

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 13
ISSUE 46

NOVEMBER 24, 2020



1st Sunday
of Advent

On the Journey

Thought For the Day: "The horizon is not the end of the world, it is only the end of what you see."

Worship

Focus Statement: At the time God gave this prophecy to Isaiah, there were many voices crying out in despair and discouragement; voices crying out from every nook and cranny reminding God's people that they were slaves in a foreign land, and that is the way it will always be, so just get used to it! There were voices of hopelessness, voices calling for revenge, voices reminding people of their misery. But then the prophet Isaiah declares that he is hearing a new voice, a voice that is laced with hope. It is the voice of God calling His people to take comfort because God has not forsaken them,

voice crying out that God is coming to save them! Now prepare, so you don't miss the moment when your God comes to you.

If there was ever a prophecy that is relevant for today, and by the way, there are a lot of them, it is this prophecy of voices. Today, we are deluged is a sea of voices, all calling out for our attention. Voices from the media, voices of advertisers, voices of

our friends, voices that would plant fear in us, voices intending to deceive, voices calling out, "Believe this!" other voices crying, "No, believe that!" Voices of despair, voices crying out in desperation, voices crying out in the uncertainty of the coronavirus. But God says, there is also another voice. And if we can quiet the other voices screaming at us, perhaps we can hear this voice, "Do not be afraid, you as my beloved child, your God is coming to you, coming in ways you can't imagine, don't miss Him!" Which voices are you listening to?

New Testament Fulfillment:

Matthew 3:1-3

BIRTHDAYS

Ernie Wingard	11/24
Kody Bontreger	11/26
Sharon Wyse	11/28
Jerry Beasley	12/2
Shena Yoder	12/5
Sara Weaver	12/8
Theo Outman	12/8
Levi Mast	12/13
Bob Pletcher	12/13
Betty Birky	12/17

First Mennonite Church
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*Our mission is to extend
grace, build peace, and
share love within and beyond
our faith community*

Worship Service
Sunday 9:00 am

Office Hours

Pastor Phil
Tuesday 9:30a—1:30p
Thursday 1:00p—6:00p

Business Office
Monday and Tuesday
8:00a—5:00p
and Fridays by chance

The church office is closed on
Wednesdays

Sermon Title: "Get Ready –
Your God is Coming To
You!"

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Discipling

Sign up is closed for **"C" Groups!** if you signed up, someone will be contacting you after Thanksgiving with details about a meeting!

Rejoice magazines are now in our mailboxes.

Are you missing the content of the Sunday School Quarterlies while we are not having regular Sunday School meetings? We do still have the **Salt & Light books** available in both regular and large print! We have laid out the Fall and Winter edition in the library on the bookshelf straight in from the door. Grab yourself a copy. If you are interested in the Summer 2020 edition, just ask Betty Lou to get you one out of storage!

Calendar

11/22	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
11/25	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer
11/28		Fellowship Hall Reserved
11/29	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
12/2	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer
12/3	6:30	Board Meeting
12/4	6:30	Ladies Night In
12/6	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
12/7		Health Department
12/7	5:00 pm	Preschool Advisory
12/7	6:30 pm	Worship Comm (Zoom)
12/9	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer

All Calendar Events are subject to change

2021 Offering Envelopes
are in your mailboxes.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

(There will be no printed bulletins & Please DO NOT sign the attendance sheets)

Call to Worship
Worship Songs
Sermon
Congregational Sharing and Prayer
Song
Sending Prayer
Dismissal

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

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

Administration

Stewardship Report for November 22, 2020:

Money Given to Budget
\$ 3,818.00
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,417.78

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget
\$ 52,388.00
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 65,013.36

Administration - Continued

Office Hours! Please note that any phone messages or notes dropped in the box after I leave Tuesday afternoon may not be received until the following Monday. I do not generally check the office on Sunday mornings, and I work elsewhere through the rest of the week. It's better to try to reach someone else if you have a need or prayer request!

Administration Commission met in November. Our average attendance is 54 and we are behind budget by \$11,000. We applauded the congregation for the fundraiser for Jim and Arlene Schrock. We noted the cement work around the pillar in the southeast corner of the east drive-through was repaired, lawn care is being completed for the fall and the snow plowers are ready. We agreed to review and possibly revise our church rental contract.

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

Community Life

December FMW Sewing Project benefits RETA

RETA is a faith-based, pregnancy clinic and family resource center located in downtown Elkhart, Indiana, whose mission is to provide life-affirming services and build Christ-centered families.

Let's bless them with **Laundry Detergent** and **Baby Wipes**.

Please drop your item(s) off by December 10!