

LIFE @ FIRST

VOLUME 15
ISSUE 16

APRIL 19, 2022

Worship Preview

In Luke's Gospel, there is this story of 2 disciples traveling back to their home in Emmaus on Easter Sunday. This story has intrigued me for

as long as I have been reading the Bible, and for a couple of reasons. How is it possible that they didn't

Sermon Title: **Which Way Are You Going?**

Sermon Text: **Luke 24:13-35**

recognize Jesus as He walked with them explaining the Scriptures like nobody else ever had? They seem to have been close friends of Jesus, the Bible even calls them disciples, although it is doubtful if they were of the twelve. And then, I have always wondered what it was that Jesus did that opened their eyes to recognize Him as they ate supper together that evening. And now, for me, there is a new mystery in this story. Every year multitudes of Jews flock to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. This was a 7-day event. It was one of the three week-long festivals God commanded the Jews to celebrate every year. And it appears as though these two disciples in this story were in Jerusalem for that purpose. They went to Jerusalem to celebrate the

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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Jim Pletcher

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.

Don't tell God how **BIG**
your storm is
tell your storm how **BIG**
your God is



BIRTHDAYS

Bryce Rheinheimer	4/24
Enos Miller	4/30
Jim Schrock	5/3
Patty (Dave) Yoder	5/4
Leah Schwartz	5/7
Carol Johnson	5/9
Liz Mast	5/9
Judy Oesch	5/11
Shirley Riegsecker	5/16
Patti Miller	5/17
Ruby Yoder	5/17
Ron Rheinheimer	5/22
Tom Bontreger	5/24
Verna Weirich	5/24

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

Board

We planned an agenda for the May business meeting. May 18 at 7pm. Come at 6 for a meal. Discussed the lease agreement for the CR 16 property. Discussed the phone message service. Will look into possibly updating it. The vote for elders passed 71 yes, 1 no. Good news. Phil and Tim will start looking for people to fill these spots. Think about what you can do.

Preschool

The Preschool Board met in April and heard our pre-registration numbers for next year are 19 in KPREP and 15 in POPS. If you contributed to our spring fundraiser this year, thank you! Our program evaluations are beginning to trickle in. Our students are celebrating Easter this month, along with having a circus and science week. Our Comcast internet is finally working in the whole building, thanks to Pam Bingaman, Brian Wilson and Nick Blough!



April 19th 2022 6:30 pm
All Commission Chairs Meeting

May 18th 2022

The Spring Business Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5/18/22. There will be a meal served at 6 pm followed by the business meeting at 7 pm

Administration

Stewardship Report for April 17, 2022:

Money Given to Budget
\$ 2,930.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year-to-Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 157,114.44

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 166,568.46

Outreach

FMW Sewing May Project is for Faith Mission

Laundry Detergent

Please put your donation items in the collection box by May 12th.

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.

Worship Preview (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Passover, which was on Friday. They may have even been in that Upper Room with Jesus as He celebrated the "Last Supper" with His disciples on Thursday. We don't know who all was there. But the mystery is this, why are they now going home from Jerusalem on Sunday and not staying for the weeklong festivities as they would have been expected to. We find them heading home on Sunday. This is highly unusual! The Festival doesn't end until Friday. I think it is likely one of two things. Either they are filled with fear, Jerusalem is now unsafe for disciples of Jesus, or they are so disappointed with Jesus, they need to go home and get away from everything that has happened. Jesus didn't do what they thought He would.

On the way to Emmaus, they are downcast, full of disappointment, heartache, and bitterness, feeling that their faith in Jesus has been betrayed. They had believed in Jesus. They were confident that Jesus was the Messiah everyone was longing for. But now he was gone, unable to fulfill their hopes and dreams. Jesus, whom they had followed and put their hope in, was crucified on a cross. They saw him die on a cross. And not only was it Jesus that died on that cross, all their hopes, their dreams, their future, their faith, their joy also died.

At supper that night in Emmaus, Jesus took bread and broke it, and suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Jesus. Jesus was with them on their journey, and they

didn't know it! And when they realized this, they ran the seven miles uphill to Jerusalem, and couldn't wait to tell the other disciples, JESUS IS ALIVE! WE HAVE SEEN HIM!

In this story, we find these two disciples on the Jerusalem-Emmaus Highway, and we find them going both directions. The road they traveled did not change, the way they traveled on that road did change, and it made all the difference! Going one way, they were downcast, heartbroken, and in despair. Going the other way, they could not contain their joy. They held their heads high, they are fearless, on a mission! What made the difference? THEY EXPERIENCED THE RISEN LORD, and they now traveled with a great conviction, JESUS IS WITH US!

Related Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:7-8, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 7:13-14



**Baptismal
Instruction**

Have you been considering baptism and membership here at FMC? Pastor Phil will be conducting baptismal instruction weekly during the Sunday School hour starting May 1st. Please contact him if you need further information before May 1st.

Burial Aid

Another member of our Burial Aid programs is now walking with the angels. Jeri (Geraldine) McClain passed away April 16 2022. Despite moving to Kentucky several years ago, she retained her church membership here at FMC, which began as a confession of faith 12/14/75, and was careful to make sure her BA dues were paid. Please watch for your envelopes to replenish this fund. If you have not been participating in the Burial Aid Program and would like to be a part of this, please contact the church office.



Pay It Forward Day April 28

Pay it forward cards are available at the office window and offering table—take as many as you need, Here are a few ideas!

Send a positive text message to five different people right now.

Post inspirational sticky notes around your neighborhood, office, school, etc.

Tell someone they dropped a dollar (even though they didn't). Then give them a dollar.

Let someone go in front of you in line who only has a few items.

Leave unused coupons next to corresponding products in the grocery store.

Administration

The Administration Commission met in March and heard our average attendance is 75. We are behind budget by \$7,000. There are no updates on the roof leak or bathroom renovation. We noted the trees are in the process of being taken down on our Scott Street area. We also discussed re-sealing our parking areas at the church and CR 16. We discussed what we report at the May 18 Spring Business meeting.

Worship

The worship commission met on April 4th with 5 people present and 1 member absent.

Donating some of your professional services to someone in need on the day – free hour consultation / etc....

Buy a stranger a cup of coffee and leave a Pay it Forward card for them

On a rainy day, buy a few umbrella's and give them to those who don't have one and are getting wet. You could attach a Pay it Forward Card to the umbrella

Write a positive comment on your favorite blog, website, or a friend's social media account.

Tape coins around a playground for kids to find.

Purchase extra dog or cat food and bring it to an animal shelter or rescue.

The possibilities are endless. Who will you make smile today?