

LIFE @ FIRST

“The purpose of prayer is not to inform God of our needs, but to invite God to rule our lives. Prayer is not a message addressed to God, it is a request to participate in God’s life.”
~ Clarence Bauman

Volume 15
Issue 29

July 25, 2022

Worship Preview

Many people today are critical of the church. They don’t like the music, they don’t like the pastor, they don’t like the people, they don’t like the programs. What if, instead of criticizing the church, Christians prayed for the church? Actually, that is not my idea, it comes from the Bible. In the small book of Ephesians, as Paul writes this letter to the

Ephesian Church, he suddenly breaks out in prayer for them, and he does this twice. Rather than telling the church to pray, Paul prays, and he allows the church to hear him praying for them. And what Paul is

praying for, is of very great significance.

All of us know that prayer is important in the life of Christians, and also in the life of the church. We emphasize prayer here at First Mennonite because, prayer is essential in our relationship with God. Prayer connects us to God in a way that nothing else does. Prayer is a way to release the things that burden us, as we give our burdens to God. Prayer connects us to the throne of God. Prayer teaches us to wait on God, to trust God, and to learn to depend on God. And it might take a while, but prayer trains us to desire God’s will and not just our own.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Shari Graber Music - Erica Kinsman

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

Katie Mullet	7/30
Michael Oesch	8/1
Phil Yoder	8/1
Aaron Eash	8/2
Don Miller	8/2
Don Ritchie	8/4
Ernest Mullet	8/5
Dale Kauffman	8/6
Marlene Pletcher	8/6
Ed Outman	8/8
Lindsey Kurtz	8/9
Randy Bontrager	8/13

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

Outreach

FMW Sewing August Project is for our own Pleasant Oaks Preschool

We need 50 kits with the following items:

- *10 ct WASHABLE thick Crayola markers
- *16 ct Crayola crayons (classic)
- *Elmer's Washable School Glue Stick (disappearing purple .21oz)

Additional items:

- Pom Poms (for crafts)
- Colored tissue Paper
- Cotton Balls
- Dry Erase markers
- Paper Plates (big & small)
- Plastic forks & spoons
- Dixie cups
- Masking Tape
- Scotch brand Tape

Please put your donation items in the collection box by August 11!

Looking ahead, in case you find good sales, the September project will be MCC School Kits which include (all new items):

- 4 Spiral or Perforated Pages Notebooks (8.5 X 10 and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler, (flat good quality, must indicate 30cm, inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils in packaging
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

Administration

Stewardship Report for July 24, 2022:

Money Given to Budget **\$ 3,693.00**

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget **\$ 5,047.52**

Year-to-Date Mney Given to Budget **\$ 218,921.44**

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget **\$ 237,233.74**

Office Hours

Betty Lou will be out of the office Monday August 1st. Shirley will be covering the bare essentials, and will not be here for the full day. Please understand that things might be delayed just a little bit on Tuesday!

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.

Library

Treasures of Clay is now available in our library, written by our own Pastor Phil. It is a well researched & covers the family and life of Allen & Lizzie Yoder. It resonates with me as it covers both the history and spirit of our Anabaptist forefathers. They came to America seeking freedom to worship and refuge from persecution. Many of our own family roots began with the same vision. “Their faith in God, family, support of the church, and hard work made it possible for these immigrants to endure in difficult circumstances.” I was challenged to think of the immigrants of today. Are their families seeking opportunity and freedom from persecution? How do we as a faith community respond to their plight?

Submitted by Kathy Troyer



From the Office

Recently more and more people are contacting me outside of my normal office hours. Please understand that when you text me on my personal phone, or see me out and about and want to talk church business, I do not have access to the information I do when I'm in the office, and I don't even TRY to memorize the calendar months in advance (not even for my personal business)! For the most accurate information about anything relating to FMC, please jot yourself a note to stop by or call during business hours, put a note in the office drop box, or email me! Also, if you need action / information from this office, it's best just to contact me yourself via one of the above methods, not tell several other people that you need something done and hope it gets back to me!

Thanks! Betty Lou

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Worship Preview (cont'd)

In Paul's prayers for the church, he doesn't mention things that would make them comfortable or make life easy for them; personal healing, church growth, or things that would make the church look successful in the eyes of the world, or any of the other things we typically pray for. He is far more interested in the church being awakened to who they are in Christ, and what they have in Christ. And when they begin to realize those things, the things of this world begin to look different! Paul tells us that the church is the Body of Christ in the world and has access to the fullness of Jesus. And that includes the power of resurrection, redeeming grace, communion with God, and the power that is in Jesus. It is not surprising that miracles happened on a regular basis in the church in Acts, or that when the church prayed for Peter in Acts 12, God sent an angel to open the prison doors and to lead Peter out, even though Peter was sleeping at the time, and was not praying. I am afraid that the church today is not realizing her true potential, and often appears anemic. Paul's prayer was that the church would awaken to realize who we are in Christ and to the power of God at work in us.

Related Scriptures: Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21, 6:18-20