

LIFE @ FIRST

Worship

Nobody likes to talk about judgment. And many in our society today have deluded themselves into thinking that they will never be judged, that they will never be held accountable for their actions, or that there are no consequences for what they do. But the Bible is clear, we will ALL give an account to God for what we did in this life. The Bible is full of warnings and stories of judgment from cover to cover. The Bible does not give many details of that Last Judgment, just that everyone who ever lived will be there, that nothing is hidden from God, and that God in the end will judge. We know that God is fair and just, God is full of grace and love, and for that reason, some people think God will not judge them. But if God did not judge evil and wrong, and overthrow the rule of Satan on the earth, God

If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead.

-William Law

Sermon Title:
"The Last Judgment"
Text:
Revelation 20:11-15

would not be good. When the Bible speaks of the final judgment, it includes both a just punishment for the unfaithful, but it also includes rewards for the faithful. We are used to thinking of judgment as primarily punitive, as punishment for doing something wrong. But the Bible reveals God's judgment to also be a sorting out, a cleansing, and giving of rewards. One of the keys to understanding the Last Judgment in Revelation 20, is to notice its context.

Related Scripture: Hebrews 9:27, Matthew 13:36-43, 47-52, Matthew 25:1-46

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 - Tim Eash Music - Worship Team

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 35

SEPT 7, 2021

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Miller	9/7
Dave (Jan) Yoder	9/7
Nicole Frye	9/8
Alfred Kauffman	9/9
Jim Pletcher	9/10
Nora Elswick	9/12
Kerry Frye	9/12
Dora Graber	9/12
Lydia Frey	9/13
Chris Wingard	9/13
Brian Mullet	9/15
Al Miller	9/19
Steve Bontrager	9/20

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

Administration

Stewardship Report for
September 5, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 4,514.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 4,514.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Relief Sale

This is another Relief Sale opportunity, in addition to signing up for the Bake Sale, and Garage Sale. Ten Thousand Villages and Craft barn is looking for volunteers for the following “jobs”: GREETER, CASHIER, UNPACKER OR PACKER. Shifts are 2 hours. There are opportunities starting at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept 23 through Saturday, Sept 25, 3 p.m. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board for more details about the “jobs” and to sign up. Or you can text, call, or email Ruth Beasley, who has been asked to assist with this, if you can help. (260-750-2771 or agb12029@bnin.net).

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 October Project is to support for RETA Pregnancy Clinic & Family Resources

Laundry Detergent
Cleaning Supplies

Please put these items in the Sewing tote near the East Entrance Doors



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

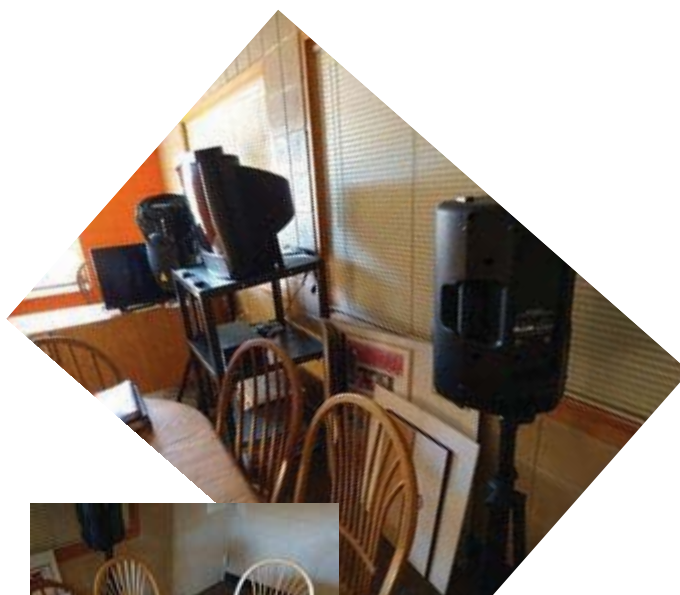
Apparently we have started a trend! The pink Bible remains here and is joined by a brown leather one! I looked for a name in both, but there's nothing identifying in either of them!

Housekeeping

Now that Tim is using the back office space as his office, it's time for a little extra housekeeping! Let's show Tim a little love and respect by getting this room looking more like a respectable office and a little less like a storage closet!

For several years now we've all become accustomed to using the back office as a catch all / storage room for minimally used or unwanted items that we didn't know what to do with. If you know that you have parked items in this office until you can figure out what to do with them, but left them there, it's time to get that figured out! Last week I moved his non-personal items to the front half of the office, please look over these photos to see if there's anything in here that you need to claim or rehome!

Tim is locking his office, so please plan to come in during the office hours for Betty Lou, Phil or Tim, or make other arrangements with one of us to meet you here. Let's make a goal to have this cleanup completed by September 27th—that's a little more than 2 weeks from now. Anything left in there on the 27th will be considered abandoned and donated or otherwise disposed of.



Newsletter

Please accept my sincere apologies for not having a newsletter for you last week, it was obvious that several of you were looking for one! Obviously, I would have preferred to be in the office being busy creating the newsletter, bulletins and other things you've come to expect from me, but that was just not a reality I could even consider.

