

ON THE JOURNEY

Thought For the Day by Pastor Phil: *“The great betrayal of Christ... is that his professed followers reach out to claim the benefits of the cross for salvation, but refuse to live the way of the cross.”* - John Drescher

CALENDAR

Wed 2/26	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Music Practice
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sun 3/1	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 3/2	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
	6:30 pm	Worship Commission
Wed 3/4	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	5:30 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	6:00 pm	Music Practice
	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
Thur 3/5	6:30 pm	Board
Fri 3/6	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
Sun 3/8	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 3/9		Health Department
	5:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tue 3/10	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
Wed 3/11	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Music Practice
	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board

February/March Birthdays

Gert Kauffman – 29
 Ron Yoder – 1
 Mildred Ritchie – 5
 Eva Kurtz – 6
 Vera Miller – 6
 Virginia Hershberger – 8
 Gordon Kauffman – 8
 Selena Kurtz – 10
 Ruby Bontreger – 15
 Tim Keller – 20
 Jake Schwartz – 23
 Linda Miller – 25
 Bernie Miller – 28

WORSHIP

Focus statement: During Lent this year, we will look closely at the narrative of the last week of Jesus’ earthly life. In this narrative, we find some very stark contrasts. We will notice one of these contrasts each week. This Sunday we will hear two confessions, made within 24 hours of each other. In the first confession, Peter denies any association with Jesus, and the other confession, made by the Centurion, declares Jesus to be the Son of God. The issue behind the confessions is this, what will you do with Jesus, God’s plan for bringing salvation to the world? We must choose one of these confessions as our own confession. To ignore Jesus, or to refuse to make a confession will not suffice. Jesus is the only way of salvation. We will either choose for him and embrace the life he gives, or against him and reject God’s salvation. There are no other options.

Background scriptures: Matthew 26:69-74, 27:54

Coffee Prep Volunteers

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

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.

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber

Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Looking Ahead:

February 26 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM (Lent Begins)

March 1 – Sermon: “Which Confession are You Making?”

March 4 – Wednesday Evening Meal 5:30 PM

March 8 – Sermon: “Which Basin Are You Washing In?”

March 15 – Sermon: “Which King Will You Bow To?”

March 22 – Sermon: “Which Road Are You Following Jesus On?”

March 29 – “Which Tree Will You Hang From?”

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for February 23:

Money Given to Budget \$2,652.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,343.12

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$135,686.99

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$138,921.12

Administration Commission met in February and heard an update on quarterly average attendance of 95 and budget is only \$500 behind. We are blessed! We also heard that no additional bids have been received on the insulation above the sanctuary. We wanted to remind everyone that there is a computer available to use in the office behind Pastor Phil’s office. Please use that one and not the one in Maribeth’s office. Maribeth Rhodes has given her retirement notice to us. We will begin immediately seeking an administrative assistant. We think a lot of training time with Maribeth is very valuable. Snow plowing this winter has been great. We have our mowing/landscaping contractor in place so we will get rid of the Kubota mower at CR 16. We unanimously agreed to give the mower to Menno-Hof. Lights in the hallway and kitchen have been replaced with LED ones. We have accepted an offer for a large outdoor sign. We plan to give this to the CR 16 location.

Would you like to know more about LMC and our connection to the conference? What they have to offer? Where are they going? LMC is having a two day assembly April 3-4, 2020 entitled Welcoming Rain at Petra Church in New Holland, PA. It is an LMC celebration of Church Life. Bishop Glenn Kauffman pastor will be the Speaker. He will be sharing stories of the Spirit at work in the lives of everyday people!

- Friday, April 3, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm: Leadership Assembly (all invited) receiving new congregations, recognizing leaders.
- Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm: Celebration of Church Life, worship, teaching and ice cream.
- Saturday, April 4 9:00 am - 4:30 pm: Celebration of church life, worship, speakers, seminars, lunch, LMC Moderator Address.

There is a brochure on the Church Board’s bulletin board in the hallway. Pastor Phil will be attending this event and if you have other questions, he can be a resource to you. There is no charge for this celebration.

