

# LIFE @ FIRST

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

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 15

APRIL 10, 2019

## ON THE JOURNEY

**Thought for the Day by Pastor Phil:** "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the apples in a seed."      *Robert Schuller*

CALENDAR		
<b>Wed 4/10</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	6:45 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Thurs 4/11</b>	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
	6:30 pm	Board
<b>Sun 4/14</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	4:30 pm	POPS Kids Night Out
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 4/15</b>	12:00 pm	Blood Drive
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Wed 4/17</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Thur 4/18</b>	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Meal/Svc.
<b>Fri 4/19</b>	12:00 pm	Good Friday Service at First United Methodist Church
<b>Sat 4/20</b>	12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>Sun 4/21</b>	9:00 am	Carry-In Breakfast
	10:00 am	Phil Preaching/No S.S.
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 4/22</b>		Health Department
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Wed 4/24</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	5:30 pm	Outreach Commission
	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

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:** The vine is one of the national symbols of Israel. The Bible refers to Israel as the “Vine that God Planted” (Jeremiah 2:21). The reason God chose the vine as the symbol for his people is that God is looking for fruitfulness in his people. God’s people must bear fruit. That never was an option. Jesus picked up on this theme when he said, “I AM the True Vine.” Those who belong to Jesus must produce fruit. There are some not so subtle hints in the New Testament that God is forming a new people, and Jesus makes it very clear that he expects fruit from his followers, and the key to bearing fruit is to stay attached to Jesus, the True Vine.

**Background scriptures:** John 15:1-17, Psalm 80: 8-13, Isaiah 5:1-7, Luke 20:9-19, Matthew 21:33-45

## Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Ward & Pam Bingaman

Next Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

## Welcome Center

This Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Next Sunday: Karen Pletcher

The Middlebury Ministerial Association is leading a Good Friday Service, April 19th, at Noon. This year's service will be hosted at First United Methodist Church

in Middlebury. Join us as we remember this holy day together!

**From Worship Commission:** Dates to remember: **April 18, 6:00** - Maundy Thursday Meal & Communion; **April 21** - Easter breakfast 9:00, Worship 10:00; **June 2** – Senior Recognition (Grace) plus Blessing/Sending (Karen); **June 30**, 10 a.m. – Outdoor Worship & meal. Pastor Phil would like to have 3-5 people to comprise an Anointing Team, to go with him when he has requests. If you would be willing to be a part of this Team, please let Phil or Ruth Beasley know as soon as possible. Thank you for your compassion for those of our Congregation and willingness to share with them.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **Stewardship Report for April 7:**

Money Given to Budget \$10,309.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$180,936.01

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$178,088.00

## 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 Ann (Harley) Yoder:**

Courtyard

2400 College Ave.

Room 122

Goshen, IN 46528

Phone: 574-825-2549

**On 5/28/2019** at Crystal Valley Missionary Church, Life Line Screening will offer area residents an opportunity to do something that will build health awareness about stroke, vascular disease and osteoporosis. Please check out the flier posted on the bulletin board for more information if you are interested.

## DISCIPLING

**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](http://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).

**The Preschool Board** met in April. We are grateful that our classes are full for next fall. Our teacher informed us about an ECSEC student who will be joining the POPS class for the last six weeks. Our Rise 'N Roll fundraiser is completed. **Thank you** to everyone who supported us through this fundraiser! The baked goods will be delivered to the church on Tuesday, April 16 and be delivered to you. Our lead teacher, Rachel, asked for permission to use the activity table area to tutor this summer on Wednesday mornings. Permission was granted. Our Spring Carnival will be held on Sunday, April 28, 1:00-4:00 pm. Usborne books will be there. We are asking the church for baked goods for a fundraiser. Please come join the fun, see the students running the games and enjoy a hot dog and ice cream sundae!

**MS Play:** Bethany Christian Middle School will perform *The Life and Times of Princess Sophia* at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4. Tickets, \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, may be purchased online beginning April 15 at [bethanycs.net/tickets](http://bethanycs.net/tickets). Synopsis: With the title character nowhere to be found, Princess Tabasco and her lady-in-waiting Saffron set off on an adventure to rescue Prince Gallant from the Evil Sorceress Nefaria. On the way, they join forces with an unlucky leprechaun, an unwicked witch, and a very unconvincing dragon. Will this band of fairy tale rejects be enough to stop Nefaria and her infamous harpies?

## 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.

**Amigo Centre** wood splitting and workday will be on April 13<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:info@amigocentre.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!** 22nd Annual Camper Scholarship Amigo Centre **Golf Scramble** will be **June 8th**, 2019 at 8 am. 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.

**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](http://sortingoutrace.com). For more information, contact the Great Lakes MCC office at 574-534-4133 or [GreatLakes@mcc.org](mailto:GreatLakes@mcc.org).

**Join us for a Comforter Bash!** Make plans to join us on November 8 and 9 for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen. People of all ages are invited to knot comforters at Pleasant View Mennonite Church (58529 County Road 23). We are also in need of comforter tops (size 60"x80"), so please consider making them now for use at the event. For more information about the event visit [mcc.org/comforter-bash](http://mcc.org/comforter-bash) or contact Carol Honderich at 574-536-9062. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

**Volunteers needed:** MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) location in West Virginia is completing the move from Elkhorn to Kimball. There is still significant work to be done at the Kimball site in order to be ready for the summer SWAP season. Especially needed are drywall finishers, painters, trim carpenters, electricians and plumbers to do finish work. To explore volunteering and helping with the need, contact Lee and Peg Martin at 304-585-1103 or [PegMartin@mcc.org](mailto:PegMartin@mcc.org).

**First Mennonite Church Family:** Thank you for your generous and ongoing support of Habitat for Humanity of Elkhart County. We share in the mission of seeking to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Your gift gives the families that we partner with the gift of hope.