I'm pretty sure that I am now caught up with everything that you have all submitted to me over the past couple of weeks, but if you remember giving me something that I have not included this week, please remind me! I left in a hurry on Monday and I was unable to get things organized the way I needed them to be today!

On the Journey

“A Miracle On The Horizon”

On several occasions, while distributing food to destitute people in Moldova, several people fell at my feet as if to worship me. I quickly moved away from them and said to them, “Don’t worship me! It is God who gave you this food, you must worship God. I am nothing but the poor servant God told to carry this to you.” Those occasions have reminded me of a couple of things. One is that when we have food and clean water, or other things in abundance, we tend to not see the miracle of these great blessings, and too often are not even very thankful for them. I am also reminded that when God does miracles, much of the time God uses ordinary people to carry those miracles to a place where they are recognized as miracles. Many of God’s greatest miracles have passed through the hands of ordinary but willing servants.

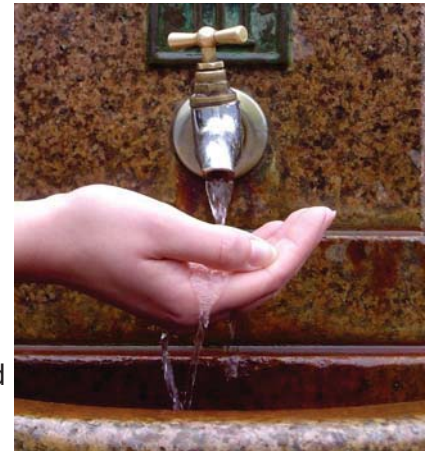


Photo by [ronald schuster](#) from [Freelimages](#)

We at First Mennonite have a unique opportunity before us, and that is to be the servants of God, to bring hope to the Subanen Tribe in the Philippines, to do something they will see as a miracle from God. Aristeo and Angely Javier are the missionaries who have invested countless hours of prayer and work, and have walked innumerable steps over mountains and through rivers to bring the message of God’s salvation to this tribe. Now God has given us at First Mennonite the opportunity to be a part of this mission by providing clean water for these new Believers who are excitedly embracing their new life in Christ. Most recently we have provided Bibles for these new Believers. Now, we have an opportunity to provide clean water for them.

Last year we provided funds to build a reservoir. That reservoir has been completed and is now waiting for water to fill it. The spring which can provide this water is 2 miles away. That is a long way to run a pipe. But the plan is to run a 2” pipe from the spring to the reservoir.

Currently, a few people, and only occasionally, will walk to the spring and carry water the 2 miles to their homes, so they have clean water. But carrying water for 2 miles is unthinkable to me, as it is to most people, including people of the Subanen Tribe. So, most of the people just go to the nearby river and use untreated river water for drinking and for all their water needs.



Photo by Holger Dieterich from [Freelimages](#)

The cost for the pipe to bring water from the spring to the reservoir is \$9,000 at the current prices and exchange rates. That is a lot of money, for sure. The missionaries and the people who live there can’t even imagine that much money (450,000 pesos), and they

On the Journey (continued)

consider that only a miracle from God will make this possible. And I happen to agree with them! I also happen to believe that God still does miracles today.

Almost always when we think of miracles, we think of receiving miracles, what God might do for me. But God also uses His servants in providing miracles. When Jesus sent His disciples out, He said to them, *“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, and preach the Good News of God’s Kingdom”* (Matthew 10:7-8). Miracles began to flow through Jesus’ disciples, because they were willing servants. God has given us the opportunity to be the conduit of a miracle, a miracle of clean water to an old village. The missionaries and the people have been praying for this miracle. They don’t see how it is possible apart from a miracle of God. How blessed we are to be chosen to be the hands of God in a miracle, to build faith and instill a sense of wonder in the hearts of these new believers, that God still does miracles today!

By Philip Yoder, September 2021



IS THERE A HERO IN THE HOUSE?

Have you noticed anyone who goes above and beyond for your FMC family? Someone who did a really great job with something? or Maybe someone just blessed or inspired you. Nominate them for a “Hero in the House” award! Mention their name to any Community Life Commission member (Denise Johnson, Eva Kurtz, Jean Shriner, Janelle Walther, Dave {Patty} Yoder or Elnora Yoder) or drop a note in their mailbox. The nominee will be publically honored & will receive a small gift certificate in appreciation for how they are using their gifts to serve us all at FMC. Please nominate as many HEROS as you can think of!

ZOOM

Community Life

CLC recently met and welcomed our new chairperson, Elnora Yoder. We went over the many responsibilities of CLC and finalized who would be filling those positions; This includes funeral visitation & meals; kitchen & fellowship committees; women’s retreat; prayer shawl ministry; Everence representative; welcome center hosts; and coffee prep and cleanup.

THANK YOU, volunteers for serving as you do! We planned a meal for the Sept 29 Fall Business Meeting and a fellowship meal for Communion Sunday, October 3.

As our ZOOM account was up for it’s annual renewal and seeing that we are getting back to meeting in person, it was decided not to renew this for another year and save these funds!

Should things change and you see that you do need to use this method of communication again, please let the office know with as much advance notice as possible so that we can re-activate this account. It’s really not a big time consuming process, it’s just getting it done on a day when I’m here!