

# LIFE @ FIRST

## Worship

VOLUME 14  
ISSUE 34

AUG 24, 2021

Have you ever had one of those days where no matter what you did or what you said, or whatever happened, you felt defeated? It was just one of those days that we sometimes say "it's a Monday", meaning everything's a struggle. We have all had those days. It's not only in our everyday life of work and family but also in our spiritual lives as well where we get to feeling that no matter how hard we try-- we have failed. Well,

**Sermon Title:**

"It's a New Day! "

**Text:**

Lamentations 3: 19-26

don't be defeated, don't be downhearted! Tomorrow is a new day! God promised that! In Lamentations chapter 3, there are two key verses that are given to us by the prophet Jeremiah. He says in verses 22 and 23, "Because of the Lords great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new

every morning, great is your faithfulness." What a wonderful promise--Gods mercies, Gods love, His compassions are new every morning-- no matter what happened the day before. God assures us that it's a new day! Praise the Lord!

And the Lord God said, "Come to the edge."  
But they said, "It is dangerous along the edge."  
And the Lord God said, "Come to the edge."

But they said, "We might fall!"

And the Lord God said, "Come to the edge."

So, they came to the edge,

And the Lord God pushed them. AND THEY FLEW!

C. S. Lewis

### SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

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.

Worship Leader - Dave Graber

### BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Graber	8/24
Tillie Schrock	8/24
Randy Miller	8/29
Kent Birky	8/30
Carol King	8/30
Jan Yoder	9/1
Stan Shriner	9/2
Daniel Graber	9/3
Mary Ropp	9/4
Chris Miller	9/7
Dave (Jan) Yoder	9/7
Nicole Frye	9/8
Alfred Kauffman	9/9

**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*  
*Sunday School 10:15 am*

*Office Hours*

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

*Pastor Tim*  
*Wednesday 2:00p—6:00p*

*Business Office*  
*Monday and Tuesday*  
*8:00a—5:00p*

## Office Hours / Contact Info

Please note our updated office hours and contact information!

Pastor Phil

Tuesday 9:30a—1:30p

Thursday 1:00p—6:00p

Pastor Tim

Wednesday 2:00p—6:00p

Betty Lou (office)

Monday and Tuesday

8:00a—5:00p

If there is a need for one of us to be somewhere at a specific time outside of these times, we can generally be flexible, but keep in mind Tim and Betty Lou both work outside of FMC, so your patience is appreciated if we are not immediately available to return your call / message.

For those of you wishing to contact Pastor Phil or Pastor Tim outside of office hours, their emails and phone numbers are as follows:

Pastor Phil 574-524-6529  
philyoder@yahoo.com

Pastor Tim 574-202-0542  
tim@firstmennonite.net

You may also contact Jean Shriner with any care concerns, although she does not have office hours. 574-596-3376  
574-534-1448  
jsshine@frontier.com



Gordon and Iva Jean Kauffman of Middlebury will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were married on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1961 at First Mennonite Church of Middlebury by the Rev Wilbur Yoder.

They have 4 children: Jody Stubblefield (Elkhart), Jeff Kauffman (Centennial, CO), Jil Miller (Middlebury), Jay Kauffman (Chicago, IL), along with 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Gordon retired in 1995 from Northridge High School where he was a teacher and softball coach. Iva Jean retired in 2006 from the Northridge High School Cafeteria.

There will be an Open House on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Greencroft Middlebury Community Center. You are invited to join us in this celebration.

## Outreach

Are you a storyteller? Do you love interacting with children? Boy, have we got a great idea for you!!! The Outreach Commission would like to bring back " Children's Story Time" to our Sunday morning Worship Service once or maybe even twice a month to start. We are looking for someone like you to help us with that. It can be a person, a couple, or a team.... You could read a book, do a skit, or tell a story from your own life experiences. The child in each of us has been missing this delightful time and have decided bring it back to life. If you would be willing to do a children's time story, please contact the Outreach Comm. and we can get started right away!

Tom, Michelle, Ward, Pam, Shena, & Pastor Phil.

Have you ever heard the song Mandisa sings, “God Speaking”? If not I encourage you to listen to it on YouTube—it might give you some Twinkle moments you may not have realized!! I’ve included the lyrics on the next page for you to read, but the actual performance is so much more powerful!

