

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 46

DECEMBER 1, 2021

Many people want to keep God up there in the heavens, where we can safely and joyfully praise Him, but far away from the earth, where we might have to follow Him. ~ William Goffin

Worship

We are looking at the different reactions to Jesus' birth that we find in the birth narrative of Jesus. And today we notice the Innkeeper. The Innkeeper is not one of the major characters in the story, in fact, the encounter at the inn is given only one

Sermon Title:
The Innkeeper – No Room
Sermon Text: **Luke 2:1-7**

verse in the Bible, and then there are no details of that encounter. We don't even know the name of the Innkeeper, so why the attention to such an obscure character? The reason is that,

even though the Innkeeper has a very minor role, the reaction of the Innkeeper to Jesus is one of the most common reactions to the news that a Savior has been born, and continues to be a dominate reaction to Jesus in western culture today. *"My life is full, I don't have any room for Jesus. The world needs help, that is for sure, but my life is full already, there is NO ROOM for Jesus or anyone else who might want to come in and move the furniture!"* The life of the Innkeeper, along with his inn, were full. There was no room for Jesus. The Innkeeper wasn't hostile, he wasn't apathetic, there simply wasn't room for Jesus in his world. And so, Jesus is relegated to a stable. Please keep

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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Glenn & Carolyn Miller 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

Jerry Beasley	12/2
Shena Yoder	12/5
Sara Weaver	12/8
Theo Outman	12/8
Betty Birky	12/17
Curt Troyer	12/19
Bobbie Werker	12/21
Loretta Troyer	12/23
Fannie Hochstetler	12/24
Edna Mast	1/8
Grace Rneinheimer	1/11
Charles Hartzler	1/14
Sam Weirich	1/15

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

First Mennonite Church of Middlebury

ADVENT 2021

"REACTIONS TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS THE SAVIOR"

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Reaction: Humble Obedience / Willingness to Sacrifice

(Characters)

Joseph and Mary

Alternative Title: "You want me to what?"

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Reading: Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-55

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Reaction: Rejection / No Room for Jesus

Innkeeper

Alternative Title: "Sorry, No Room in This Place"

Text: Luke 2: 4-7

Reading: Isaiah 53:3

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Reaction: Indifference

Religious Leaders

Alternative Title: "Ho-Hum, I'm So Bored!" Golf anybody?"

Text: Matthew 2:3-8

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:11-20

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Reaction: Announcing and Celebrating

The Angels

Alternative Title: "Welcome to the Party!"

Text: Luke 2:8-14

Reading: Hebrews 1:6

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Reaction: Running with The Good News

The Shepherds

Alternative Title: "The Good News is even for us?"

Text: Luke 2:8-20

Reading: Isaiah 40:9-11

JANUARY 2, 2022

Reaction: The long Journey to the Savior

Magi

Alternative Title: "The Trip of a Lifetime"

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Reading: Genesis 12:1-5

JANUARY 9, 2022

Reaction: Hostility and Hatred

King Herod

Alternative Title: "Not on My Watch, He Won't!"

Text: Matthew 2:1-8, 16-18

Administration

Stewardship Report for November 28, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 4,290.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 64,754.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 65,617.76

Worship

(Continued from page 1)

him away from the important goings-on in my world. Jesus has His place, it just isn't in my life right now. And put the news of Jesus' birth in the shed where we keep the sheep and the donkeys. If I can use it someday to help build or promote MY story, maybe I will, but for now, there is no room in my world for a Savior.

Related Scriptures: Ephesians 4:17-19

Outreach

FMC Sewing December Project is to adopt a Pantry Family and Support the FMC Shut in Boxes

Community Life Commission

We will accept donations for the prayer shawl ministry. Look for the basket in the foyer the next several weeks.

We will host a Christmas Breakfast carry-in on Dec 12.

Please sign up to bring in advent cookies for Dec 5, 19 & 26.

New Address

Please mark a new address in your Church directory for **Viv Schlabach!**

1250 Greencroft Drive

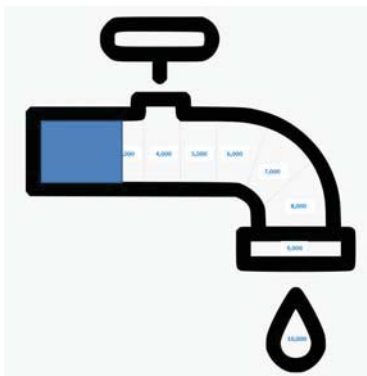
Goshen, IN 46526

Phone: (574)537-4503

email: vivschlabach@gmail.com

Philippine Water Project

We're still just over 1/4 of the way there at just under \$3,359.50! Our water is not advancing very quickly!



Please consider how you can participate in this fundraiser. Let's flood the water out of the spigot!!

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.