

## On the Journey

### Jesus and Death

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ISSUE 39

OCT 12, 2021

Our sermon series for the past two months has been to look at what the Bible says happens to people when they die, what they can expect and prepare for. Death is not an easy subject to talk about, nor an enjoyable subject to talk about, and for that reason, most people avoid talking about it. But it is a part of life, and eventually, it touches all of us. The Death of a loved one is very painful for those who are left behind. We spend a lifetime weaving and growing our lives together, then suddenly, our lives are separated, and all we have left are memories, and that is painful. And then the opportunity to express what we feel in our hearts toward a loved one is taken away. They are gone, and those words of love and affection that we meant to say, are too often left unsaid. ***Please, if you have words of love for someone, don't wait to tell them!***

Even though death is not an enjoyable subject to discuss, it is important to know what the Bible teaches about death, and the great hope that Christians have after death. The Bible tells us that Jesus has power over death, that He rose from the dead, and has overcome death not only for himself, but for His followers! Revelation 1:17-18, Jesus says, ***"Do not be afraid! I am the first and the last. I am the Living One; I was dead, but look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*** Jesus declares that He has taken the greatest weapon that Satan had away from him. That weapon (death) and those who have died and are being held in Hades are no longer under the control of Satan, they are now in the hands of Jesus!

The more I know of Jesus, the more I see how precious, how valuable, and how important Jesus truly is, and the more I love Him. Jesus completely revolutionized the human understanding of death and how those with faith in Jesus approach death, taking death away from the hands of Satan

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Baptism service immediately following worship

Worship Leader - Shari Graber Music - Tom Miller

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.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Karen Pletcher	10/15
Betty Graber	10/17
Katie Kauffman	10/17
Gerri Beachy	10/19
Ezra Ropp	10/19
Anne Yoder	10/19
Garrett Kozlowski	10/24
Dale Riegsecker	11/1
Glenn Weaver	11/1
Gerald Kauffman	11/3
Ruth Beasley	11/5
Ellen Bontrager	11/5
Sonya Miller	11/5

**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*

## Worship

Since August, we have been looking at what the Bible says happens when we pass on from this life. And the Bible has more to say than we typically think. It becomes clearer if we can somehow look past our sufferings, disappointments, and

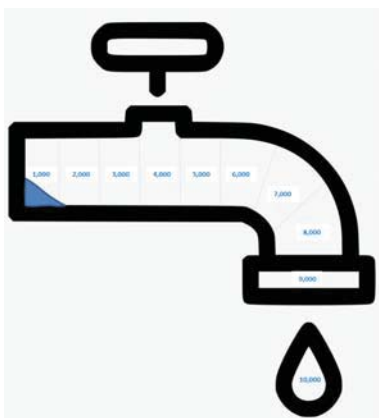
heartaches that we must deal with in this life.

Title: **“Our Inheritance”**

Text: **1 Peter 1:3-7**

Sunday will probably be the last sermon in this series, and we want to look at

one more thing the Bible tells us that God has planned for His children, and that is an inheritance. Yes, as children of God, we can expect an inheritance from God. And as inheritances work, we receive it by virtue of a relationship, being God’s children, it is not something that we work for. The Bible makes numerous references to our inheritance, although, it is something we don’t think much about. We rarely talk about it, probably because we don’t know much about it. The Bible tells us it is being kept in heaven for us, waiting for us when we arrive. What an awesome thought, God not only removes our sins from us, and rescues us from the grave, then gives us imperishable bodies to live in a new world, and then lavishes an inheritance on us? If our inheritance is anything like all the other fabulous gifts God lavishes on us, WOW! How Great is our God?



## Philippine Water Project

Several people have been inquiring about the Philippine Water Project. We will be putting the sharing box out on the shelf behind the sound booth. You may also mark your regular giving envelopes with Water Project. The goal for this project is to be able to send them \$10,000, which is the cost of the project with a small amount extra in consideration of the constant increase in costs the world seems to be incurring. We’re off to a good start!

