

Heritage

Recently, someone came to the church with some quilts. She said she is trying to figure out what to do with them. The quilts were made by herself and by her mother. They were beautiful! Not only were they beautiful, but they are now antiques, and they are in good condition. I suggested that she give them to her children, but she said that her children don't want them. I struggled to grasp that. Who wouldn't want a piece of art created with love by their own mother and grandmother? But, I know who, many people in our culture today, that is who.



I know that things handed from generation to generation are only material possessions, but they represent something else. In past times, and sometimes today, people pass heirlooms from one generation to the next, a piece of furniture, a Bible, a clock, dishes, land, etc. And while these items may not be the most attractive to a passerby, they hold a particular value that can't really be measured, because they were a unique connection to a person and to another generation, and for that reason, they were treasured.

If someone doesn't want another item to add clutter to their home, I can understand that, but there is something happening in our world that greatly troubles me. There is a trend in our culture today to discard everything from the past, including skills, knowledge, and the wisdom of past generations that enabled those generations to survive.

It is not only material things that people pass on. They also pass on their traditions, skills, stories, values, wisdom, faith, and an identity. And these are actually more important than first meets the eye. These provide the younger generation with a particular identity, with the security of having a place to



BIRTHDAYS

Patty (Dave) Yoder	5/4
Leah Schwartz	5/7
Carol Johnson	5/9
Liz Mast	5/9
Judy Oesch	5/11
Shirley Riegsecker	5/16
Patti Miller	5/17
Ruby Yoder	5/17
Betty Lou Kline	5/18
Ron Rheinheimer	5/22
Tom Bontreger	5/24
Verna Weirich	5/24
David Graber	5/31
Janelle Walther	5/31

First Mennonite Church
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*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

On the Journey, Continued...

belong, with a sense of belonging to a particular people, of being part of a larger narrative, and remembering the history and wisdom of past generations.

But what is happening in our culture today, is that many young people don't want any heirlooms, and much more significantly, they don't want any connection to the past. They don't want the morals, the values, the skills, the faith, the wisdom, or the advice of their parents or of past generations. All they really want is their parent's money or a place to live. Our culture is working unceasingly, and with much success, at breaking youth from their connections to their past. And the all-important question that someone better begin to ask is, "What is our culture replacing it with?" When our culture has successfully discarded the morals and traditions and values of the past, it is free to replace them with anything it can conceive of.

I know that each person must form their own identity. That is part of growing up, and it is important, as each person must make faith and a value system their own. But cutting off one's roots and throwing out all connections to what made us who we are, is not only unwise, it is dangerous. Nobody forms a belief system or a value system out of nothing. We either sift through the traditions and values of our heritage to form our own, or we blindly accept the values, the narrative, and the idols of contemporary culture and make these our own.

Sunday is Mother's Day. On Mother's Day, many will take mom out to eat, or send flowers or cards, or come home for the day. These things are nice, and they are certainly appreciated by moms. But a much better way of honoring our mothers is to listen to her stories, to learn to treasure what she treasures, her faith, her teaching, her values, her wisdom, her labors of love, all that has made mom who she is.



Worship

Sunday is Mother's Day. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the best-known mother in the all the Bible, that is for

Sermon Title:
Jochebed – Oh, The Faith of Our Mothers

Text:
Exodus 1:22 - 2:10

sure, and probably the second best-known mother is Jochebed. WHO? Who is Jochebed? Jochebed is mentioned only twice in the Bible, and then only in

genealogy lists and with a quirky note that most people would try to hide, she married her nephew. So, how could she be well-known if most people have never heard her name? But when I mention her children, we will all recognize her. She is known primarily through her children, Moses, Miriam, and Aaron. Oh, now we remember. She was the one who put baby Moses in a basket and hid him among the reeds along the Nile River. She, through faith, understood that her child would be used of God for a special purpose, and like Mary, she had her son only for a short time, then released him to God for the work God had for him to do. The faith of Mary overshadows all the events in the

New Testament. And obscure and quirky as her story may be, the faith of Jochebed overshadows all that happened to the Israelites in the Old Testament. The faith of our mothers has been an important road map for most of us as we navigate our way through life.

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 6:1-3, Numbers 26:59

Church Van— Repurposed



Since our church van was not being used, it was decided that it would be better stewardship of God's property to donate the van to a place where it would be used in the service of God's Kingdom. After prayer and discussion, the Board and the Administration Commission decided to donate the van to the Mennonite Service Center in Macon, Mississippi. This Center had its roots as the Mashulaville Mennonite VS Unit, and today work continues through the Service Center to serve the very poor and needy of the area with Larry and Maxine Miller serving as the directors.



