

ON THE JOURNEY

The Day Jesus Was crucified

The Bible tells us that on the day Jesus was crucified, there was darkness over the land from about noon till three PM, the very hour Jesus died. Some people have long tried to explain this as an eclipse of the sun, or some other natural phenomena. Maybe it was, and maybe it wasn't. We were not there, and those who were there did not have an understanding of eclipses as we do. But one thing is certain, the spiritual darkness that covered the earth that day was overwhelming. It was so powerful that it overtook the physical light from the sun and kept the light of the sun from shining on Calvary, on the dark deed of killing God. The sun refused to witness the execution of the one who created it, and all of nature turned its face away from the gross betrayal of Justice on that Good Friday as the creator was pierced and hung on a cross to die.

The Bible also tells us that there was an earthquake. As the precious life blood of Jesus, the sinless Son of God, dripped from his wounded body onto the ground, the earth trembled and quaked from the terror of having to receive the blood, the divine life blood, of the one who created it. All throughout the history of the world, the earth has been forced to open its mouth and swallow the blood of millions of its inhabitants. From the blood of righteous Able, through countless wars and murders, to the innocent blood of the martyrs, the earth has opened its mouth and swallowed the blood of those who walked upon it. But never had the earth tasted divine blood, the blood of God, the blood of the one who created it. And when it did, the earth trembled and shook in fear and terror.

It was not only God's faithful ones who trembled on Good Friday, as they watched the Son of God agonize and die on that cruel cross. All of creation trembled with them! And it was not only the injustice of killing the creator that overtook creation, it was the fear that if God, the God of creation, the God of Love, the God of Justice is now dead, what future is there for creation? There is no hope of redemption. There is only darkness, deep, profound darkness. There is only fear and quaking that goes to the very core of creation if all that is left is evil, and if that evil begins to rule and have its way with what God once created as good.

Submitted by Phil Yoder

CALENDAR		
Wed 4/3	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Fri 4/5	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
Sun 4/7	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 4/8		Health Department
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 4/9	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
	7:00 pm	Commission Chair Meeting
Wed 4/10	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	6:45 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Thur 4/11	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women

	6:30 pm	Board
Sun 4/14	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	4:30 pm	POPS Kids Night Out
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 4/15	12:00 pm	Blood Drive
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Wed 4/17	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	7:00 pm	Music Practice

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Closed Friday

Phil Yoder Office Hours:

Monday 12:00-4:00 PM,

Wed. 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Thursday 1:00-6:00 PM

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

April Birthdays

Al Yoder – 3
 Sam Graber – 6
 Dave (Patty) Yoder – 10
 Jim Wyse – 12
 Bill Johnson – 14
 Dorothy Miller – 15
 Marge Miller – 15
 Shari Graber – 16
 Jena Bontreger – 18
 Bryce Rheinheimer – 24
 Enos Miller - 30

WORSHIP

Focus statement: When Jesus' Disciples finally realized that Jesus was leaving them, they knew they were in a deep, deep crisis. All they had known for the past several years was following Jesus. Now those days are over. The uncertainty of the future, and realizing that all they had hoped for and built their lives around was not going to turn out as they thought it would, filled them with fear and anxiety. Where would they go from here? How would they ever manage to get through this unforeseen crisis? What would happen to them now? It was into this crisis that Jesus spoke these words, "**I am the Way, Truth and Life.** Trust me! Just keep trusting me! This situation, as uncertain and frightening as it seems, is in my hands!"

Background scriptures: John 14:5-7

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Dave Graber
 Next Sunday: Ward & Pam Bingaman

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber
 Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for March 31:

Money Given to Budget \$4,684.00
 Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25
 Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$170,627.01
 Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$172,522.75

COMMUNITY LIFE

Offering baskets will be available for giving for the Compassion Fund at our Maundy Thursday Meal on April 18th.

