

## ON THE JOURNEY

### *Thanksgiving*

We usually think of November as Thanksgiving month. And it is not that we are not thankful the rest of the year, we are, but "Thanksgiving Day" comes in November. It is the end of the harvest, and our cupboards and freezers are well stocked for the long winter months. We look forward to Thanksgiving, to family reunions, to the extra days off work or away from school. It is a nice break. And Thanksgiving Day gets here just in time for "Black Friday," which begins the shopping frenzy of the holiday season. There are so many reasons to like Thanksgiving.

Being thankful is one character trait that should be found in all Christians. In Luke's Gospel, in chapter 17, Luke tells a story. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, and along the way he meets ten lepers who cry out for help. In Jesus' day, leprosy was the most dreaded of all diseases. If one had leprosy, they would be forced to leave their home, their family, and their community and live in a leper colony. They were forbidden to have any physical contact with any non-leprous person. Their life as they knew it was over. It was like receiving a slow death sentence. It really was a terrible and a dreaded disease, and there was no cure for leprosy unless God miraculously healed the person.

When the ten lepers called out to Jesus for help, Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priest, which required an act of faith that they would be healed before they got to the priest. And they went. And as they went, they were cleansed of leprosy. One of the ten returned to thank Jesus and to praise God. Jesus was quite upset that the nine did not bother to return and say, "Thank you!" After all, Jesus had just given their lives back to them. Now they could go back to their homes and hug their wives and hold their children. They could go back to work, they go down to the restaurant for breakfast with their friends. They could go to the synagogue and worship again. It really was an unfathomable gift that Jesus gave to those ten that day.

We don't know why the nine didn't return to thank Jesus. Maybe they had a chip on their shoulder. They were Jews, God's chosen people, perhaps they thought they deserve better than this. Perhaps they were angry with life, or even at God. But we do know that Jesus was quite bothered at the lack of thankfulness in the nine.

Almost certainly, the nine cursed their leprosy, upset with what life had handed them. It was unfair! They had done nothing to deserve such a disastrous fate. And slowly but surely, the disease began to eat away at their souls as well as their hands and feet.

The Bible tells us, "In all circumstances, give thanks" (I Thessalonians 5:18). That is not easy, in fact, it is downright hard in many circumstances, and yet it is God's Word. The truth is that we rarely see what God is doing in our lives, especially in a crisis. And we never know how God may be using the "unfortunate" things in life to draw us close to God. Their leprosy brought these ten face to face with Jesus, the Savior of the world, brought them to the very face of God, and brought them to hear the very voice that spoke the world into existence, and the nine squandered the moment by feeling sorry for themselves.

It is Christian maturity, but we must learn to Trust God, knowing that God has a purpose for all the circumstances we find ourselves in, and be thankful that God holds our lives in His hands, and uses our circumstances for His purposes! **We must be a thankful people!**

Submitted by Pastor Phil Yoder

| CALENDAR          |          |                                  |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Wed 11/6</b>   | 9:00 am  | Moms In Prayer                   |
|                   | 5:30 pm  | Wednesday Evening Meal           |
|                   | 6:00 pm  | Music Practice                   |
|                   | 6:30 pm  | Food Pantry Advisory Board       |
|                   | 7:00 pm  | Bible Study                      |
| <b>Thurs 11/7</b> | 6:30 pm  | Board                            |
| <b>Fri 11/8</b>   | 7:00 pm  | Brandenberger Family             |
| <b>Sun 11/10</b>  | 9:00 am  | Phil Preaching                   |
|                   | 6:00 pm  | MYF                              |
| <b>Mon 11/11</b>  |          | Health Department                |
|                   | 6:00 pm  | Ladies Exercise                  |
| <b>Tues 11/12</b> | 6:00 pm  | Community Life Commission        |
|                   | 6:30 pm  | Discipling Commission            |
| <b>Wed 11/13</b>  | 9:00 am  | Moms In Prayer                   |
|                   | 6:00 pm  | Music Practice                   |
|                   | 7:00 pm  | Bible Study                      |
| <b>Thur 11/14</b> | 9:00 am  | First Mennonite Women            |
| <b>Sun 11/17</b>  | 9:00 am  | Mr T. Mounsinthiraj<br>Preaching |
|                   | 12:00 pm | Fellowship Hall Reserved         |
|                   | 6:00 pm  | MYF                              |
| <b>Mon 11/18</b>  | 6:00 pm  | Ladies Exercise                  |
| <b>Wed 11/20</b>  | 9:00 am  | Moms In Prayer                   |
|                   | 6:00 pm  | Music Practice                   |
|                   | 6:30 pm  | Administration Commission        |
|                   | 7:00 pm  | Bible Study                      |