## On the Journey (cont’d)

and taking control of the world’s most dreaded event. Death is no longer under Satan’s control, it is now in the hands of Jesus, and those hands, those precious hands of immeasurable and incomprehensible love, opened wide and were pierced to deliver us from the fear and from the destruction of death, and from the fate Satan was planning for us. PRAISE GOD! Jesus revealed that from now on, for those who belong to Him, death is not the end, it is the beginning of something new and glorious! It is the step from this world of failure, suffering, pain, heartache, uncertainty, and misery into a new world without evil, without pain, without tears, without age, without fear, without worry, and without death! How can we not, just like Mary at Jesus’ resurrection, fall at Jesus’ feet and cling to the one who overcame the greatest destructive force in the world – Death? How can we not, like Mary Magdalene, fall in love with Jesus? How can we not, like Peter, weep at our failures and denials of the one who shed His blood to give us Eternal Life? How can we not, like the Apostle Paul, allow the bright light from heaven to alter the course of our lives? How can we not, like Thomas, who once doubted but when he saw Jesus alive, cry out, “My Lord and My God!”

Written by Philip Yoder

October 2021



## Thank you

Adeline Graber & Tom and Sonya Miller would like to thank you for all of your kind words, prayers, and help during the passing of Sam Graber. We all appreciate our church family.

## Library @ First

Many of you know we have a church library, right? Can you name any of the authors that are shelved in our library, or did you think it was just a really neat backdrop to dress up a meeting room? There are some really incredible author's works housed on these shelves. Max Lucado, David Jeremiah, John MacArthur just to name a few! Each week, we will try to feature a book from the shelves. It might be a quick picture, it might be a full out book review, either way lets try to whet your appetite for some good reading!

This week I'm choosing a book that has been a real challenge to me. It was recommended by a friend who is a teacher, counselor and writer herself. There is a newer version out there, but I grabbed this one to see what it was about before ordering one I could mark up. **Boundaries by Cloud & Townsend** was very helpful for me at time when I was feeling like I had no say in my life, I was just responding to what others expected of me. Guess what? It's okay to say NO! You know what else? People don't quit talking to you just because you do, and if they did, you're probably a happier you without them!! Note to Self: re-read some of these chapters!

Group Participation time! Have you read a good book that we have in our library that you'd like to share with others? Feel free to submit a review, or suggest a title to be featured in the future! Initially my thought was to name this little feature **Library @ First**—kinda like our newsletter, **Life @ First**, but I'm open to other ideas. What do YOU think it should be called? Submit your feature names to the church office for consideration!



## Burial Aid

Please note that there are envelopes in your boxes or newsletter envelopes for Burial Aid following the passing of Sam Graber. These are due back to the office at the end of the month. If you did not receive an envelope, it's probably because your name was removed for non payment the past two times—there were a few of you. Please contact Betty Lou to get caught up if you'd like to resume participation.

## Administration

Stewardship Report for  
October 10, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 3,340.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget  
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget  
\$ 31,355.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget  
\$ 30,285.12

## Campers Small Group

A new small group will have its soft opening October 15-17, 2021 at Amigo Park, Sturgis, MI. Anyone who is interested in coming either for the weekend or a meal around the campfire on **Friday, October 15, 2021**, please see Shari Graber. You can reach her at 574-612-7139 or email her at [abcdemommy@yahoo.com](mailto:abcdemommy@yahoo.com). This small group will attempt to meet one weekend a month May through October 2022. We look forward to getting to know our church family in an informal setting.



## Outreach

**FMC Sewing** November Project is to support for Christian Aid Ministries There are 2 different packs to choose from

### Pack 1

1 box of 24 crayons  
1 notepad (approx. 5 x 7)  
1 pack of farm or zoo animal stickers  
1 teddy bear  
(6-10 inches tall –please do not send animals other than teddy bears and nothing with batteries)

### Pack 2

1 notepad (approx. 5 x 7)  
1 pencil  
1 pen  
3 tennis balls (no sponge balls)  
1 comb  
1 matchbox size car or truck

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

## Community Life

Each month CLC is planning to recognize a Hero in the House. Please turn in your nominations to Eva Kurtz, Jean Shriner, Janelle Walther, Dave Yoder or Elnora Yoder.

### 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