



On the Journey

Mothers and Grandmothers

Recently, my brothers and I went through some old dishes that my mother had in her china cabinet. My mother is not living on the earth anymore. We know she is living, and probably living in ways we cannot imagine at this point, it just is not on this earth. What I mean is that mom passed away several years ago. I always want to clarify that because it is not accurate to say, "Mom is no longer living." According to the authority of Jesus, she is living!

As we rummaged through what was left of mom's dishes, we found some dishes that were quite old. We didn't even recognize them because mom never used them. Many years ago, mom would tell us about these old dishes that she has, and who they once belonged to, and we knew they were priceless treasures to her, but as young boys, we really didn't care. Now we do! At one point, I begged mom to put a label on the bottom of the dishes to identify them. And while nobody was looking, she did.

We found dishes that belonged to our grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and great-great-grandmothers. And in an instant, these old, and somewhat unattractive to modern eyes old dishes, became treasures. We held these dishes in a different way knowing that they were once held and used by our ancestral mothers.



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BIRTHDAYS

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
Dave Graber	5/31
Janelle Walther	5/31

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Tim Eash Music - Grace Rheinheimer
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.



Camping for FMC

It's camping season! This is a new small group setting that welcomes all levels of camping: day campers to full time campers with tents to RV's. Come enjoy God's creation with your church family. It's time to make our June reservations at Amigo Park, Sturgis, Michigan. Anyone interested in fellowshiping around the campfire in June, please call or text Shari Graber at 574-612-7139 by noon May 10, 2022.



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.

Administration

Stewardship Report for May 1, 2022:

Money Given to Budget
\$ 4,120.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ 5,047.52

Year-to-Date Money Given to Budget
\$ 166,640.44

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ 176,663.50

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

It is *Mother's Day*. It is a day when we honor the women who have blessed our lives, and when mothers get some recognition for the special role they have in our lives. And while it is a special day for mothers, I hope we have developed hearts that honor and cherish our mothers every day and not only on Mother's Day. There are not many experiences that all human beings have in common, but having a mother is one of them.

There are many mothers in the Bible, and most of them that we find in the Bible are good and godly mothers. And there are a few that stand out, even in this group, for their faith and godly character. Mary would be one from the New Testament we could think of. And Hannah stands out in the Old Testament. Bible scholars see many parallels between Hannah and Mary, and even go so far as to say that Hannah was a great influence on Mary. *Hannah's Prayer* and *Mary's Song* are very similar. It is reasonable to think that Mary drew much inspiration and courage from Hannah. And what may have been the most rewarding thing for these two mothers, is that their own faith can be seen in full display in the lives of their children.

The focus this Sunday will be on Hannah. Hannah was a woman of faith. She learned through the good

times and through the hard times to walk with God and to trust God, although, that was at times painful and not easy to do. One of the outstanding characteristics of Hannah is that she was a woman of prayer. She was convinced that God listened to her prayers and cared about the deep longings of her heart. Hannah believed that children

are a special gift from God, and along with that, she believed that God is at work in this world, so she committed her child to be used of

God in God's service even before he was born. Hannah's great and valuable lesson to motherhood is that she began planning and training her child to be a servant of God, bathing him in prayer, even before his conception.

Related Scriptures: I Samuel 1:1-2:10, Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Title:
Hannah - Woman of Faith
Sermon Text: **I Samuel 1:21-28**



On the Journey Cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

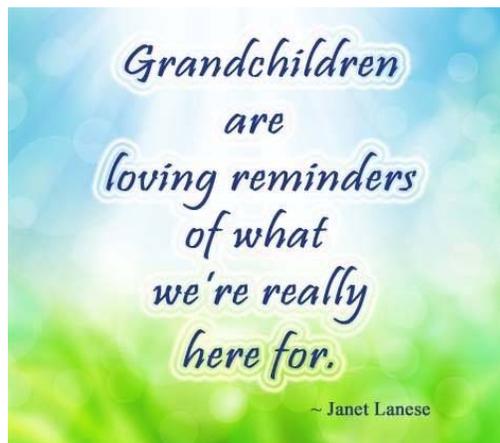
As we held the dishes, what I really longed for was to have their stories, the knowledge, the values, and the perspectives of our grandmothers. I wish the dishes could talk, but of course, they can't. But what they do, is connect us in some small way to previous generations. I keep thinking of how much better we would be, if we had our grandmother's stories, the faith, and the values they treasured and that shaped their lives.

Many years ago, on a cold winter's night, I asked my grandmother (my father's mother) what life was like for her when she was a young girl. But she didn't answer me, not even a word. She just started crying. Later, I discovered that my grandmother's father passed away when she was only nine years old. The next winter, they had a fire in their house, and they lost everything except the clothes they were wearing. A year later, her mother remarried. They moved to another state. And if the loss of friends, school, church, and community were not enough, their new stepfather made life miserable for them. He had five young children of his own and had no use for another ten hungry mouths to feed, and he never tried to hide his sentiment. And then my grandma's mother died when grandma was still a teenager. Life was too

painful, and she chose to push that era of her life out of her mind, and decided as much as possible, never to pity herself, but also never talk about it and have to relive the pain. But oh, how I longed to know her stories, and I still do. And I still feel that I would somehow be richer if grandma had shared how her faith in God and her loving community carried her through those most difficult years and enabled her to not become bitter and lose her way in life.

Mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, PLEASE, do not be afraid to talk to your children and grandchildren. Tell them your stories. You have far more influence on them than you realize. And they desperately need your faith, your wisdom, your perspectives, your values! There is a reason God made sure all of us have mothers and grandmothers. We need you! Modern culture attempts to discard the past so it can control the hearts and minds of the current generation. But your children and grandchildren need you, and they need your stories. And for the most part, they will listen because it is you telling them. They may not take notes or jump up and down with glee as you share your life with them, but they are listening, and they need you to give them some hope and some direction in a profoundly lost world.

~ Written By Philip Yoder



Notes from the Library

New Books have arrived by request

The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak: Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families by Shannon Bream

Shannon examines the lives of biblical mothers, who like us, were human beings who struggle and falter to do their best. Some heard God's voice others choose their own paths. Still we see how God used their mothers to carry out His divine plans. God is still working today in our lives.



Jacob's Choice by Ervin R Stutzman

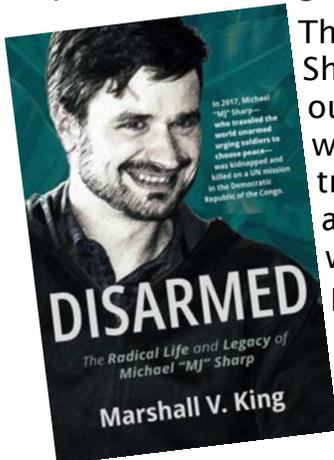
Setting is 1757 during the French Indian War, many of Jacob's family were killed or taken captive by the Indians. Jacob was a peace loving Amish settler in Pennsylvania and found his beliefs of love and non-resistance severely tested. This story is based on actual events.



~ submitted by Kathy Troyer

Disarmed

by Marshall V King



This is the life of MJ Sharp who grew up in our area. His message was "peace". He traveled the world over and inspired many to walk the road of peace. Needless to say his path was fraught with many dangers and hardships. His deep convictions carried him through. I believe when his mission was complete Jesus met him and spoke "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy or the Lord."