The van was loaded with water, non-perishables food items, and paper products, donated by church members and E&S Sales, and Jerry Beasley transported it to its new home in Mississippi on April 28. We trust that the van will continue to be used in the service of God's Kingdom. ~ Phil Yoder

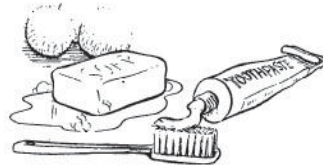
Editor's note: Some additional shout outs that were brought to my attention today that probably should be included... Ron & Patty Yoder donated and installed a new battery; Maranatha Sunday School donated \$500 for the food items; E & S generously rounded down the final bill for over 200 gallons of food to meet this amount; Jerry & Ruth also added in paper products and Gatorade; and finally thank you to Vickie Wingard at Bill's Collision for arranging an oil change and once over on the van to make sure it would arrive safely, at no charge!

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)



Spring Business Meeting

I failed to get the **Spring Business Meeting** on the church calendar that went out last week. Please make a note on your calendars that we will be meeting on Wednesday May 26, 2021 at 6:30. Speakers, remember to please have an extra copy of your notes available for Betty Lou prior to addressing the church body, if you haven't submitted it in advance!



Community Life

“Operation ♥” Project

The list I was given has now run out. This week let's reflect on how Operation ♥ affected you. Did you find ways to encourage others? Were you encouraged by anyone? Is this something that you could/would do on your own—selecting persons to support each week. Remember you don't need a newsletter prompt to reach out to your church family!

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



Administration

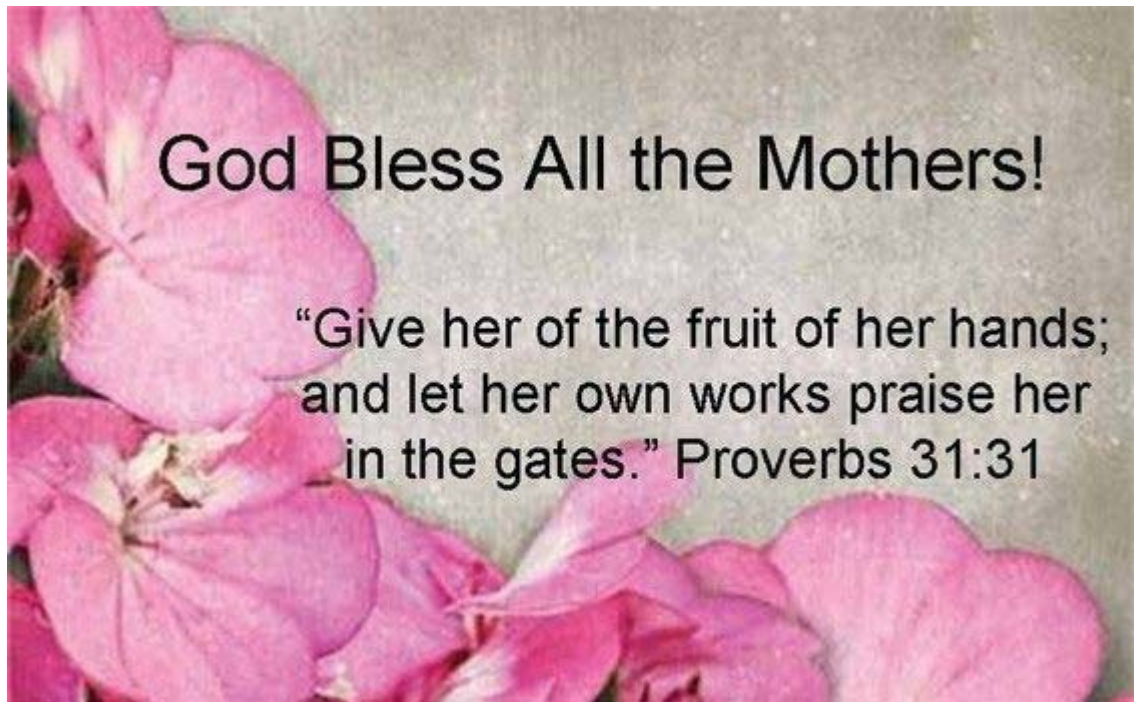
Stewardship Report for May 2, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ **4,015.00**

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$ **5,417.78**

Year To Date Money Given to Budget \$ **169,037.47**

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$ **189,562.25**



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

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

Preschool

Thursday May 13th is the Preschool's final give back night. Please join us at West on Warren, or carry out your favorite meal, while supporting the Pleasant Oaks Preschool! Please give them the attached coupon when you pay so that they can credit POPs appropriately!

Pleasant Oaks Preschool Advisory Board met in May. Rachel, our lead teacher, reported our classes are winding down. The last day of school is May 28. Our Mommy & Me day is scheduled for May 20 & 21 walking to the Essenhaus bridge with a picnic. They will also have tables outside to plant flowers. There is a COVID friendly rain plan if necessary. Our last give back night is with West on Warren restaurant on May 13. We discussed different internet and phone options (other than Frontier) for our building.