#### **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.**

Marilyn Bontrager – 22

Noah Frye – 22

Ernie Wingard – 24

Kody Bontreger – 26

Sharon Wyse - 28

## **WORSHIP**

**Focus statement:** The story of Jacob displays the transforming power of God in those who will allow God to work in them. God takes us as we are, but He doesn't leave us that way. Often times God's work is slow, but it is thorough. In Jacob we see his old, sinful nature dominating much of his life. But God meets Jacob at Peniel and wounds him, and from that point, the Spiritual Nature began to work in Jacob, transforming him. God's transforming work in Jacob took a lifetime and left no part of Jacob untouched. The transformation in Jacob was so complete that God gave him a new name (Israel) to reflect the new person he was becoming.

**Background scriptures:** Genesis 27-35

#### **Coffee Prep Volunteers**

This Sunday: Ward and Pam Bingaman

Next Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

#### **Welcome Center**

This Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Next Sunday: Karen Pletcher

#### **Looking Ahead:**

Nov. 6 – Wednesday Evening Meal 5:30 pm

Nov. 8 – Brandenberger Family Bluegrass Concert

7:00 PM – Ice Cream & Cookies

**Nov. 10** – Sermon: “Jacob-Prince of God” (Genesis 32:22-30)

**Nov. 17** – Guest Speaker Mr. T (Maple City Chapel)

**Nov. 24** – Goshen College’s “Parables” Worship

Team

Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving

**Dec. 1 – Advent Begins** Sermon: “Faces at the Manger – The Prophets” (Isaiah 9:2-7)

Dec. 4 – Wednesday Evening Meal 5:30 pm

**Dec. 8** – Sermon: “Faces at the manger – Some That Surprise Us” (Luke 2:6-7, Romans 8:19-21)

**Dec. 15** – Sermon: “Faces at the Manger – Mary and Joseph” (Luke 1:26-28, Matthew 1:18-21)/Phil’s Credentialing Service from LMC

**Dec. 22** – Sermon: “Faces at the Manger - The Shepherds” (Luke 2:8-20)

#### **November Birthdays**

Leah Bontrager – 8

Luke Schrock - 8

Merle Mullet – 13

Delbert D. Yoder – 14

Adeline Gruber – 20

Philip Keller – 20

Jim Rhodes – 20

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

**Dec. 29** – Sermon: “Faces at the Manger – God”  
(John 1:1-5, 14)

## ADMINISTRATION

### **Stewardship Report for November 3:**

Money Given to Budget \$5,720.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,343.12

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$51,770.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$53,431.20

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Wednesday Evening Meal Hosts:**

**Tonight:** Maranatha

**Dec. 4:** Navigators

**Jan. 8:** Java

**Please add** the following phone numbers for Mose and Marge Troyer to your telephone list:

Mose: 574-358-1826

Marge: 574-596-2620

**The fall performance** of the Goshen Community Chorale will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, November 24th, at the First Presbyterian Church on Lincoln Avenue in Goshen. The theme for this event is “English Cathedral Music,” for which the Chorale will be accompanied by organ and brass. Music by Purcell, Holst, Vaughan Williams and several others will be featured. The program will also include madrigals of Morley and Gibbons. There is no cost, but a free-will collection will be taken.

## DISCIPLING

**Screening of "The True Cost",** Thursday, November 7 at 7:00 pm, in The Art House, 211 S Main St in Goshen: Please join the board of Ten Thousand Villages Goshen and Art House for a thought provoking and insightful documentary on the harsh reality and costs of fast fashion on those around the world. There will be a short presentation following the showing on how Fair Trade certified organizations like Ten Thousand Villages are helping to change this reality by doing business differently, putting people and planet first above profit. This showing is sponsored by the board of Ten Thousand Villages Goshen. \$5 suggested donation for

those who are able. Please note that Art House is on the second floor and does not have an elevator. We apologize for any inconvenience. Questions can be directed to Ten Thousand Villages, 533-8491 or [goshen@tentousandvillages.com](mailto:goshen@tentousandvillages.com).

