

## On the Journey

### Reactions to Jesus – And Why It Matters

During our Advent season this year, we looked at the different responses to Jesus when He was born. We noticed Mary's statement, "I am the Lord's handmaid, may it be to me as you



have said." She chose to be a servant of God, and to give herself to God to be used as God chose, and never complaining. Joseph never mouthed those exact same words, but he could have. His attitude and submission to God was the same as Mary's. They were willing to make any sacrifice necessary to bring Jesus into their world and to make a home for Jesus in their world.

We also saw the Angels announcing the good News and celebrating, and the Shepherds running to Jesus, then with joy, telling the good news to everyone they met that a Savior has been born for all the people. And we found the Wisemen embarking on a long journey and finally finding Jesus, then worshipping the King they longed to find. But not everybody was so excited.



The innkeeper had no room for Jesus in the Inn. He made room in a stable, in some out of the way place where Jesus would be obscured and nobody would know Jesus was there, and Jesus wouldn't affect business as

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#### BIRTHDAYS

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
Pam Bingaman	2/3

**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*

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 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

**FMC Sewing February Project** is MCC Material Resources

Soap is to the body  
what laughter is  
to the soul.

### Soap

New bars of bath or laundry soap—all sizes and brands of soap are welcome—please leave in wrapper

### Towels

NEW bath and hand towels— good quality, dark or bright colors, medium weight preferred. Fingertip towels and washcloths are not needed.

### Fabric

Washable twill, cotton, cotton blends, polyester and corduroy. Fabric must be 2 yards or more in length. Print, plaids and solids are welcomed.



Be looking for more information in the next few weeks about the Ladies Retreat on February 4th & 5th.

### 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.

## Mailboxes

Are you using your mailbox to store things you know you'll need the next time you're here and your afraid you'll forget it at home? If these items are bulky or completely fill your slot, please consider choosing an unassigned slot either above or below your assigned box to store your items so that those who are attempting to put things in your box can more easily do so!



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## Philippine Water Project



We're now over three quarters of the way there at over \$7,500.00!

## Administration

### Stewardship Report for January 9, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 3,332.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget \$ 89,818.91

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$ 95,903.18

## Worship

Well, we have just come through one of the busiest seasons of the year—Christmas! Most people have been focused on buying gifts, making Christmas treats, and getting together with their friends and family. And those are all nice things. There is also the wonderful Christmas music and songs that remind us of the birth of Jesus. Many have attended churches throughout the season only to hear the Biblical account of Christ's coming as a baby—this newborn King! But now what? We now have taken down the decorations and put them away. We have thrown out the Christmas tree—if it is real.

We have put away the new gifts we may have received, and forced ourselves to eat the last cookie. Some ask themselves, "now what?" It's a good question. We need to ask ourselves—"Has this baby in a manger made a difference in me?, or did I put Him away with the rest of Christmas?". The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the fullness of the

time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." You see all too often people come to the place that they say "now what". They have heard the Christmas story and they really believed that God sent

Sermon Title: **Now What?**  
Sermon Text: **Galatians 3:26-4:7**

His Son. But they don't know what to do with Him. First, we need to understand what this Christ child was for each one of us, and we need to know our identity needs to be in Him. Paul goes on to say in Galatians 4:7 "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." When we begin to understand that our identity is in Christ who came to redeem the world, there then is no reason to say "now what" but rather "Hallelujah"!!



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To the First Mennonite Church:  
Thank you to everyone for the  
You Are Loved box.

What a surprise, I miss you all  
and I wish Covid would get under  
control so I could worship with  
you all again I miss it very  
much.

You are all on my prayer list.  
I wish you all a very blessed  
year. Thank you, Bobbie Werker

You don't stumble or  
fall when you are on  
your knees.  
~Unknown



## On the Journey

(Continued from page 1)

usual. Jesus may have been born, but it didn't make much difference, because Jesus was kept out of the way. Jesus is okay, just don't let Him interfere with what I want to do. If you hunt long enough, you could find Him, but for the most part, Jesus was hidden out of sight. The Innkeeper may have some small association with Jesus, just don't let Him interfere with my life.



