

ON THE JOURNEY

Love Your Neighbor... As Yourself *Someone came to Jesus once and asked him what the greatest commandment was. Jesus told him, "Love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second commandment was just like the first, Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:34-40). Wait a minute, Jesus. These aren't in the Ten Commandments, are they? Well, it turns out that actually they are. They are a summary of the Commandments. And if we do these two Commandments well, we will fulfill all the commandments.*

If I am to love my neighbor as myself, a good place to start is to ask, "How do I love myself?" I confess that when I look in the mirror, I do not always like that guy who is looking at me. And yet I do take pretty good care of him, I feed me, and with some pretty good food. I bathe myself, cloth myself, comb my hair, and then look in the mirror again, and then again, and then again. If I feel any pain, I am quick to take medicine or go to a doctor. On a regular basis I seek my own happiness and pleasure. I plan for retirement, I buy flattering clothes, I turn the thermostat up in the winter and down in the summer because I like to be comfortable. I try to keep a good reputation. I want people to think well of me. I try to hide my sins, hide excess flesh, and use deodorant to hide what I hope nobody else smells. I go for walks, go to the doctor when I am sick and to the dentist even when I don't have a toothache. I go to concerts, go to parties, go to bed when I am tired, go on vacations, go out with friends, go to nice restaurants, and go for ice cream. I read, write, and sit in my easy chair. I eat broccoli and spinach because they are good for me, but more often, I just eat chocolate and ice cream because they are good. You get the picture. I may not always like that person who looks at me in my mirror, but I do a pretty good job of loving that guy.

So, how do I love my neighbor? Ah... well, this is a bit harder. Jesus said to "Agape" your neighbor, and that is even harder. Perhaps, I should just start by treating my neighbor as I treat myself, and now that I think about it, I treat me pretty well. I do not gossip about me, but if I have something nice to say about me, I am sure that others know it. But I most certainly do not tell them if I have done something wrong. I generally am very thoughtful and kind, and generous to me, and I would never do anything to harm me. I think of things that would make me happy, and make sure I get them. But, I have seen me overeat, and get grouchy, and cut off slow drivers who get in my way, and there are days when I am not very spiritual. Some days, I don't exercise my body or my mind as I should. At times I am undisciplined. I make mistakes, and have been known to do some really dumb things. But I am so quick to convince myself that that's not who I really am, and I should overlook those tiny little imperfections. Oh, and I would never ever think of telling anyone those things. I know little secrets about me, but believe me, I know how to keep a secret!

Over the years I have developed an incredible capacity to forgive, to accept, to overlook faults, to focus on the good and close my eyes to the bad, to forget, to move on after a mistake, to keep believing in, doing good to, seeking what is best, and caring in so many ways when it comes to loving ME. And I didn't even know I had these wonderful capabilities. They have become highly developed and natural when it comes to loving ME, and I never noticed them.

I wonder, did Jesus really mean to love... my neighbor... in the same way that I love me? Does Jesus really know my neighbors? Does He know what it is like to live close to them? I mean, they smoke, and they drink. They drink a lot, and then throw their beer cans out along the road. Once, I caught their kids stealing apples off my apple tree, in broad daylight! They cuss; they play loud music, if you can call it music! They're not frugal with their money. They put off firecrackers at midnight when some of us are trying to sleep because we have jobs and have to get up in the morning. Their dog comes over in my yard and, well... you know. They don't look like me or think like me. Some are Democrats, some are Republicans, and I am afraid a few are socialists. They even had "Vote for Bernie" signs in their yard last

summer! They go to the casino and gamble their money away. Some are Catholics, a couple are on welfare, and two are Muslim. One whole house full, and who knows how many are living in there, are undocumented! Two are gay, two are shacking-up, one still flies the Confederate flag, one is a felon, one is an atheist, and most don't go to church at all! Jesus, you can't possibly mean "love them as I do ME," do you? They really aren't as good as...

