

ON THE JOURNEY

God's Treasures

All of us have our little treasures, don't we? A family heirloom, a dish from grandma, a quilt mom made, Grandpa's Bible, a trinket we carried home from a trip, a collection. To the rest of the world these things may not be anything special, but to us they connect us to a special experience, or to a memory, or to a person, and we treasure them. They have a particular value to us that the rest of the world doesn't see. And when our treasures are in danger of being lost or stolen, frequently people will try to keep them safe by hiding them.

When I lived in Maryland, I knew a lady who was born in Poland and grew up there during the Second World War. Her family ended up in a refugee camp, and that is where she met a young Mennonite PAX man who was from my community, and they eventually got married. Ruth has a very fascinating and emotional story. She tells of the time when her family knew that the battle front of the war was coming through their village, they took all their valuables and buried them in a box in their yard and then fled for their lives. After the war, they went back to reclaim their buried treasures. But what they found, was that the villages in the area had been bulldozed, the trees were gone, the roads were gone, the people were gone, and the landscape had changed so much, they couldn't even find the village where they once lived. She described it as visiting a foreign country where they didn't recognize any place.

I have heard numerous stories of Christians in the Soviet Union who hid their Bibles when Bibles were being confiscated. People hid them in the ground, in secret places in their houses, and many other places. I met a lady in a village in Ukraine who told me that one day she was baking bread when she saw some government officials coming up the driveway to her house. She knew they were coming to search the house for their Bible. So, she took their family's Bible and put it in some of the dough and baked it in the oven as the officials searched the house in vain for the Bible.

It might surprise you to learn that God has treasures too. And what are God's treasures? SURPRISE! It's us! It is you and me! It is His people. Isaiah 49:16 (NIV) reads, "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands," implying how precious God's people are to Him. You don't need to worry that God will forget you. You are His treasure.

The Scripture also tells us that God has hidden His treasure so it can never be lost or stolen. We read in Colossians 3:3-4, "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Our new life in Christ, that is the New Birth, our spiritual life, is so precious to God that He hides it. Our life in Christ cannot be confiscated or destroyed by an enemy, it cannot be lost, it is hidden. It is so well hidden and is such safe keeping that even death cannot touch it.

Our spiritual lives, our faith, our faithfulness to Christ, our growing in Christ, practicing spiritual disciplines even when we don't feel like it, the struggles that shape and form and develop our faith, our persistence in walking with God through the most difficult of times in life when it feels like the whole world has turned upside down, these are the things that God treasures, because these are the things that grow the life of Christ in us.

And then one day, when Jesus returns and everything is revealed, and that which has been hidden is brought out into the open, not only will our hidden life in Christ be revealed, but it will be revealed as having great glory because it is tied to the glory of Jesus. Our life in Christ, which we are feeding, and growing, and developing today, will turn out to be glory in the life to come. To the world, our life with Christ, our devotion to Christ, our prayers, and our clinging to the promises of God through times of trouble, trials, and doubts seem like wishful thinking and a waste of time, but will one day be revealed as great glory in the age to come.

CALENDAR		
9/3	6:30 pm	Board Meeting
9/6	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
9/7	5:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
9/7	6:30 pm	Worship Commission
9/8	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
9/9	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
9/10	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
9/11	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
9/13	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
9/14		Health Department
9/16	6:30 pm	Administrative Commission
9/20	9:00 am	Phil Preaching

All Calendar Events are subject to change.

HOURS ARE CHANGING!!
Betty Lou's Administrative Assistant Office
Hours:
 Tuesday 8:30am to 4:30pm
 Thursday 11:00am to 5:00pm
Phil Yoder Pastoral Office Hours:
 Tuesday 9:30 AM-1:30 PM,
 Thursday 1:00-6:00 PM
 The office is closed Monday, Wednesday and Friday - unless you have an appointment!

- All newsletter submissions need to be in to the church office by noon on Monday.

