

Worship

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Angels appeared to some shepherds out on the hillsides surrounding Bethlehem to announce the news that a Savior has been born. We have cleaned up the shepherds

a lot. We have made them a respectable part of the story, but the truth is, the shepherds were very lowly people who had no social status in Israel. They were on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Nobody liked them or respected them. They were dirty, they didn't observe the ceremonial laws of the religious system, so they were always declared to be

'unclean.' They lived in tents rather than houses, they didn't own land, and didn't pay taxes. But they had sheep, and the sheep

needed grazing, and they didn't hesitate to take their sheep on other people's land and graze them wherever they could find pasture. There were many reasons why shepherds weren't liked, and why they were on the bottom rung of



society's ladder. It is a little surprising then, that God would announce to them, **first of all**, that a Savior, Israel's Messiah, had been born. In the angel's announcement that a Savior had been born, the angel was quick to tell them that this

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Tim & Malinda Eash Music - Worship Team

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

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
Gene Bender	7/18
Marlene Yoder	1/18
Dawn Miller	1/19

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

(Continued from page 1)

Savior is for all people, even lowly shepherds like them. But that still doesn't explain God's seeming affection for the shepherds, nor the entourage from heaven that accompanied the angel who brought the announcement. Could it be that God saw in the shepherds something that God treasures - a heart, a special kind of heart, the heart of a shepherd, a heart very much like God's own heart?

Community Life Comm

Sunday, December 26th will be the last day the basket will be in the foyer for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



Philippine Water Project



We're now just shy of half way there at \$4,585.00!

Outreach

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

Cleaning Supplies
and
Boxed Meals

You're Invited!



7:00 pm December 31st—New Year's Eve
Part in the Church Fellowship Hall
Hosted by the Maranatha Sunday School Class, but everyone in the church is welcome.
Bring a snack to share and an inexpensive wrapped white elephant gift for each person.

Administration

Stewardship Report for
December 19, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 3,936.91

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 76,046.91

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 80,760.32

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.

