

On the Journey

Thanksgiving

Some years ago, I went to Ghana, Africa to teach at a school for pastors for several weeks. While there, I was hosted by a missionary family. At mealtimes, the host would ask different ones at the table to pray. And one day he asked his 5-year old daughter if she wanted to pray. And excitedly, she did.

She closed her eyes tightly, and enthusiastically began to thank God for her family, then for everything else she could think of; her bed, her doll, her blanket, her tricycle, her shoes, her Sunday dress, her grandpa, the air, the trees, the flowers, the

...and the highchair,
and the refrigerator,
and the flyswatter, and
the sink, and the fan,
and the clock...

sky, the orange tree in the yard... And then she was silent. I peeped to see if she was finished, but just forgot the "Amen" clue, but she wasn't done. She had opened her eyes and was looking around. Suddenly, she continued, "And thank you for the table, and the chairs, and the plates, and the glasses, and the water, and the spoons, and the forks, and the sugar, and the salt, and the pepper,

and the toothpicks, and the rice, and the chicken, and the highchair, and the refrigerator, and the flyswatter, and the sink, and the fan, and the clock..." I don't know if anyone had ever thanked God for toothpicks, or a flyswatter, or a sink before. And I know many people who have other words for their clocks early mornings rather than words of thanksgiving. But now that I think about it for a moment, what would our lives be without any of these things?

She must have been listening to me pray a blessing for the food the day before and thought that long prayers were the way to get God's attention, because her prayer went on for a long time.

(Continued on page 3)

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Linda Young Music - Tim Eash

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

Gerald Kauffman	11/3
Ruth Beasley	11/5
Ellen Bontrager	11/5
Sonya Miller	11/5
Luke Schrock	11/8
Merle Mullet	11/13
Delbert D Yoder	11/14
Adeline Graber	11/20
Jim Rhodes	11/20
Marilyn Bontrager	11/22
Malinda Eash	11/23
Ernie Wingard	11/24

First Mennonite Church
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Middlebury IN 46540
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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
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

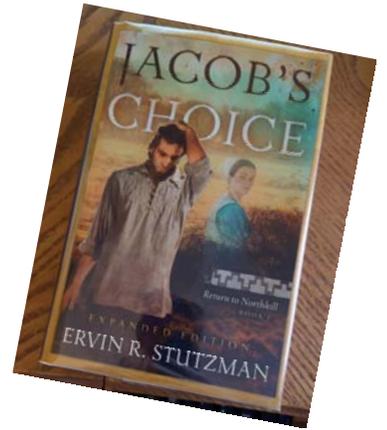
Business Office
Monday and Tuesday
8:00a—5:00p

From our Library

This week I'm featuring a book that holds a special place in my heart, **Jacob's Choice** by Ervin Stutzman. It's the first of three in a series, and while they are not all in our library, you'll likely be wanting to read more about the path God laid out for the other members of this family. I've recounted this story many times, but I'll try to just give you an intro and not to give away the whole book...

While technically considered a fictional account, I can say this story mirrors the story that has been handed down in my family for many, many years. You see Jacob was my many times over great grandfather. He and his wife and a few small children came over to the US on the Charming Nancy in 1738 (although some would argue it was another boat with a different woman, I tend to feel that was someone else entirely, and lean to this record instead after further research). A short 19 years later the family became victims of an Indian Massacre which to my understanding is part of Pennsylvania history books to this day. Jacob, being a devout Amish Mennonite man, instructed his son's to put down the hunting musket they wanted to use to defend themselves, as Indians were attacking their home. Their house was set ablaze, and family members were captured, sadly, some were scalped, while others were taken prisoner. This book recounts not just the attack but also Jacob's journey following his capture, and how his adherence to his faith and values stood firm despite his trials and tribulation.

I won't go much farther as I don't want to confuse anything with the other two books. A few years back on TLC's "Who Do You Think You Are", Actress Katy Segal learned that her roots tie back to Jacob, which is not surprising. The Jacob Hochstetler Family Association, based in Goshen, estimates that there are nearly 1 million decedents of Jacob scattered coast to coast. In case you're wondering I personally am one through both of my parents and my mother in law.

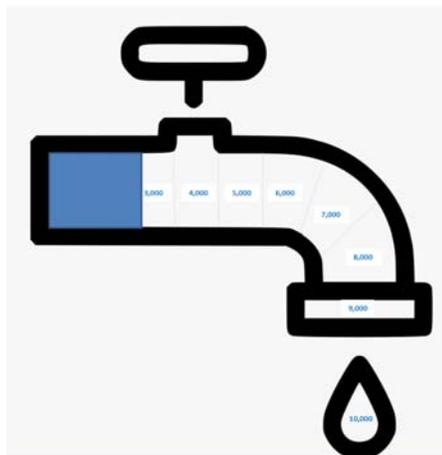


Outreach

Unfortunately the printing cut off the part about WHO was meeting on Wednesday 11/3 on the calendar last week.

Please note there is an Outreach meeting Wed 11/3 at 6:30. Contact Michelle Mullet if you have any questions!!

