

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 48

DECEMBER 14, 2021

What God does first, and best, and most, is to trust His people with this moment in history. He trusts them to do what must be done..."

~ Walter Brueggemann

Worship

Angels have a very prominent role in the birth narrative of Jesus. An angel appeared to Mary, angels appeared to Joseph several times, an angel appeared to Zechariah, and myriads of angels appeared to the shepherds. They brought special messages from God, they announced, and they celebrated. Throughout the Bible, angels are active announcing what God is about to do. But that is only part of what they do. Angels frequently act

Sermon Title: **Reactions to Jesus: Celebration (The Angels)**
Sermon Text: **Luke 2:8-14**

as God's agents, doing God's bidding. And when they do appear, frequently they come with the message, "Do not be afraid!" God is acting, and things are about to happen that are out of the ordinary. Fear is likely to grip the hearts of those without faith, but don't be afraid! God is acting on behalf of His people. But when the angels came to the shepherds with the announcement that the Savior has been born, this Savior who will fix what is wrong with the world, and will overturn the curse, and will overthrow Satan's reign, and will deliver God's people from death has come into the world to begin this work, there was an exuberance that overtook the

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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Ike Walther

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

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 Rheinheimer	1/11
Charles Hartzler	1/14
Sam Weirich	1/15
Linda Young	1/16
Mary Weaver	1/17

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

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angels, they could not contain their joy! The heavens seemed to light up! Why this exuberant celebration by the angels? It was one of their own, an angel, a fallen angel, Satan, who wrecked the world with sin, and now God, in His wonderful grace, has allowed the angels who were still loyal to Him, to announce to the world, that the redeemer, the one who will fix the world has come into the world to begin that work. The time to celebrate has arrived!

Related Scriptures: Hebrews 1:6

You are Loved boxes ready to be delivered,
If you'd like to help deliver them, I'm sure Pastor Phil would appreciate the help, give him a call to see where you can help the most!



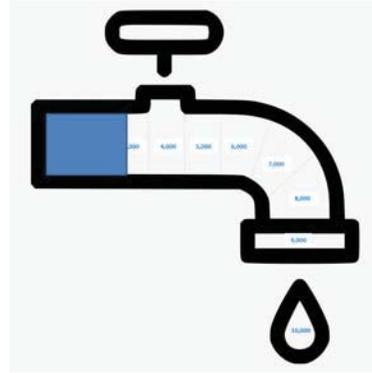
Outreach

FMC Sewing January Project is to supply the food pantry with:

Cleaning Supplies
and
Boxed Meals

Philippine Water Project

We're still just over 1/3 of the way there at \$3,479.50! 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!!

Administration

Stewardship Report for December 12, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 3,070.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget \$ 72,110.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$ 75,712.80

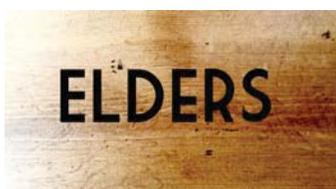
Publishing deadlines!!

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.

Board

The two main things we are working on are coming up with a file retention policy and a new elder role. We have a lot of hard copies of minutes. There needs to be a policy/rules of what to do with everything. We also want to move forward with a new role of elder. This will be brought to the congregation for affirmation.



Church Elder

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For some time now the board and pastors have discussed the idea of re-establishing the role of Elder. You will recall several years ago we as a congregation voted to implement a new organizational structure which moved Elder responsibilities to the board and eliminated the actual position of Elder. The board feels it has not adequately performed the role of Elder. Together, after further discernment, the pastor's and board are recommending we implement the role of Elder and are asking for your affirmation and approval.

Jerry Beasley, FMC Board Chair,

First Mennonite Church of Middlebury

Elder Role and Job Description

A. Job Description:

1. Monitor the Spiritual life of the church, and provide Spiritual oversight.
2. Serve as a Prayer Shield for the Pastors and the Congregation.
3. Help with Spiritual Discernment of issues.
4. Advise the Pastors on Spiritual Matters as requested.
5. Assist with special services (Communion, Anointing, etc.) as needed.

B. Qualifications and Term:

1. Must be spiritually alive, and have an active prayer life and walk with God.
2. Must be a person of integrity and good reputation, and a faithful member of the church.
3. Meet periodically to assist the pastors to promote the spiritual life of the congregation.
4. There are no term restrictions for this role. Nor are elders elected or voted on. This position should be a calling from the Lord that the person fulfills as long as they sense the calling and are able to do so.
5. Elders must be affirmed by the congregation
6. Preferably there would be 3 persons serving on this Elder Team, and initial contact to serve on this team should be made by the Pastoral staff.