I must confess, sometimes I think of this – I WONDER HOW DIFFERENT THIS WORLD WOULD BE, IF THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES BY CHRIST'S NAME WOULD REALLY TAKE JESUS' WORDS AT FACE VALUE, AND LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS AS THEMSELVES?
 BY PHIL YODER

CALENDAR		
Thurs. 8/6	6:30pm	Board
Fri. 8/7	6:00pm	Ladies Night In
Sat. 8/8	All Day	Kitchen Reserved
Sun. 8/9	9:00am	Phil Preaching
Mon. 8/10		Health Department
Tues. 8/11	6:00pm	Community Life Commission
Wed. 8/12	6:00pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
Thurs. 8/13	9:00am	First Mennonite Women
Sun. 8/16	9:00am	Tim Eash Preaching
Mon. 8/17	12:00pm	Blood Drive
Wed. 8/19	6:30pm	Administration Commission

All Calendar Events are subject to change.

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:
 There will be no set hours for now.
 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.

August Birthdays

- Ernest Mullet –5
- Dale Kauffman – 6
- Marlene Pletcher – 6
- Ed Outman – 8
- Lindsey Kurtz – 9
- Randy Bontrager – 13
- Lloyd Hochstedler – 15
- Tom Miller – 17
- Ward Bingaman – 21
- Joe Keller – 21
- Audrey Graber – 24
- Tillie Schrock – 24
- Nora Mullet – 25
- Randy Miller – 29

Kent Birky – 30
 Carol King – 30

WORSHIP

Focus statement: One of the wonderful things about being a human being is the ability to learn, and one of the blessings of living in an affluent nation is the freedom to dedicate much of our youth to getting an education. The world today is filled with information, and so much of it is available at our fingertips. We are bombarded with information all the time. And if there is something we don't know, it is usually easy to find it on the internet. But the Bible tells us not to simply fill our minds with information, but to learn wisdom. Wisdom has much more to do with learning how to live than filling our heads with more and more knowledge. Wisdom is about learning how to live right; living in a way that honors God and that lives in right relationships with other people.

Background scriptures: Proverbs 3, Colossians 2:1-5, II Timothy 2:15

Announcement: You can now join in the live stream of Sunday sermons by clicking onto You Tube, then typing in FMC INDIANA in the search box. We begin at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

Sunday Sermon Title: "Learning That Is Worth Learning"
Scripture Text: Proverbs 9:10

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 AM

This Sunday will be outdoor worship, bring your lawn chairs. Senior Recognition and Back to School.

(There will be no printed bulletins)

- Songs Played (no singing)
- Sharing
- Sermon
- Congregational Prayer

Song Played

Dismissal

(Please **DO NOT** sign the attendance sheets)

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday:

Next Sunday:

Welcome Center

This Sunday:

Next Sunday:

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for July 26:

Money Given to Budget \$8,120.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,343.12

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$247,982.99

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$261,812.88

The Administration Commission is pleased to announce that Betty Lou Kline has accepted the position as Administrative Assistant in the church office. She will begin her training on Monday, August 10 with Shirley Riegsecker. For the month of August, her schedule in the office will be: Mondays 9:15-1, Tuesdays 9-1 and Thursdays 9-1. The church newsletter will be published on Thursdays beginning August 13. Join us in welcoming Betty Lou to our church office!

COMMUNITY LIFE

If you would be willing to take a meal to Jim and Arlene Schrock, please call Jim at 574-370-5795 to arrange a time.

In the lobby you will find a stack of Lloyd Troyer's book, Time for Giving. This is Lloyd's memoir, but it focuses mostly on his work with Habitat for Humanity over the years. Lloyd is making these books available to anybody from church for free. If you would like one, please help yourself. If you take one, please sign the notebook on the table with the books.

Nikki Fry invites everyone to her Graduation Open House. At the church this Saturday, 1-4pm.

Jody Stubblefield would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers.

DISCIPLING

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's next project is providing Infant Care Kits. Items needed (NEW items only): 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material), 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves), 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred), 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins, 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper), 1 pair of socks, 1 cap (donation by Jan Yoder). Note: Size 3-12 months. Items can either be purchased or hand-sewn. **Sewing is planned on Aug. 13, for those ladies wanting to quilt or knot. Please bring your own lunch.**

With sadness we have canceled the MCC Great Lakes 2020 Comforter Bash in Goshen. However, the planning committee would still like to make as many comforters for MCC as possible. But we need your help! There are packets with materials available for you to make comforters at home or in small groups in your churches and communities. For more information including packet pick up times and locations, visit mcc.org/goshen-comforter-bash or call 574.534.4071.