Oddly enough—or maybe not—it’s songs that constitute my own Twinkle story. It seems my love language with God is through music, and it hasn’t been an isolated incident—there have been many times when I need to hear something or need some type of reassurance and the right song comes on the radio.

My most recent love messages, or “Twinkles” for the sake of the article, were just this Thursday afternoon, and again on Saturday morning. I was feeling a good deal of anxiety about the destination I was driving to on both of these days—it is a place I know well, a place I grew up, but not a place that brings me ANY level of security anymore for several reasons, Why go there then? God has been pointing all the arrows there and putting me there (I sure hope He shows me why soon). When I say anxiety, I mean real on, nearly turn the car around, this is a big mistake, ANXIETY!

Immediately I was really listening to the song on the radio, not just mindlessly having music playing as I had for the bulk of the trip. The song? Michael W Smith “Surrounded”. Specifically it says (over and over) “It may look like I’m surrounded, but I’m surrounded by You... This is how I fight my battles” - referring to giving it ALL to God. This song is long, it is repetitive, and it played until I was in the parking lot of my destination. Think it was a fluke? Well, Saturday, I’m headed back to the same place, starting to feel anxious again, and you know what, I was again conscious of the song that was playing. I honestly don’t remember hearing the first words of it, the first part I remember clearly hearing was “...no matter if I’m surrounded by the devil and a thousand men, in the middle of my darkest



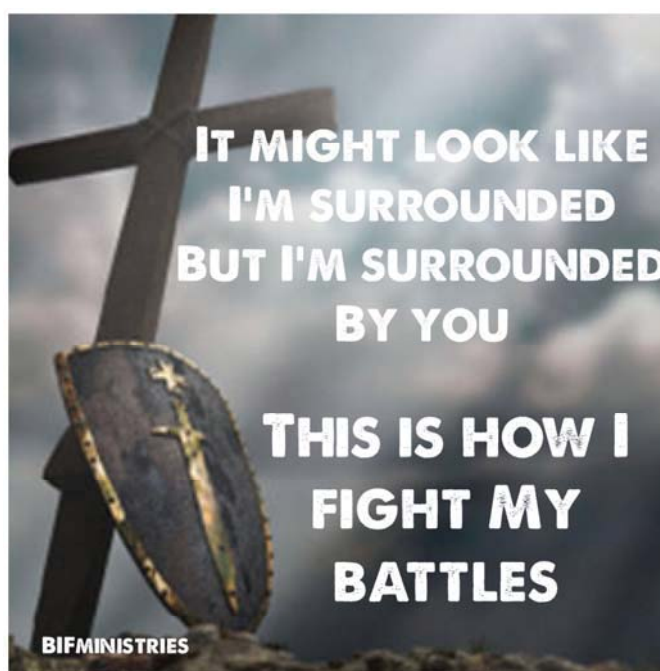
hour when I stand no chance, but God is my Fortress, I will not be shaken, though I’m surrounded I won’t be forsaken God is my shield and praise is my weapon...”. Again this song, “But God” by John Waller, took me within a block of my parking lot.

Now, I ask you what are the chances that this was just a coincidence—read those lyrics again—God knew I needed to feel surrounded, that I needed to feel HIS protection, and used our love language to reassure me of that.

**Thank you God for showing me that no matter my battle, YOU are surrounding me and protecting me with your awesome love!**

~ written by Betty Lou Kline

What is YOUR love language with God? How do YOU feel Him “Twinkle” in your daily life? Won’t you please tell us all your story? It doesn’t have to be long—just inspire us to hear how “God (is) Speaking” in YOUR love language!



## Administration

Stewardship Report for  
August 22, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 2,112.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget  
\$ 5,417.78

Year To Date Money Given to Budget  
\$ 260,056.77

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget  
\$ 276,246.73

## Board

We discussed some things that are happening that came out of ideas that were discussed at the last Business Meeting. Our Fall Business Meeting will be September 29. We will ask all Commission Chairs to share a report. Discussed some of Tim's responsibilities. Approved the budget that Kent shared with us. We will welcome Gerald Kauffman to the Board. (Also, Janelle Walther). She was not known yet at our last meeting. Excited to have them!

