

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 50

DECEMBER 28, 2021

"A greater tragedy than children who are afraid of the dark, is adults who are afraid of the light."
~ Unknown

Worship

One of the mysteries of the Bible is, "Who were the Wisemen?" Were they Babylonian Sages, Persian Magi, Nabatian Traders? No one knows for sure. And maybe that is the way God planned it. Whoever they were, they no doubt were Gentile Sages who likely studied astronomy, dreams, wisdom, prophecies, and religion. They are sometimes referred to as "Magi" who were a class of priests and sages from the Persian Empire. This certainly is possible. And if they were, they would have had access to the prophecies

Sermon Title: Reactions to Jesus:
Worship (The Wisemen)
Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

of Daniel and Ezekiel. Both of these Jewish Prophets lived in the Persian Empire and

prophesied about a great King who will one day be born and will have a kingdom which will never end. When a unique star appeared in the sky, this group of Wisemen embarked on a long and treacherous journey to go and find this king and to worship Him. This story is filled with symbolism. The Wisemen were looking up, at a star, not around them at the troubles and insecurities that plague this world. They studied the stars because they believed that the heavens communicate with the earth, that the

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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

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 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 |
| Katie Walther | 1/24 |
| Jeri McClain | 1/24 |
| Dee Weaver | 1/25 |
| Ben Eash | 1/31 |

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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movements of the heavenly bodies sent messages from heaven to earth. They were Gentiles, they didn't have much light (the history, the law, the Prophets, etc. that the Jews had) but they followed the light they had, and it led them to Jesus the Savior. Who the Wisemen were is ambiguous, but who they represent is not ambiguous, and what they did when they found the Savior is not ambiguous. They represent those who embark on a spiritual journey, following the light they have, to find God. And they find Him in the child in Bethlehem, born to be the Savior of the world, and when they found Him, they bowed before Him and worshipped Him! The Wisemen's worship gives us a beautiful picture of what worship should look like.

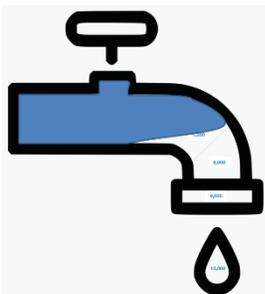
You're Invited!



7:00 pm December 31st—New Year's Eve Party 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.



Philippine Water Project



We're over half way there at over \$7,100.00!

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.

Community Life

Thanks to your generosity we have raised \$107 to continue to provide Prayer Shawls as they are needed.



Outreach

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

Cleaning Supplies
and
Boxed Meals

Church Family,
Thank you so much for the “You are Loved” gift box It was greatly appreciated.
God Bless you, Lloyd Hochstedler

Administration

The Administration Commission had an email meeting in December and heard our average attendance is 73. We are behind budget by \$5,189. There was no news on our bathroom renovation, roof leak, or a new Trustee for our CR 16 property.

Stewardship Report for December 26, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 3,500.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 79,546.91

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 85,807.84

Whatever
happened over
the past year,
be thankful
for where it
brought you.
Where you are
is where you're
meant to be.