Here is an updated address for Doris Hershberger:

Courtyard
 2400 College Ave.
 Room 207
 Goshen, IN 46528

DISCIPLING

The Goshen Choirs present the annual EARTHTONES choral concert on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Goshen College Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. Drawing from powerful melodies originating from almost every continent, EARTHTONES promises to provide a concert of vitality and tone color in a celebration of world music. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$8 seniors/students, available online at goshen.edu/tickets or via the Goshen College Box Office at (574) 535-7566.

The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 3–13. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by May 1. ambs.edu/trailofdeath

Apr. 26 Fish Fry: Bethany Christian High School's junior class fish fry is 4:30-8:00 p.m., Friday, April 26. Come for an evening of fellowship, homemade pie, and all the fish you can eat. Tickets are \$12 for adults and carryout and \$6 for children grades 1-6 (Kindergarten and younger eat free). Carryout window opens at 4:00. Tickets may be purchased from any Bethany junior or at the school (2904 S Main St, Goshen).

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's next project is collecting soap and towels for MCC. New bars of bath or laundry soap: All sizes and brands of bar soap are welcomed. Please leave in wrapper. New bath and hand towels: Good quality, dark or bright colors, medium weight

preferred. Fingertip towels and wash cloths **are not** needed. FMW is also taking donations for Habitat for Humanity through Bethany Christian High School.

Outreach Commission is excited to be involved in a community bible school to be held at the United Methodist in Middlebury the week of July 8th. We are looking for volunteers to help with blessing our area children with this opportunity. Kids Night out for the families of the Preschool will be on April 14th. Be looking for a spring blessing opportunity for the month of April. The congregation can provide gift cards for gas, pharmacy or Walmart for unexpected needs for individuals from the pantry and will also provide cards to SPA Women's ministry in Elkhart.

Amigo Centre wood splitting and workday will be on April 13th. We have a lot to do in preparation for the summer. Rain or shine we'll be tackling projects all over camp. If you are interested in helping prepare campfire wood and cleaning up areas of the timber, we'll be cutting and splitting firewood. Please RSVP by calling 269-651-2811 or emailing info@amigocentre.org

SAVE THE DATE! 22nd Annual Camper Scholarship Amigo Centre **Golf Scramble** will be **June 8th**, 2019 at 8 am. Registration to come soon. If you're interested in joining and want registration information feel free to contact Amigo Centre at 269-651-2811 to have your name added to the list.

Beating Guns: Join MCC in welcoming Shane Claiborne and Mike Martin, authors of the new book *Beating Guns: Hope for a people who are weary of violence*, on Wednesday, April 10 at 6 p.m. at Maple City Chapel for an evening of lament and education around violence involving guns. Inspired by the biblical call to "beat swords into plowshares," the 90-minute event will feature a live transformation of a gun into a garden tool, speakers, music and stories. Tickets are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at beatingguns.com/tour by clicking on the Eventbrite link for the Goshen location. Direct any questions to Jes Stoltzfus Buller, MCC Peace Education Coordinator, at JessicaBuller@mcc.org.

The Project Promise Easter Play will be presented at Middlebury Church of the Brethren at 3 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. During this live drama, the actors will interpret the events leading up to Easter. Admission is free; a goodwill offering will be taken. The church is located at 507 Bristol Ave, Middlebury, IN 46540. Project Promise provides spiritual and social support for persons with disabilities.

Sorting Out Race: MCC Great Lakes is hosting a traveling exhibit called "Sorting Out Race: Examining Racial Identity and Stereotypes in Thrift Store Donations" at The Depot MCC Thrift Shop in Goshen during the month of April. The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular business hours, Mondays-Fridays: 9-5 and Saturdays: 9-4. In addition, the display will be open special hours on Sundays, April 7 and 14 from 1-5 p.m. and on Wednesdays, April 17 and 24 for evening visits for youth groups. You can learn more about the display at sortingoutrace.com. For more information, contact the Great Lakes MCC office at 574-534-4133 or GreatLakes@mcc.org.

