

ON THE JOURNEY

Honoring our Mothers

One of the things we look forward to in the month of May is our celebration of Mother's Day. And rightly so! Our mothers are one of the great treasures God put on this earth, and it is only fitting that we should honor them.

I "lost" my mother two years ago, although, she is not really lost. We know exactly where she is! Mom lived 88 years, but the world scarcely noticed her. She never held public office, never ran a corporation, never served on a board, never published a book, never preached a sermon, never generated any wealth or notoriety, and yet, she was truly a great person. She was great because she loved people. She loved in a very deep and genuine way. She especially loved children, all children. Mom knew when to give a word of encouragement. She knew when to close her eyes to the faults of others and just love them, knowing that their lives were a work in progress, and that their faults were not the last chapter in their lives. She prayed a lot for people, especially for me. I needed her prayers. I cannot imagine where I may be today were it not for my mother's prayers. Much of what I know about love, I learned from my mother. She practiced hospitality, she was accepting, she believed in people, and she knew how to generously forgive. The world is a better place because mom lived in it. She had more influence on me than any other human being. When I was a little boy, I thought it would be impossible for me to live if my mother was not with me. Well, she is gone now, and I am still here. And yet, in a way, she is still living. The love she invested in me, her teaching, her prayers, and her example are still very much alive and influencing me today.

I am sure most of us have or had very wonderful mothers, whose love shaped us and guided us through our difficult days and years of growing up. Surely, God knew how important mothers are in the development of children, because He made sure that each of us got one. Most of us would be hopelessly lost on our journey through life were it not for the direction our mothers gave to us, and for their prayers.

Here is a poem that helps to capture the special place our mothers have in our hearts.

To My Mother (Author Unknown)

***For the countless hours on your comforting lap, and the soothing words you would say
For all the times you gently picked me up, and kissed the pain away,
For all the times you tied my shoes, and tucked me into bed,
For the times when you needed something, but put me first instead.
For everything we shared, The dreams, the laughter, and every tear,
I love you with a "Special Love" That deepens every year.***

It is true, we do have a very special love for our mothers, and we should. Let's make sure our mothers know that we love them and honor them. And even if our mothers are no longer with us, we can still honor them by allowing their love, their wisdom, and their example to continue to live in us and guide us. And that is perhaps, the greatest tribute we can give to our mothers.

CALENDAR		
Wed 5/1	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Congregational Meal/Mtg.
	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
Thurs 5/2	6:30 pm	Board
Fri 5/3	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
Sun 5/5	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	2:00 pm	Board Prayer & Discernment
	5:30 pm	MYF/Game Night
Mon 5/6	5:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	6:00 pm	Worship Commission
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Wed 5/8	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Thurs 5/9	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
Sat 5/11	6:00 pm	Japanese Meal Fundraiser
Sun 5/12	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 5/13		Health Department
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 5/14	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
Wed 5/15	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:30 pm	Administration 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.**

May Birthdays

Jim Schrock – 3
 Patty (Dave) Yoder – 4
 Abigail Hostetler – 7
 Leah Schwartz – 7
 Carol Johnson – 9
 Liz Mast – 9
 Judy Oesch – 11
 Shirley Riegsecker – 16
 Patti Miller – 17
 Ruby Yoder – 17
 Kris Keller – 20

Ron Rheinheimer – 22
 Tom Bontreger – 24
 Verna Weirich – 24
 Kelly Kurtz – 26
 Dave Graber – 31
 Janelle Walther - 31

WORSHIP

Focus statement: The most prominent image the Bible uses for the church is that of a body. A body is made up of many parts, all doing different things, and they are all crucial to the functioning of a healthy body. Likewise, the church is made up of individuals, all with unique gifts, and all of these gifts are essential for the church to function as Jesus intended it to. When one part of the body fails, the whole body suffers and becomes weaker. And when one part is separated from the body, it dies.

Background scriptures: Romans 12:1-8, I Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 17

Coffee Prep Volunteers

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

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber
 Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

On May 19, Grace Rheinheimer, who is a Senior at Bethany High School, will be sharing her Faith Statement during our Worship Service. Let's support Grace with our caring, our presence, and encouragement on her Faith Journey.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for April 28:

Money Given to Budget \$5,110.00
 Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25
 Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$196,577.01
 Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$194,783.75

TODAY in the Fellowship Hall. At 6:00 pm we will be having a meal and the meeting will then follow at 7:00 pm. Our goal for this meeting is to follow up on any questions, concerns or comments that you would like to share with your brothers and sisters here at FMC. We ask that you prayerfully consider which of these networks/conferences would help us to continue our mission, vision and values as an FMC church family.

At any time, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board members if you have questions regarding this change in affiliation.

COMMUNITY LIFE

A taste of Japan fundraiser meal - Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. You are invited to come enjoy a simple meal served by Karen Niimi and her host family. Proceeds will benefit end of year expenses for Karen.

Thursday, May 2 is the National Day of Prayer. There is a poster on the bulletin board with information if you wish to participate in community events associated with that event.

The Goshen Community Chorale and the Maple City Community Orchestra will be presenting a joint performance on Saturday evening, May 11, in Sauder Concert Hall at the Goshen College Music Center. The starting time is 7:30. The featured works will be the Handel Coronation Anthem "The King shall rejoice" and Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass." There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

DISCIPLING

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. 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 items for Interfaith Hospitality Network. Items needed: toilet paper, cleaning supplies, disinfectant wipes, napkins/paper towels, size 5 & 6 diapers, and baby wipes.

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 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.

