

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 13
ISSUE 49

DECEMBER 15, 2020

On the Journey

"There is not enough darkness in all the world to extinguish the light of a single candle." - Robert Alden



Worship

Focus Statement: One of the dreadful things about darkness is that it hides what is there, and we are left to our imagination about what the darkness may be hiding. The light makes visible what is real and what has been mere imagination in the darkness. Light dispels darkness, exposes what was hidden in the darkness, and illuminates the way so we do not stumble and fall. The coming of light into a world that is covered in deep darkness and learning to walk in that light is one of the themes of Isaiah. Isaiah declares that when the Messiah comes, HE will not only bring the light, but

HE will be a new light in the world, a light that will bring deliverance from spiritual bondage, a light that will bring peace. And HE will be a light not only for Israel, but for all peoples of the earth. Jesus claimed to be the "Light of the World" and told His followers that they too are the light in this dark world.

Sermon Title: "MESSIAH – Will Bring Light Into This Dark World "

Text: Isaiah 9:1-7

New Testament Fulfillment:

Matthew 4:13-16, John 1:4-5, 8:12, 9:5, 12:46

BIRTHDAYS

Betty Birky	12/17
Curt Troyer	12/19
Bobbie J. Werker	12/21
Loretta Troyer	12/24
Fannie Hochstetler	12/24
Jesus Christ	12/25
Kim Christner	12/26
Brandon Graber	12/29
Edna Mast	1/8
Grace Rheinheimer	1/11
Charles Hartzler	1/14
Sam Weirich	1/15

First Mennonite Church
PO Box 508
Middlebury IN 46540
574-825-5135

Our mission is to extend grace, build peace, and share love within & 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*

Discipling

We have seven **new books** and a new video that will be appearing in the library very soon! Please check them out with the cards as usual. Some of us have lots of time on our hand due to COVID, so here's your time to travel through books! Look for a display coming soon in the library!



Calendar

12/15	12 - 6 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
12/16	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer
12/16	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
12/20	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
12/21		Betty Lou out of office
12/23	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer
12/25		Merry Christmas
12/27	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
12/30	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer
1/3	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
1/4	6:30	Worship Commission
1/6	9:00 am	Mom's in Prayer
1/7	6:30	Board Meeting
1/10	9:00 am	Phil Preaching

All Calendar Events are subject to change

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

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

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 December 13, 2020:

Money Given to Budget
\$ 4,890.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,417.78

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget
\$ 70,5478.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 81,266.70

Outreach

Outreach Commission met this month, we have assisted or actively pursued other assistance for a woman who lost her well; a single mom facing eviction; a gentleman needing gas to get to work; and the Barth Family. We also decided the Angel tree will adopt a single mother with two young children—see the attached sheet.

FMW Sewing Project

Thank you all for your donations of Laundry Detergent, Baby Wipes and even a car seat for RETA!! January will benefit our **Middlebury Food Pantry**. Please drop your item(s) off by **January 14!**

Brandon Graber is turning 30 on December 29! He would love a card shower with a comment about your favorite sports team or memory from you. Send cards to Brandon Graber, 1001 Ivanhoe Street, Sturgis, MI 49091.

Worship

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Have you been considering how you can better serve your God through your church in 2021? Would you be interested in helping with the church service, either as a worship or music leader? Consider that as our seats are not as full, it might be a good time to step out of your comfort zone! Please speak to Dale Riegsecker regarding worship leader, or Betty Lou for music. It would be great to see some fresh faces up there!



A Call to Prayer

A prayer movement has begun in churches in our area to pray for deliverance from the coronavirus. And the churches of Middlebury are asking their members to join in this larger prayer movement. This movement didn't begin in Middlebury and is much larger than our community, but we want to bring our community into this important movement of faith. Tuesday is the designated day for fasting (if you can and want to), but at least to join our hearts and voices in prayer with thousands of others around us and ask God to heal our land of this disease. The time of day and length of your prayers are up to you, but I am encouraging all of us to join in this effort and call on God to heal our land from the suffering this pandemic has brought on us.

Phil Yoder

2020 Angel Tree Family...

The family that we have chosen for the FMC congregation to adopt for Christmas this year is just a little different than in years past.

Samantha is a single mother of two very young children. Her husband left her and her children in April of this year. With no money and no job it wasn't long before she came to visit the Middlebury Food Pantry. We noticed from the beginning that Samantha was a wonderful mother and doing the very best that she could to provide for her children, never wanting special treatment or extra, never wanting to take home something that someone else could use. She and the children very soon became helpers at the food pantry, saying, "doing things for and with others really helps take your mind off of your own troubles."

Since we first met, Samantha has gotten a really good job at a local RV company and found a place to rent that was very accommodating in the beginning. But with small children and the Coronavirus hitting the nation, she has experienced several setbacks with illness and loss of pay, resulting in getting behind on her rent, and an auto repair that robbed her of transportation to get back and forth to work for a short time. With the help of numerous people and organizations that partner with the Food pantry and the Middlebury Trustee's Office, Samantha has been able to catch up nearly all of her past due bills. "The most amazing Christmas Miracle ever!!" In her words.

When we asked if we could adopt her family for Christmas she assured us that she had 3 modest gifts for each of her children to open on Christmas morning and that the greatest Christmas gift for her and her family has been the gift of God answering her prayers for the financial assistance that they have already received.

We would like to go one step further and take up an Angel Tree Offering in lieu of wrapped gifts this year. This collection would go on from now, until Christmas. Offerings can be dropped off at the church office, placed in the offering tray on Sunday mornings with a designation note of "Angel Tree" on it, or donated online at the FMC secure Offering portal. To ensure that the money goes toward the the Angel Tree Project, please write Angel Tree in the envelope number section. All monies raised would go to pay the remainder of outstanding debt that she still has and pay her January rent in advance. Please prayerfully consider how you might help this beautiful family this holiday season...

FMC Outreach Commission