The religious leaders were apathetic, they didn't seem to care. It made no difference to them that a Savior had just come to save them and the world. They were convinced they

were never lost and consequently, didn't need saving. They had their lives, and they were contented, they were even quite proud of what they had done with their lives, and they did not want Jesus or anyone else to make them uncomfortable or to rearrange the furniture.

And finally, there was King Herod who tried to kill Jesus. He correctly saw Jesus as a rival King, a rival ruler. He feared losing his position of power and prominence in his world. Jesus is expendable, just get rid of Him while He is a baby and appears to be weak and indefensible! He has no place in my world! His existence is a threat to what I want!



So, why do these reactions matter? Are they not just interesting observations about the birth of Jesus, showing that people are different and will see things differently? They may do that, but that is not the point. All of us will respond to Jesus in one of the seven ways we just noted above. These are the same reactions people have had toward Jesus throughout history.

When Jesus was born, God took a giant step forward in redeeming the world, in taking the world back from Satan's influence and control. Jesus is the Redeemer of the world, and there won't be any other. This is how the world can and will be fixed. Jesus is the only way the world can be fixed! Our reaction to Jesus is of utmost importance because, all our decisions in life carry consequences, and our response to Jesus and to the Salvation He brings has eternal consequences. And since Jesus is God's way of fixing the world, and since Jesus is the only true Savior, in a world where so many make false claims to be a savior, we either come to Jesus for God's Salvation, or we remain in a state of lostness, separated from God's Salvation and from hope. Our response to Jesus, the Savior of the world, truly is crucial!

Written by Philip Yoder, January 2022



## Preschool

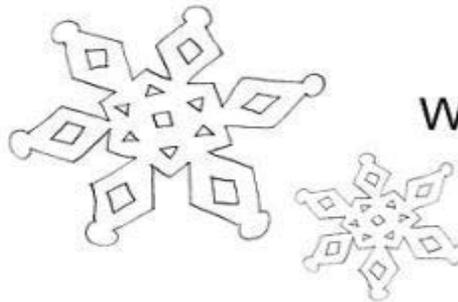
The Preschool Board met via email in January. We are still having trouble with our internet in the building. The spring semester of school has begun smoothly, with Heather Holland leading our teacher group of Sheryl Kliewer and Sandra Jemison. They are a great team and the kids love them! We began discussing spring fund raiser ideas.

## Worship

A reminder from the Worship Commission who met on January 3rd:

Lavender Prayer Slips have been, and will continue to be provided outside the sanctuary with the offering basket, and also in the pews for people to fill out. Once filled out, the slips can be placed in the offering basket on the pedestal outside the sanctuary before the service starts or dropped in the office mail slot after the service.

# WINTER



## Word Search

D	X	U	W	L	N	G	S	B	W	Y	P	U	P	I
E	L	E	D	I	O	T	D	O	P	T	X	H	N	C
I	K	O	U	D	N	A	S	Z	V	F	F	I	M	I
C	D	A	C	B	C	T	L	G	A	O	C	O	C	Q
I	T	R	L	E	D	Q	E	S	A	W	R	G	U	X
C	B	D	Z	F	N	E	E	R	G	R	E	V	E	L
L	I	E	H	F	W	U	E	L	E	F	Z	J	L	N
E	G	L	X	D	J	O	O	O	Y	U	T	A	M	D
M	N	S	S	O	U	V	N	L	G	A	B	N	G	E
Z	I	T	H	V	E	Q	G	S	H	W	U	O	C	H
V	D	O	Z	S	B	I	S	D	O	D	S	A	R	I
E	D	W	X	Q	O	Z	X	N	W	G	Z	D	V	Q
B	E	F	Q	J	A	G	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	D
L	L	J	Z	Z	U	T	S	O	C	T	X	J	T	X
O	S	O	C	Q	M	T	Y	Z	X	E	L	D	O	A

COCOA  
COLD  
EVERGREEN  
GLOVES  
HAT  
ICICLE

SLED  
SLEDDING  
SNOWBALL  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
WINTER