

ON THE JOURNEY

Thoughts on the Origin of Life

Some scientists have long been fascinated with the idea that they could create life in a test tube. If only they could find the right chemicals or bacteria and create the perfect environment, then life could emerge out of a test tube. So the search goes on to produce the perfect scenario for life to emerge, just like it did when life first appeared on the earth, so goes the thinking of some scientists. But that will not happen. Certainly, science can manipulate genetics and can clone bodies, but they must first have some form of life to work with.

In the story of creation in Genesis 1 and 2, God said a couple of things about His creation. The first thing was that the creation was good. The second is that each form of life was created according to its kind, so that when life is reproduced, the new life bears a resemblance or something of the image of the life from which it came. And the third thing is that when God created human beings, even after God formed the man from the dust of the ground, and had a perfect environment to sustain life, the man did not come to life until God Breathed life into him. Human life originated from the very breath of God.

God designed life so that life only comes from life. One of the strongest arguments for the existence of God, is that we are alive, and from everything that we know, and don't just speculate about, there must be life for life to be reproduced. There must have been life that formed life on the earth.

The Bible says, that God created human beings in his image and likeness. That could mean a lot of things, but one thing it certainly does mean, is that human life didn't mysteriously appear from the right combination of chemicals in a supercharged environment, but that it came from another source of life, and for Christians, we believe that source of life to be God, our creator whose image and likeness we bear.

Submitted by Pastor Phil Yoder

CALENDAR		
Wed 7/3	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Thurs 7/4		Office Closed
Fri 7/5	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
Sun 7/7	9:00 am	Phil Preaching/Communion
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 7/8		Health Department
	5:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 7/9	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
Wed 7/10	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Thurs 7/11	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
Sun 7/14	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 7/15	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 7/16	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
Wed 7/17	6:30 pm	Administration Commission

	7:00 pm	Music Practice
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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.**

July Birthdays

Kathy Hartzler – 6
 Robin Tahara Miller – 9
 Twila Hersha – 10

Ike Walther – 11
Fannie Miller – 20
Shelley Bontrager – 21
Denise Johnson – 21
Phil Miller – 21
Liliana Klotz – 22
Libby Graber – 23
Katie Humble – 23
Travis Yoder – 23
DeRoy Kauffman – 24
Katie Mullet - 30

WORSHIP

Focus statement: The Book of Genesis is about beginnings. The name “Genesis” means beginnings. In Genesis, we find the beginning of the world, the beginning of life, of sin, of human relationships, and many other beginnings. One of the beginnings we find is the beginning of Salvation History, God beginning HIS work to redeem the world from sin. God began the story of Redemption by calling Abram and Sarai to a life of faith, with the intended result of blessing all the world.

Background scriptures: Exodus 3:1-6, 14-15

Coffee Prep Volunteers

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

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber
Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Baskets will be out to contribute to the Compassion Fund on Sunday.

Grant Miller will be sharing with the Navigator Class on July 14. All are welcome to join the class.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for June 30:

Money Given to Budget \$3,532.00
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$243,183.01
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$244,871.00

The office will be closed tomorrow, July 4th.

The first round of choosing 2 representatives for the Church Board will be held on July 14. Absentee ballots are on the ledge outside of the office window.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Updated phone numbers were put in your mailbox. Please let Maribeth know of any changes.

You will find purple information forms from Pastor Phil in your mailbox. This is information for his use to get to know you better. Please return it in the office drop box ASAP. Each individual is to fill one out.

First Mennonite Church was officially received into LMC Conference on June 21, 2019. LMC publishes a quarterly news magazine called *Shalom News*. You should find the current copy of this news magazine in your mailboxes soon. If you want more information about LMC, their web address is: lmchurches.org.

DISCIPLING

Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology short

course: Sept. 11 – Oct. 22. Examine theological topics early Anabaptists cared about — Jesus, the Holy Spirit, discipleship — in this six-week online AMBS short course with Jamie Pitts, Ph.D. Only \$300 if you register by Aug. 16. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register: ambs.edu/shortcourses

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women’s next project is taking donations for the Bible Memory Program. Edith Herschberger will have devotions for the next meeting.

An Education Fund is being set up for B.J. (lived with Dean & Rhea Miller for a year). \$4,700 is needed for his education expenses. If you wish to donate towards this, you can give your cash or check (made out to FMC) to Maribeth or put it in the office drop box indicating to who it goes towards. If you have any questions, please see Tom Miller.

Mennonite Central Committee Central States is now collecting Immigration detainee care kits. When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as

they are taken to bus stations and airports to reconnect with their families in the U.S. Please visit mcc.org/immigrationkit for all the details of what goes into the kit and how the kits will be distributed. It is one small way we can share Christ's love with our neighbors. All kit supplies and financial donations should be sent directly to MCC Central States 121 E. 30th, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. To help MCC purchase immigration detainee care kit supplies and cover transportation costs for the kits, checks should be made out to MCC with "CS Kits" in the memo line. Questions? Please contact MCC Central States at 316.283.2720.

