

LIFE @ FIRST



Blow, blow, thou winter wind Thou art not so unkind, As man's ingratitude.
~ William Shakespeare

Volume 15
Issue 44

November 15, 2022

Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Adeline Graber | 11/20 |
| Jim Rhodes | 11/20 |
| Marilyn Bontrager | 11/22 |
| Malinda Eash | 11/23 |
| Ernie Wingard | 11/24 |
| Sharon Wyse | 11/28 |
| Shawn Eash | 11/28 |
| Jerry Beasley | 12/2 |
| Shena Yoder | 12/5 |
| Sara Weaver | 12/8 |
| Theo Outman | 12/8 |

Worship Preview

This is Thanksgiving week. Thanksgiving is the most popular holiday in our country. Everybody looks forward to the special days that surround Thanksgiving, to the family gatherings, to a long weekend, to a few days off work, and to a feast. Shoppers look forward to “Black

Friday, retailers look forward to the beginning of the shopping season, and travelers look forward to getting away. And while all these things are great, these things are

Sermon Title:
When Jesus Gave Thanks

Sermon Text:
I Thessalonians 5:16-18

not what Thanksgiving is really about. “Thanksgiving” was designated as a national holiday for us to stop our routines and to say “Thank You” to God for the great blessings He has given to us, to recognize our blessings, and to remember where they come from, and to be grateful to God.

I think God expects to find gratitude in our hearts. Jesus thought gratitude to be a very important character trait, and when He didn't find it in 9 out of the 10 Lepers He cleansed, Jesus was quite disturbed (Luke 17:11-19). The

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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 9:00a
Sunday School 10:15a

Office Hours

Pastor Phil
Tuesday 9:30a—1:30p
Thursday 1:00p—6:00p

Pastor Tim
by appointment

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

Sunday Worship - 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am

Worship Leader - Malinda Eash 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.

Outreach

FMW Sewing next project is to support
**The Bridge—Middlebury
Community Food Pantry**

Please place your items in the Pantry
Shopping Basket by November 19th.

Pantry Most Needs List

Stuffing Mix, Potatoes - Instant or not,
Gravy, Green Beans / Corn,
Mushroom Soup, Crispy Fried Onions,
Sweet Potatoes, Mini Marshmallows,
Canned Pineapple, Cornbread or Biscuits,
Dessert Mixes, Canned Pumpkin,
Condensed Milk, Cranberry Sauce,
or whatever else you can think of!

Preschool

Please consider helping Pleasant Oaks
Preschool with their Fall Fundraiser this
year! We are selling peeler cards to
businesses in our area. This card will
help our area businesses and Preschool
at the same time! Our goal is to sell 300
cards and pay off our last piece of large
playground equipment which replaced
our wooden one. The flyer is on the
bulletin board. This fundraiser will go
through the end of November. Payment
is due at the time of purchase. Please
place payment in Janelle Walther or
Robin Tahara Miller's church mailbox
with your name on it. Cards will be
distributed on December 1. Thank you
for your continued support of the
preschool!

Administration

**Stewardship Report for
November 13, 2022:**

Money Given to Budget \$ **9,045.00**

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ **5,992.95**

Year-to-Date Money Given to Budget
\$ **52,683.00**

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ **65,922.69**

Online Donations

We are transitioning all online giving to
our new PayPal account, as a less costly
option for this service. We are looking
for a couple of people to help test the
system. If you are interested in helping
to test this process—or would like
information on how to use it once we “go
live”, please contact Betty Lou. **Please
note**—the existing on-line portal will be
going away soon, you will need to
transition to this eventually any way if
you wish to utilize online giving.

If you tithe using cash or checks, rest
assured, this will have no affect on you!
This will only replace those options for
those who CHOOSE to use it! Your
checks and cash continue to be the
majority of our contributions and will
continue to be accepted and appreciated!

Worship Preview (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Bible is quite careful to say of those nine, that they were cleansed, but not that they were healed. For there was a leprosy that remained in their spirits. And even though their bodies were cleansed of leprosy, a leprous spirit remained.

Jesus gave thanks. There are 4 places in the Bible where we find Jesus giving thanks, and in each instance, the giving of thanks was associated with a great miracle. Just a coincidence? I think not! It appears as though gratitude, the giving of thanks, is directly related to new vision, the opening of one's eyes to see God at work, providing what we need. Many people today walk around looking for miracles, hoping to find a miracle, lamenting that they need a miracle. Perhaps, the key to finding miracles is gratitude! God knows what we need and provides everything we need. God provides just as well for the multitudes who never bother to stop and thank Him, but unfortunately, they don't see the miracle in God's never-ending care for them.

It turns out that gratitude is not only good etiquette, it provides us with new

vision, the ability to see the bountiful hand of God at work on our behalf! I hope that this Thanksgiving, we are indeed grateful for the blessings God has poured into our lives. But more than that, I hope that our eyes will be opened to see God's hand at work among us, noticing that in His great love for us, He makes sure we have everything we need.

Background Scripture: John 6:1-13, Luke 10:1-21, Luke 17:11-19, John 11:1-44, Matthew 26:26-29

Community Life

We would like to get an updated listing of those willing to bake / make desserts for funeral meals. Please stop by the table in the foyer to add your name. Thank you SOOO much. Watch for your opportunity to provide advent cookies for the morning fellowship time. There will be a sign up posted soon. The Christmas Carry-In Breakfast will be December 18, 9:00.



Church
Family—

Thank you for your kindness, caring thoughts & prayers. Also for the beautiful peace lily. It's all greatly appreciated. Also for the delicious meal.
Katie Hochstedler & family

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!**