

# LIFE @ FIRST

## On the Journey

*"To clasp one's hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of this world." ~ Karl Barth*

## Worship

**Focus Statement:** Many people pray only when they are in trouble, or when they need help. Christians pray for many reasons, and about many different things. And they should. Prayer isn't simply an escape hatch to use in case of emergency. The correct understanding of prayer is that it is a relationship with God, and that it is the natural fruit of living in fellowship with God. That means that at its foundation, prayer begins with recognizing who God is and who I am. And the goal of prayer is not simply to convince God to give me what I want, but it is to enter into relationship with God, and to bring myself into position to desire what God wants.

As we study the very beginning of the church, we discover the church at prayer. They prayed constantly. They could not imagine not praying. The first disciples had lived with Jesus for three years. They loved Jesus, and when Jesus left them to return to heaven, they greatly missed Him. Prayer was the way they stayed connected to Jesus. It is no wonder they prayed constantly. It was through prayer that they maintained the presence of the resurrected Jesus in their lives, and it was through prayer that they connected to the power of God. They correctly understood that prayer is a very great privilege, and not a chore or a burden.

### Sermon Title:

Why Pray?

### Text:

Acts 4:23-31



VOLUME 14  
ISSUE 15

APRIL 13, 2021

### BIRTHDAYS

Bill Johnson	4/14
Dorothy Miller	4/15
Marge Miller	4/15
Shari Graber	4/16
Lavera Hooley	4/17
Bryce Rheinheimer	4/24
Enos Miller	4/30
Jim Schrock	5/3
Patty (Dave) Yoder	5/4
Leah Schwartz	5/7
Carol Johnson	5/9
Liz Mast	5/9
Judy Oesch	5/11

**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*

## Outreach

**FMC Sewing** May Project is to support Christian Aid Ministries with Hygiene Kits

**Please make sure all expiration dates are at least 18 months out!!**

- 1 bar soap
- 1 tube toothpaste
- 1 toothbrush
- 2 washcloths
- 1 comb
- 1 nail clipper with file
- 1 large handkerchief
- 1 bath towel (dark color preferred)
- 1 bottle Shampoo (in a zipper bag please)
- 1 bottle deodorant (roll on or stick—no aerosol)



The **church office will be closing early Monday April 19th** due to an appointment. Betty Lou will be leaving around 11, or as soon as the Red Cross is in the building to set up for

their blood drive. The church will be unlocked until about 6, but you'll probably be mistaken for a blood donor as you enter!

Speaking of the Blood Drive...

**Red Cross Blood Drive** will be set up in the fellowship hall **Monday 4/19**. If you need an appointment, please go to the Red Cross website to book your own or you may contact Betty Lou. If you have had the COVID 19 vaccine, they will need to know which brand name you received, as it may affect when you are eligible to donate.

## Community Life



*“Operation ♥” Project*

**This week consider praying for and / or reaching out to your church family, but especially remember**

**A Person Who is Going Through a Difficult Time**

New address

Paul W Haarer  
1300 Greencroft Drive # 63  
Goshen IN 46526

Phone remains the same

If you would be willing to take a meal to Jim & Arlene Schrock, please call Jim at

574-370-5795

to arrange a time.



LIFE SAVING NUMBERS

**1** blood donation can help save the lives of up to **3** people

Every **2** seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood

## An Interesting Bit of History

**Last week I told you** about what I had determined to be the people with the longest membership at FMC. That's not age, or how long they've attended, but how long ago they joined the church. I had a lovely note from Ruby Bontreger and an even more exciting phone call from Bill Johnson, informing me I hadn't gone back far enough!! Carol (Vincent) Johnson was actually initially listed in the older of the two books and I had indeed missed this. Carol joined the church following accepting salvation at a revival service. She was baptized into membership on 6/24/1945 - which gives HER the longest membership! **Thank you** to both of my fact checkers, it was confusing but fun to dig through the books to verify this!!

### SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

**(You must pre-request a printed bulletin & Please DO NOT sign the attendance sheets)**

Call to Worship  
Worship Songs  
Congregational Sharing and Prayer  
Sermon  
Song  
Sending Words  
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, but the livestream may not be fully available until 11 AM.

## Other News & Announcements

### Old Hoosier Meats

101 Wayne St. Middlebury, IN  
(574)825-2940

### SMOKED BBQ RIBS GIVE BACK NIGHT



Stop by Old Hoosier Meats from  
3:30 to 6 on April 15th to pick up a  
slab of smoked BBQ ribs & a percentage

of all proceeds will be given back to Pleasant Oaks Nursery School.

These award-winning ribs are prepared w/ a signature dry rub,  
feed 2-3 people, & are ready to eat when you pick them up.

Pre-order ribs [\$19/slab] by calling us @ (574)825-2940. See you then!

**Responding to disaster: MCC's response to hurricanes Eta & Iota webinar on April 21 & 22 at 8 p.m. EST.** MCC is pleased to bring you, via Zoom, the people and stories directly impacted by this disaster response that you generously supported. Join us for this free two night webinar to hear directly from MCC partner organizations and church partners in Honduras and Nicaragua. They will share about MCC's disaster response as well as how climate change impacts migration and poverty in Central America. Register at [mcc.org/hurricanes-webinar](https://mcc.org/hurricanes-webinar).

## Administration

### Stewardship Report for April 11, 2021:

Money Given to Budget

**\$ 4,725.00**

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget

**\$ 5,417.78**

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget

**\$ 158,892.47**

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget

**\$ 173,308.91**