

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 15
ISSUE 1

JANUARY 4, 2021

“Until the power of love replaces the love of power, there will not be peace on earth.” ~ Unknown

Worship

The villain in the birth narrative of Jesus is King Herod. He was the king, and he would not tolerate any other claims to kingship in “his” Judea. He was insistent on finding this newborn “king” and killing him, and when he could not find him, he had all the boy babies killed in and around Bethlehem. Now he has eliminated the threat of any competition to his throne, or so he thought. Nobody respects King Herod, even though he did some good things. But killing innocent babies is such a heinous crime, that it is all history can

Sermon Title: **Reactions to the Birth of Jesus: Hostility (King Herod)**
Sermon Text: **Matthew 2:7-8, 16-18**

remember about him. Killing anyone who he saw as a threat to his power was Herod’s weak spot.

He was paranoid about losing his throne. He murdered many of his own family members because he thought they posed a threat to his throne, so it is not surprising that he would kill innocent babies to attempt to hang onto his power. Herod may have been the first to be openly hostile to Jesus, but he certainly would not be the last. In fact, many of the governments of the world, and their leaders, have been very hostile to Jesus and to Jesus’ followers, arresting them, imprisoning them, and even murdering them. The spirit of hostility and

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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Tom & Sonya Miller 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

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
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*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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hatred toward Jesus, found in Herod, lives on in the kingdom of this world. Many of the world's leaders, just like Herod, think they are sovereign and can get away with murder, and like Herod, they kill anyone who gets in their way, as they cling to power at all costs, thinking they are accountable to nobody. But just like Herod and his kingdom, they and their kingdoms are destined to crumble as well.

Matthew introduces Herod and Jesus in the same paragraphs. Matthew is setting up a confrontation between both Herod's and Jesus' claims to be "The King," and between their two kingdoms. And Herod tries to destroy Jesus and consequently, His Kingdom, in Jesus' most vulnerable moment. But God's plan to redeem the world would not, and cannot, be thwarted! Jesus has all the powers of heaven surrounding Him. He would not be destroyed! This would not be the last time Satan would try to destroy Jesus by killing Him. But there are no powers on earth or hell that can destroy those who belong to God!

Related Scriptures: Psalm 2:1-11, Job 42:1-2

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.



I was considering putting a little note in the newsletter remembering the names of those we have lost over the past year, but then thought how inadequate that list might be. I can't possibly remember enough to list every individual we've lost that has touched the lives of our members!

As I was driving in this morning the very first song that played was Casting Crowns "Scars in Heaven", and I felt that this is how I am supposed to honor the memories of those who are no longer here. For those of you who don't know the song, it starts with "*If I only knew the last time would be the last time, I would've put off all the things I had to do, I would've stayed a little longer, held on a little tighter, Now what I'd give for one more day with you*" The chorus goes on to remind us that our loved ones are so much better off... "*The only scars in heaven, they won't belong to me and you, There'll be no such thing as broken, and all the old will be made new, And the thought that makes me smile now, even as the tears fall down, Is that the only scars in heaven are on the hands that hold you now*" WOW! What a promise that is!

Hopefully my little Twinkle from God will remind you that their pain is gone, the minds are clear and those broken bodies have been shed, and bring you peace, no matter if your loss was in 2021 or in years past. ~BL



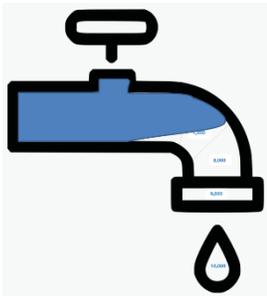
Be looking for more information in the next few weeks about the Ladies Retreat on February 4th & 5th.

Outreach

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

Cleaning Supplies
and
Boxed Meals

Philippine Water Project



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

Gifts



We've amassed a nice collection of gifts on the coat racks just west of the mailboxes. Please check to see if one of them might be someone loving on you! -OR- If you are going to be visiting with any of these people, please consider stopping in and grabbing their gift on your way to their home!

Thank you

Thanks so much for the box at Christmas, such a blessing! Great Church family we have. Thanks again ~ Tom & Eva Kurtz

*I want to thank you for every card and item in the Love box
~ Virginia Hershberger*

Administration

Stewardship Report for
January 4, 2021:

Money Given to Budget \$ 6,940.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year To Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 86,486.91

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 90,855.66