September Birthdays

- Jan Yoder – 1
- Stan Shriner – 2
- Daniel Graber – 3
- Mary Ropp – 4
- Chris Miller – 7
- Dave (Jan) Yoder – 7
- Nicole Frye – 8

- Alfred Kauffman – 9
- Jim Pletcher – 10
- Nora Elswick – 12
- Kerry Frye – 12
- Dora Graber – 12
- Lydia Frey -13
- Chris Wingard – 13
- Nancy Bontreger – 15
- Brian Mullet – 15
- Al Miller – 19
- Steve Bontrager – 20



WORSHIP

Focus statement: Work seems to be just as much a part of life as breathing. It is always there, and we are always doing it. Just as when one breath is finished, we begin another, so with our work, as soon as we finish one task, another one awaits. It is true, work never ends. From the creation story in Genesis, one of our first observations we make is that God works, and as we begin to look at the story more closely, we observe that human work is grounded in God and in the work of God. Much of our work is imitating God in His work and joining with God in caring for what God created and in what God is doing in the world each day.

Background scriptures: Colossians 3:23-24, John 19:30

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: "Our Work"

Scripture Text: Genesis 2:1-3

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM

(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 Aug 30:
Money Given to Budget \$6,488.00
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,343.12
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$270,521.99
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$283,185.36

The Fall Business Meeting is being planned for September 23rd (In person or possibly Zoom?).

You should have found a bright coral paper in your mailbox regarding **Offering Envelopes, Newsletter, Rejoice Magazine and Snowbird information**. Please return this to Betty Lou via the church office drop box at your earliest convenience.

If you have not completed a 2nd round ballot for our **replacement Church Board member**, please prayerfully do so! There are extra ballots at the church office window. These can also be slipped into the drop box. You will vote for one of the following ladies *and* one of the men: Sonya Miller, Janelle Walther, Verna Weirich, Patty (Ron) Yoder, Gerald Kauffman, Jim Rhodes, Stan Shriner and Ike Walther

COMMUNITY LIFE

Thank you for all the cards and well wishes, you helped make my birthday celebration special. I'm so blessed to have a loving church family. Wishing you all God's Blessings. ~~Nora Mullet

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.

MCC Great Lakes Centennial Service of Celebration

We had a wonderful virtual gathering celebrating the 100th anniversary of MCC with music, reflections, greetings, children's time and a powerful sermon livestreamed from Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart. Did you miss the livestream on July 26 or want to re-watch it? You can now view two recordings of the MCC Great Lakes Centennial Service of Celebration: English or Spanish subtitled. Thank you for joining the celebration and continuing to support the work of MCC around the world in the name of Christ. View the videos at: mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream.

Relief Sale Alternatives!

- "Bulk Meats" and Favorite Relief Sale Foods Sale, (A second, larger event) at Maple City Chapel parking lot on "Relief Sale Friday," September 25, from 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with more food items. If you or your church group are interested in volunteering or participating by hosting a food item for sale, please contact Chris Yoder at wovenfriendships@gmail.com.
- "Table for 8" gift certificates now available for purchase for Family-Style Dinner at Das Dutchman Essenhaus. Good from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021, each certificate is good for a table for 8 for family-style dinner, including chicken plus another meat, salad, pie, and sides. The cost per table is \$200 and \$104.00 of price per certificate can be claimed as donation to the Michiana Mennonite Relief

Sale for tax purposes. To purchase gift certificates, please email mennonitesale@yahoo.com, or download the form available on the Events calendar at <http://www.mennonitesale.org/2020-events> (Go to the "Table for 8" entry and click on the link to order form), and return completed form with a check to Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale, P.O. Box 243, Goshen, IN 46527-0243.

DISCIPLING

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OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women: The sewing project for this month is MCC school kits. Let's see if we can collect more than 150 kits! Each kit contains 4 notebooks, 8 unsharpened pencils, 1 ruler with inch and cm, 12 colored pencils, 1 large eraser, 1 small metal sharpener, 2 new pens.

JUST FOR FUN!

Can you unscramble the following scripture?

E H A T V W E R Y U O O D K O R W T A T I W T I H L A L

U O Y R H E R A T S A W I O K R N G F R O H T E L D R O N T O

O F R H U M N A M A S S E R T I S N C E Y U O W N O K T A H T

U O Y I W L L R E E E I V C N A I N E C E T A N I R F O R M E H T

R O L D S A A R E R A D W T I S I E H T R O L D C I H R S T

U O Y R A E R S E V I N G