdom. He said: *Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. I didn't come to invite good people to turn to God, I came to invite sinners.* Luke 5:31.

We have understood missions as sending money to ministries around the world, so that others hear the good news, are fed, healed and set free. Missions are also about doing the same in our own community. But Jesus calls us to more than that: intentional and strategic inviting, welcoming, including and assimilating new believers into local congregations. Many will be hurting people, who at first appear to be different from us. As we allow them to share their pain with us, we will discover our own deep, unhealed hurts. And in the process, we will discover that they are not different, but not because they have changed to become like us. They are no longer different because *we have changed* to become like them! We will have

dropped our masks, and acknowledged that we too are broken, lonely, discouraged, or confused.

It's a radical, but very biblical concept. Churches become healthy by bringing broken people into the congregation. The very thing we tend to fear (outsiders and the change they will bring) is God's way of bringing healing into our own lives.

We are concerned that our youth not abuse alcohol or drugs, or engage in other self-destructive behaviors. I have experienced the powerful message that comes through to youth when broken people with visible “scars” resulting from bad choices in the past, find healing and wholeness in Christ and become an integral part of a congregation.

When outreach is limited to ministries “out there,” a congregation can avoid the conflicts the early church experienced because it won't have to deal with accepting people who are different. But when a church is not dealing with conflicts resulting from being missional, it will get into conflicts over trivial matters. Our own healing and wholeness depends on opening congregational life to many others, whom we will increasingly discover are just like us, because we are all recovering sinners.