**Bethany Christian High School** will present Pride and Prejudice on Nov. 22-24. This fun and fast-paced romantic comedy follows Elizabeth Bennett and her family and friends as they journey through life and love together in 18th century England. Tickets are on sale now - \$10 for adults and \$8 for students – and can be purchased by calling the office (534-2567) or reserved online at [ticketpeak.com/res/bethanytheatre](http://ticketpeak.com/res/bethanytheatre)

**A Hacienda Day** to benefit Bethany Christian Schools will be held Monday, Nov. 18. Hacienda will donate 20% of purchases for food, gift certificates, and carry-outs all that day with presentation of a token. Tokens may NOT be distributed inside or outside the restaurant that day. Tokens may be shown electronically or printed. Find them at [bethanycs.net/HaciendaDay](http://bethanycs.net/HaciendaDay).

## OUTREACH

**First Mennonite Women's** next project is providing items for the Preschool. Please check the wishing tree outside the church office window where items needed are listed.

**The Comforter Bash is here!** Make plans to join us this coming Friday and Saturday, 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 Church (58529 County Road 23). 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.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutch Dinner** will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm at the Sammlung Platz in Nappanee. All sponsorships & donations support The Community Health Clinic in Topeka. This is a not for profit and serves those with rare diseases and genetic disorders.

The number to RSVP to is Community Health Clinic 260 593 0108.

**Join Mennonite Disaster Service** as we celebrate another year of service and community. Plan to attend our All Unit Meeting (AUM) February 7-8, 2020 in Goshen, Indiana. The AUM is our annual meeting—a time for volunteers, leaders, donors, and staff to come together and explore this year's theme "Seeing Jesus Among Us." Brenda Phillips from Indiana University is the featured speaker. There will also be workshops and area tours. Don't miss this opportunity to worship, learn, and hear stories of hope. Registration and more information at [mds.mennonite.net](http://mds.mennonite.net)

**Dear FMC Family,**

Hello friends and family! I hope you all had a great month of October and are enjoying the onset of Fall. Here in Bloomington things have been getting drastically colder, but the ministry work is only heating up. We've had a couple of awesome events recently that I'm excited to share with you. Right now we are in the midst of Missions Week. Last week we focused on Chi Alpha's around the U.S. and had guests from Sam Houston State, the Superintendent of Assemblies of God churches in the southern New England area, and Prairie View A&M (the team is shown below with our campus director Derek on the right) where the first full-time missions team on an HBCU (Historically Black College and University) is going. This coming week we are focusing on international missions and have guest missionaries from the Arab world, the Silk Road, and Africa. It should be a great week! Some of you heard about this on Facebook, but on October 15, Chi Alpha had the first ever House Church where each arm of the community went to someone's home in Bloomington and held their own worship service, sermon, and communion. Our community had about 50 students come and it felt like a big family gathering as we worshiped Jesus together. Please pray that our community would continue to grow closer to Christ and to each other. On October 22, we had a baptism service and 16 students were baptized! It was a powerful night as they declared their faith in the middle of IU's campus

and in front of their brothers and sisters in Chi Alpha. Among those who were baptized was Henry, who is in my small group. Henry is from Warsaw, Indiana and is a sophomore in the Kelley School of Business. This semester he has begun to seek a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus for the first time, and watching him grow is very exciting. The picture below shows him proclaiming Jesus as Lord of his life and promising to follow Jesus all his life. He was baptized by my co-leader Will who discipled Henry one-on-one. God is working in students' lives here at IU and I hope this encourages you as you continue to support the ministry! Thank you all for your continued support! Please be praying that students continue to seek Jesus above all else and that God would be transforming their hearts and renewing their minds. Also pray that God would raise up more missionaries to send to HBCU's around the country. Thank you for all the love and encouragement!

God Bless You,  
Grant Miller