### Publishing deadlines!!

All **newsletter** submissions need to be in to the church office by **12 noon on Monday**,  
**Bulletin** submissions are due by  
**10 am on Tuesday!**

I'm generally pretty prompt about having everything ready to go Tuesday mornings! Don't miss getting your items published in the newsletter or bulletin

## Outreach

FMC Sewing September Project is  
to support the Relief Sale

## Administration

The Administration Commission met in August and heard our attendance numbers (83) and budget deficit (\$12,800) improved over the last month. Budget information will be forwarded to the Church Board for approval at our Fall Business meeting. There are conversations with our Scott Street neighbor and Middlebury's Town Manager regarding a weak tree line. We are also discussing our church memorial funds and Student Aid guidelines, hoping to make them more encouraging to our congregation and community. Our Trustee has gathered a list of contractors for our bathroom renovation.

## Fall Business Meeting

Mark your calendars now— **September 29th** is the **Fall Business meeting for FMC**. Our Community Life Commission will be serving us another incredible meal before the meeting. So plan to join us for fellowship before we get down to business!

Reminder that **Committee Reports** are due for this meeting. Please get at least an outline of your points, or your whole speech if you plan to read it, to Betty Lou before the meeting begins to assist her with minutes—this is truly one of her biggest weaknesses!

## Lost and Found

Apparently we have started a trend! The pink Bible remains here and is joined by a brown leather one! I looked for a name in both, but there's nothing identifying either of them!

## Newsletter Changes–AGAIN

While I have received many positive responses about ditching the envelope and mailing a folded copy of the newsletter, the lovely lady at the post office told me if I'm going to do this, it's going to cost an extra 20 cents in postage. Envelopes aren't that expensive, and while the imprint on the environment goes back up, I just can't justify spending the extra money, especially when it is actually a little more time consuming to do it this way. I may continue to print an 11 X 17 from time to time, for those picking it up in person, but for those of you getting it in the mail, it's going to have to go back to being in an envelope, and smaller sheets are a lot easier to fold!

## Holiday Craft Show

We will be hosting a Holiday Craft Show on November 6th. The proceeds from the table rent will go to the Philippines Water Project. If you or someone you know would like to fill out an application for a table, please check in with Betty Lou or email [info@firstmennonite.net](mailto:info@firstmennonite.net). If you are not a crafter, plan to come and support local artisans as a shopper! I think we can ALL do a bit of that! This will be a great way to get some Christmas shopping items checked off of your list!!

## Outreach

**Food Pantry Patrons are looking for Bibles.** Do you have any extra Bibles laying around the house? Might you have a chance to check out some of the resale shops nearby to see if they might have some at a reasonable price? Would you participate in a fundraiser to help purchase some Bibles? Maybe you know someone, that can purchase Bibles whole-sale? We could most definitely use your help!! This is a tremendous Outreach Opportunity!! Contact anybody on the Outreach Commission Tom, Michelle, Ward, Pam, Shena & Pastor Phil

## God Speaking

Have you ever heard a love song  
That set your spirit free?  
Have you ever watched a sunrise  
And felt you could not breathe?  
What if it's Him? What if it's God speaking?

Have you ever cried a tear  
That you could not explain?  
Have you ever met a stranger  
Who already knew your name?  
What if it's Him? What if it's God speaking?

Who knows how He'll get a hold of us?  
Get our attention to prove He's enough  
He'll do and He'll use whatever he wants to  
To tell us 'I love you'

Have you ever lost a loved one  
Who you thought should still be here?  
Do you know what it feels like  
To be tangled up in fear?  
What if He's somehow involved?  
What if He's speaking through it all?

Who knows how He'll get a hold of us?  
Get our attention to prove He's enough?  
He'll do and He'll use whatever he wants to  
To tell us 'I love you'

His ways are higher, His ways are better  
Though sometimes strange  
What could be stranger than God in a manger?

Who knows how He'll get a hold of us?  
Get our attention to prove He's enough?  
Who knows how He'll get a hold of you?  
Get your attention to prove He's enough?  
He'll do and He'll use whatever He wants to  
To tell us 'I love you'

God is speaking, 'I love you'

As recorded by Mandisa, "True Beauty"  
Sparrow Records