

## ON THE JOURNEY

### Why Did He Come?

As I reflect on why God sent His Son, Jesus, to this earth, I think about what God is like and what God looks like. Since childhood, I have wondered what God looks like. Is he really a large old man with white hair and a long beard, like the image I formed in my childhood mind?

Jesus came to earth to be "God with us". Perhaps not the physical appearance of God, but to show us what God is like. The writer of Hebrews said, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. . . . He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being." (Heb. 1:1-3) Perhaps God does have a face and it looks like Jesus. When Philip asked Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said, . . . "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:8-9)

So, I say to myself, "Wonder no more, God revealed Himself to us in Jesus". Jesus is the fullest revelation of God to all people.

-Submitted by Wil Beachy (Scripture quotations from NRSV)

### CALENDAR

<b>Fri 1/5</b>	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
<b>Sun 1/7</b>	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 1/8</b>		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 1/9</b>	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 1/10</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
<b>Thurs 1/11</b>	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
<b>Sat 1/13</b>	5:30 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>Sun 1/14</b>	9:30 am	Guest Speaker Jon Andrews
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 1/15</b>	6:00 pm	Worship Commission
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 1/16</b>	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 1/17</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday 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.

### January Birthdays

Edna Mast – 8  
 Grace Rheinheimer – 11  
 Charles Hartzler – 14  
 Sam Weirich – 15  
 Linda Young – 16  
 Mary Weaver – 17  
 Gene Bender – 18  
 Marlene Yoder – 18  
 Ann Yoder – 19  
 Katie Walther – 24  
 Jeri McClain – 24  
 Keith Thomas – 25  
 Allison Hostetler – 29  
 Cheryl Miller – 30  
 Louise Sellers – 30

### WORSHIP

**Focus statement:** Drawn by the light, we, like the magi, are sent forth in new directions. We are empowered to be God's illuminating presence in the world. Arise, shine, for the mystery of Christ has been revealed!

**Background scriptures:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Dave Graber  
 Next Sunday: Jill Miller

### Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber  
 Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

## ADMINISTRATION

### Stewardship Report for December 31:

Money Given to Budget \$4,364.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$103,130.20

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$105,493.68

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Wednesday evening meals** will start back up next week (1/10) and a new sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Elkhart County Rally and Prayer Walk for Life** is on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Lerner Theater, 410 South Main Street, Elkhart at 12:00 noon. The program will include emcee Jeff Fater, RETA Men's Coaching Manager and keynote speaker Melissa Ohden. She is a survivor of an abortion attempt and now works with individuals and organizations across the U.S., Canada, and Australia advocating for the rights of the unborn. She is a voice for the voiceless. The Rally will include testimonies from women who have experienced abortion and will be followed by a short prayer walk to RETA and the Women's Care Center in Elkhart. Go to [www.elkhart4life.org](http://www.elkhart4life.org) for more information.

**Ladies:** The annual women's retreat will be held at Hunter Lake on February 2 & 3. Friday the 2nd, you are invited to just come and rest and fellowship and spend the night if you wish. (More info about that next week). Saturday will be a day of teaching, fellowship and fun. The sign-up sheet will be up on Sunday either on the bulletin board or in the foyer. The cost will be between \$10 - \$20 depending on how many persons sign up. However, if you are unable to pay please plan to attend anyway. More information to come.....If you have any questions please contact Linda Young @ 612-3011.

## DISCIPLING

**Do you know high-school students with gifts for leadership and ministry?** AMBS's !Explore program gives students in grades 10-12 the opportunity to explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and biblical engagement and listen for God's

call. The program includes a 100-hour congregational internship and a Group Experience (July 3-18, 2018).

Apply by Feb. 15. [www.ambs.edu/explore](http://www.ambs.edu/explore)

**Bethany Visit Opportunities** are a great way for prospective students and families to see Bethany Christian Schools in action!

- Grades 4-5 on Jan. 17: Parents may bring children grade 4 and younger to visit the grade 4-5 classrooms from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- Grades 6-10 on Jan. 22: Students in grades 5-10 interested in exploring Bethany can shadow a Bethany student on Monday, Jan. 22, 8:40 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Parents are invited to an 8:45-9:15 a.m. coffee and conversation followed by an optional tour at 9:15 a.m. For more information, to register, or to schedule a visit on another date see [bethanycs.net](http://bethanycs.net).

**Online short course:** Biblical Foundations for Creation Care: Feb. 7 – March 20. Participants in this AMBS short course led by Ben Ollenburger, Ph.D., will explore creation references in Genesis, Proverbs, Psalms, Isaiah, Job and the New Testament. Cost: \$200 before Jan. 17; \$250 after. [www.ambs.edu/shortcourses](http://www.ambs.edu/shortcourses)

## OUTREACH

**First Mennonite Women's** project for January is collecting items for The Window. Items needed: men's, women's, and children's socks as well as children's underwear and winter boots (clothes closet). Tomato and chicken noodle soup, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, canned tuna, and plastic containers with lids (Katie's Kitchen) are also needed.

**FYI:** Because of the labor of sewing ladies and generosity of POPS families...106 hygiene kits were delivered to the Depot/MCC and 94 premie blankets and child decorated cards were sent to the neonatal unit at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo, to be given to tiny babies and their families. This is another way we are serving others, in Jesus name.

**Items needed for the Cuba mission trip February 15-22:** adult vitamins, ibuprofen, quart size zip lock bags, feminine products, kitchen towels, Tylenol, band aids, garbage bags, hot pads, and antacids. For anyone who would care to donate money, you can just make out

your checks to First Mennonite Church and it will get sent on to Hearts and Hands International. Thank you for your consideration of this mission.

**\*Have any new recipes for the new year? Please submit to the church office if you want to share.**

**Michiana Mennonite Economic Development Associates** (MMEDA) invites you to its first dinner program event of the new year -- "Immigrant Stories -- Starting a new life in Indiana" -- Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 6:30 pm. A panel of immigrants will share their personal stories: challenges, successes, and current realities of life as immigrants. The event will be held at North Goshen Mennonite Church, and a Mexican dinner will be catered by the ladies of the church. Please RSVP by Monday, January 15, to [info@michianameda.org](mailto:info@michianameda.org) or 574-355-3607. Cost is \$5 for students, \$15 for Michiana MEDA members, and \$20 for others, payable at the door (cash or check only).

**The Mission of God and Global Partnerships:** Jan. 9–11 at AMBS, 3003 Benham Avenue in Elkhart. At this academic conference, speakers will reflect on what hinders and fosters mutual mission partnerships. Open to the public; no registration needed. Host: Mennonite Mission Network. Sponsors: Mennonite Central Committee, AMBS, Council of International Anabaptist Ministries. [tinyurl.com/ambs-mission-event](http://tinyurl.com/ambs-mission-event)

**Thanks** for your part in helping the Depot MCC Thrift Shops reach \$1 million in sales in 2017! MCC Thrift Shops raise much-needed funds to support the work of partners around the world in relief, development and peace projects. Whether you donate items, volunteer your time or shop, your contributions help MCC share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. Thank you for helping us reach this significant milestone!

Trivia – Beavers can hold their breath for 45 minutes under water.

