LIFE @ FIRST

Our mission is to extend grace, build peace, and share love within and beyond our faith community.

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 48 DECEMBER 13, 2017

ON THE JOURNEY

SMILE: *The most destructive habit……Worry*
The greatest joy……Giving
The greatest loss……Loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work……Helping others
The ugliest personality trait……Selfishness
The most endangered species……Dedicated leaders
Our greatest natural resource……Our Youth
The greatest "shot in the arm"……Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome……Fear
The most effective sleeping pill……Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease……Excuses
The most powerful force in life……Love
The most dangerous pariah……A gossiper
The world's most incredible computer……The brain
The worst thing to be without……Hope
The deadliest weapon……The tongue
The two most power-filled words……"I can"
The greatest asset……Faith
The most worthless emotion……Self-pity
The most beautiful attire……SMILE!
The most prized possession……Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication……Prayer
The most contagious spirit……Enthusiasm

Everyone needs this list to live by….pass it along!!!!

CALENDAR		
Wed 12/13	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
		Wed. Eve. Meal Cancelled
Thur 12/14	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
Sun 12/17	**9:00 am**	**Carry-In Breakfast**
	10:00 am	Kent Preaching **(no S.S.)**
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 12/18	12:00 pm	Blood Drive
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 12/19	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 12/20	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
		No Wed. Evening Meal
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
Sun 12/24	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	8:00 pm	**Christmas Eve Service**
Mon 12/25		**Office Closed**
Tues 12/26		**Office Closed**
Wed 12/27	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:00 pm	Outreach Commission
		No Wed. Evening Meal

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
(Kent's daily schedule varies; you may want to call ahead.)
Closed Friday

- **All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.**

***The office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and 26th.**

December Birthdays
Levi Mast – 13
Lloyd Troyer – 14
Terry Rheinheimer – 15
Carah Christner – 16
Gary Miller – 16
Betty Birky – 17
Curt Troyer – 19
Bobbie J. Werker - 21
Jay Christner – 23
Loretta Troyer – 23
Fannie Hochstetler – 24
Wilbur Schlabach – 24
Nate Wyse – 25
Kim Christner – 26
Brandon Graber - 29

WORSHIP

Focus statement: Rejoicing in God's comfort, we catch God's vision of shalom. We choose to join the Spirit that is already at work restoring creation.
Background scriptures: Luke 1:46-55

Coffee Prep Volunteers
This Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer
Next Sunday: Cheryl Miller

Welcome Center
This Sunday: Karen Pletcher
Next Sunday: Sam & Verna Weirich

This Sunday will be our carry-in Christmas breakfast at 9:00, with the service starting at 10:00. There will be no Sunday school that morning. Also, each class can determine if you want to have Sunday School on December 24th and 31st. Please note the Christmas Eve service on Sunday evening, December 24th, at 8:00 PM. We invite volunteers to share a special Christmas memory at that service.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for December 10:
Money Given to Budget $7,896.00
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget $5,860.76
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget $85,150.20
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget $87,911.40

The 1st quarter treasurer's report is attached to the newsletter. Copies are also on the shelf below the mailboxes.

From the Board: Conversation and work with Phil Yoder has continued. Most of the meeting was spent going over responses from the congregational meeting concerning the conference's vision. We will continue to sort through those and find some similar themes that run through. This will be brought back to the congregation.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Last night, as Jake & Leah were traveling to Florida for the winter, they stopped at a hotel in Winchester, Tennessee for the night. As they were entering the hotel, Leah tripped and fell hitting her head, which required several stitches, but she also broke her leg, just below her hip. The break will require surgery, however, due to the blood thinners Leah is currently taking they will need to wait a few days for surgery. Kent will keep us updated on more details as they are available. Let's be in prayer for Leah and Jake, and their family, as they wait patiently and walk this path before them. She is at Winchester Hospital, 185 Hospital Rd., Winchester, TN 37398 Phone: 931-967-8200

Emma Mennonite Church's Men's Chorus will present their 6th annual Christmas program - "Let the Whole World Know" - Sunday, December 17, at their home church in Emma Town (1900 S 600 W, Topeka). The program will include several other musical treats as well. Finger food will be served following the 6:30 program. For directions or for more information, go to www.emmamc.org or call 260-593-2036.

The Michiana Shape Note Singers will host a singing from the Harmonia Sacra, Joseph Funk's shape note tune book, on Monday, New Year's Day, January 1, 2018 at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart Indiana. We'll sing from 1 to 5 pm EST and share a carry-in meal afterward. All are welcome to come sing with us. Loaner books will be available.

DISCIPLING

Our preschool kids are busy in December packing snack packs for the food pantry, making MCC hygiene kits with FMC Women's Group and having Christmas

parties. Our Ben's pretzel kits fundraiser is finished. We sold 177 kits this year for a profit of $885.00. We have some new students in class; twins from China and a student sponsored by ECSEC. All have some special needs. Our pre-registration begins in January for next year. We received our grant from Everence, which will purchase a smart TV for the classroom.

Want training for ministry without relocating? Journey is a 2-1/2-year non-degree leadership development program for people exploring a call to ministry. The distance-friendly AMBS program features a five-unit online curriculum, biweekly mentor-mentee meetings and one visit to the AMBS region per year. Participants receive a certificate upon meeting program requirements. Register by Jan. 5.
www.ambs.edu/journey

Bethany Christian High School will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. Parents and guests are invited to come for a cookie reception prior to the concert, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night. Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney games on Saturday. Girls game begins at 6:00 and boys at 7:30. Note, alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's project for December is putting together fruit plates for the shut-ins and supporting Goldenrod. They are also collecting items for hygiene kits along with POPS families. Items include: 1 squeeze tube toothpaste (6 oz. or larger), 1 large bar bath soap, 1 good quality finger nail clipper, 1 dark hand towel. Theo Outman will have devotions for the meeting tomorrow.