Philippine Water Project



We have put 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 known 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 now over 1/5 of the way there at just under \$2,250! Let's flood the water out of the spigot!!

Administration

Stewardship Report for October 31, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 3,770.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 47,644.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 45,427.68

On the Journey (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

But unlike me, she recognized everything around her as a gift from God and wanted to be sure and thank God for it.

At the end of her lengthy prayer, when the adults joined her in opening their eyes, all had smiles on their faces as we began to pass the rice and the chicken and the salt and the pepper. But that little girl taught me something in her prayer. We are surrounded by many things we don't normally consider as gifts from God. Most of them improve our lives in some way, and most of them bring us a degree of happiness, and much of the time we take them for granted. Rarely if ever have I recognized some of the things mentioned in this little girl's prayer as a gift from God, let alone thought of thanking God for them.

That day, I was reminded to thank God for the little things that make life more comfortable and convenient. Especially, I thank God for the little people that sometimes teach big lessons. Thank you, Ariel! Unlike many of my prayers, I shall never forget yours.

Written by Phil Yoder, November 2021

Outreach

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

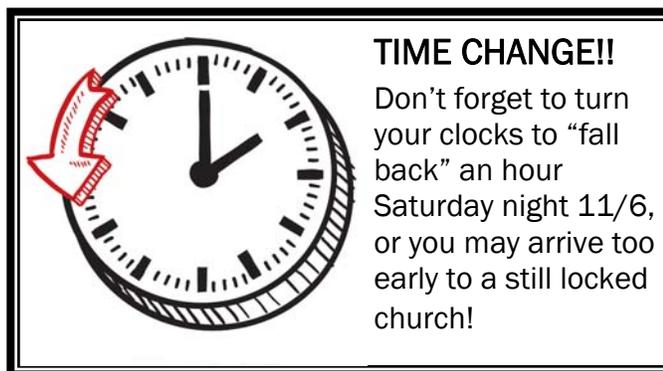
Pack 1

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



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.

Worship

Much of the time, Christians understanding giving as a duty or as an obligation, it's something they are required to do, but not as an opportunity. In the Old Testament, people

were required to give a tithe and also the First Fruits.

Sermon Title: **Stewardship**

Sermon Text: **Matthew 6:19-20**

But Jesus opened a window for us to see giving from God's perspective when he invited His followers to "Put their treasures in Heaven" and he added "Where moth and rust can't destroy them, they will not decay or depreciate, and thieves can't get to them to steal them," implying that what we invest in God's Kingdom now, will be there for us to claim and enjoy throughout eternity! Don't think that everybody will experience heaven the same way. Having "Treasures" in heaven affects one's eagerness to go there, and probably what we will do there!

God, in His infinite goodness has given us the opportunity to invest in something that can never lose its value, to invest in His eternal Kingdom. What a fantastic opportunity God gives us, to invest in eternity, and to reap the dividends of those investments throughout all eternity. God has entrusted to us with different things we can choose to invest in His Kingdom. We can invest our time, our prayers, our skills, our labor, our lives, and our money in His Kingdom NOW, and reap the dividends in eternity!

Related Scripture:
Malachi 3:8-12,
Luke 6:38,
Matthew 25:14-30



Discipling

GOD'S JUSTICE

participant guide | winter 2021-22

There has been some discussion about this in the past few months, and it's coming to fruition. Beginning December 5th, Pastor Phil and Pastor Tim will each be leading a Sunday School class, there may be an additional class as well, with the curriculum written by a LMC team mostly from Berne's First Mennonite titled "**God's Justice**". We have the quarterlies for this and will lay them out for the month of November on what used to be the Sharing Table just outside the Library. This will allow you to glance through and see if you want to attend your usual class or join this venture for the winter quarter. We don't know for sure that it will continue past that, so it's really just a short commitment. If you decide to participate, please feel free to keep your quarterly, if you will attend your usual class, please return it for someone else. The reason to return an unused book is two fold. In addition to allowing us to know how many books to print, this will also give us an idea of what sized space will be needed for this / these group(s).

The usual Salt & Light quarterlies are also available in the Library for the teachers who choose to continue with this curriculum.

Thank you

The pastoral staff here at First Mennonite Church would like to thank you for your many expressions of love and appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your many kind words, your affirmations, your prayers, the cards, the gifts, and the reception were received with much gratitude and appreciation. We consider it a privilege and feel blessed to be a part of this church! And we want you to know that we appreciate each of you as well, and the ways you are involved in church to make our congregation a caring fellowship!

Thank You! Tim and Malinda Eash Phil and Shena Yoder



Guess Who's Coming to Dessert?

The fellowship commission is planning a Guess Who's Coming to Dessert on Sunday afternoon November 21, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Get to know members of your church family in a fun filled food and fellowship evening. There are instructions in your mailbox at church that need to be filled out and returned to Tina Frye's mailbox by Sunday, November 14 if you would like to participate, (We hope you do!) Any questions can be directed to any one of the Fellowship Commission members, Tina Frye, Denise Johnson or Linda Young.