From the Board: Invite everyone to check out the bulletin board for information on “Welcoming Rain.” We discussed the sound booth and hope to get things started soon. We are looking into having Elders. We need to define this role and its expectations. Continuing the search for an assistant pastor. Jerry and Ruth Beasley along with Pastor Phil will be our point people for this. Any suggestions or ideas please let one of them know. The Spring Business Meeting will be May 13th.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Wednesday Evening Meal Hosts:

Mar. 4: Searchers

Apr. 1: Please Volunteer

Thank you all so much for the care package that you sent me at college! There were more treats and goodies than I could ever eat by myself. I really appreciate it and all of the support the church has given me as I am studying to be a speech pathologist! Thanks again!
-Grace Rheinheimer

DISCIPLING

“Hearing and Seeing Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew” –

Will be held at Amigo Centre, March 27-29, 2020. Tim Lehman, retired minister, will be sharing based on his recently published book, “All Authority Has Been Given To Me.” Tim will highlight parts of his book and encourage us to rethink long-held assumptions. In a world of division, bitter partisan politics, and violence, where do we turn? What might truly heal us personally and communally? Imagine a world changed because of God’s unconditional love channeled through you. The

retreat begins Friday evening and concludes with Bruch on Sunday. Registration includes lodging or commuting rates. We look forward to a dynamic weekend of learning and growing in our understanding of God's unconditional love for all. If you would like a copy of his book at a reduced rate contact

mandy@amigocentre.org or call 269-651-2811.

Musical Tickets: Bethany Christian High School will perform Children of Eden on Thursday-Sunday, March 5-8, 2020. This two-act musical follows the Biblical stories of creation and Noah's ark while exploring the universal themes of family, relationships and love. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets may be purchased online at bethanycs.net/tickets. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Donkey Basketball at Bethany: The Bethany Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is proud to bring Buckeye Donkey Ball to Bethany at 7 pm on March 13 in the HS gymnasium. Never heard of Donkey Ball? It is known as the "CRAZIEST SHOW ON EARTH" and involves people playing basketball while riding donkeys in a gymnasium. This evening will feature four teams comprised of Bethany juniors, seniors, a Bethany faculty/staff team, and a team made up of local pastors. You will not want to miss this fun, funny and exciting evening as teams compete to win the DBA World Championship of the World! Donkey rides will also be provided for children 10 and under before the championship game.

Tickets are now on sale for the Goshen College International Student Club (ISC) Coffeehouse on Saturday, March 21. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a student-catered international meal held in the College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. A show featuring international music and dance will follow at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$14 for students and children.

Paintings by Emma Schrock, a popular artist who painted her experience as a member of the Old Order

Mennonite community in western Elkhart County, will be on display in the Good Library Gallery at Goshen College from March 1 through May 31, with a public reception on March 8 from 2-4 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's next project is children's care packs for Christian Aid Ministries. Items to include: (for a girl) 1 5x7 notepad; 1 pencil and 1 pen; 1 jump rope; 1 pair of socks (colorful and warm); 1 hairbrush; (for a boy) 1 5x7 notepad; 1 pencil and 1 pen; 3 tennis balls; 1 comb; 1 matchbox size car or truck.

MCC Borderlands Learning Tour: Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes welcomes you to join us on a learning tour designed to bring awareness to the issues caused by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. border. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues. The learning tour will take place on May 17-23 in Arizona and will include crossing the border into Mexico. Attendees will also have the option to participate in the Migrant Trail walk following the tour. For more information, including a tentative schedule and online registration, visit mcc.org/gl-borderlands-2020 or contact Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano at JuanPacheco@mcc.org or (574) 534-4133.

As we begin our centennial year, on behalf of the 453 partners of Mennonite Central Committee in 53 countries around the world, we thank our friends and supporters at First Mennonite for the many ways you assist in the relief, development and peace work of MCC. We recognize the value of your prayer support, your assistance with material resources and volunteering at thrift shops, meat canning, and relief sales – and are grateful for your financial contributions of \$2,880 in 2019. Thank you for all your support as we look forward to the next 100 years of sharing God's love and compassion in the name of Christ. Please visit mcc.org for more inspirational stories of hope provided

with by your assistance in this work. - Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes

Join Christian Peacemaker Teams and MCC for a screening and discussion of the documentary Hebron on Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. at Waterford Mennonite Church (65975 State Rd 15 in Goshen). Through provoking footage and interviews, this 30-minute film depicts Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation attempting to exert their fundamental human rights, such as education, religion, movement and dignity. Filmmakers Yousef Natsheh and Rachel Joy have been serving with CPT since 2013, and they spent the past year in al-Khalil (Hebron) accompanying the Palestinian community and documenting human rights violations. There will be a time for questions and discussion with Yousef and Rachel following the screening.



