

On The Journey

Extending Grace

Philip Yancey, in his book, *What Is So Amazing About Grace*, tells the story of a Spanish father who longed to restore a relationship with his son who had run away from home to Madrid. The father, wishing to be reconciled with his son, but not knowing where or how to find his son, took out an ad in the *El Liberal* newspaper which read: “PACO, MEET ME AT HOTEL MONTANA AT NOON ON TUESDAY. ALL IS FORGIVEN. – PAPA.” (Paco is a common name in Spain). When the father arrived at the square where the Hotel Montana is located, he found eight hundred young men named Paco waiting for their fathers. This world is starved for grace!



Secular culture, and it doesn't seem to matter where that culture exists in the world, tends to be graceless. Our own culture is becoming increasingly graceless. If you do not agree with me, I will have nothing to do with you. Let's split and go our separate ways. The grace-deprived thinking of our culture fuels polarized politics, racial tensions, hatred, name-calling, which only deepens the divide, and church splits. If we can't agree, we have nothing in common, we can't work together, we can't even exist together. And many feel their disagreements to be a mandate to actively work against those with whom they disagree and seek their harm and destruction. Gracelessness fuels hatred, brokenness, and wars. Gracelessness is anti-Christ! A missionary I know who has spent the past 30 years ministering in Muslim cultures, says that one of the things Muslims find attractive about the

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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 AM

Worship Leader - Sonya Miller Music - Grace Rheineimer
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

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
Lloyd Hochstedler	8/15
Tom Miller	8/17
Ward Bingaman	8/21

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 31, 2022:

Money Given to Budget **\$ 3,350.00**

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

Year-to-Date Mney Given to Budget **\$ 222,271.44**

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget **\$ 242,281.26**

Campout

Our August campout at Amigo Park, Sturgis, MI is scheduled for August 19-21, 2022. Please let Shari Graber know if you would like to camp or join us for a meal or Sunday morning worship around the campfire. Call or text 574-612-7139.



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.

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Gospel of Christ is that there is forgiveness and grace. These are largely absent in Muslim cultures. But look at our own culture. Are we not becoming just like that? Politicians can't work or even speak respectfully to each other. People in our culture can't seem to respect or relate humanly with those who disagree with them. Churches and church denominations are splitting because they have bought into the modern mindset that if you don't agree with me, we can't exist together. We are convinced we can't possibly have any fellowship with those with whom we disagree. People now believe that the things that divide us are greater than the things that unite us, even people in the church. Most of the major church denominations have split in recent times. The spirit of vengeance, and noncooperation, and war has become dominate in our own culture, and even in our churches. I can't believe this is what Jesus has in mind for His

church!

Paul speaks much about "Grace" in his letters to the churches. I think Paul was overwhelmed with the grace of God, because for much of his own life, there was not much grace in it. And when he discovered the grace and forgiveness of Jesus which is poured out on us with little regard for its enormous cost, and when he was brought to the truth Gospel and given a chance to repent, to change the course of his life, and to live God's agenda instead of his own, Paul went for it, and he never got over the Grace that God lavished on him.

We as God's people in the church have an opportunity to show the world a better way, to extend the grace that God has lavished to us, to minister God's grace in a world that is starving for good news, but I am afraid, we might just be blowing it!

Written By Philip Yoder

On The Journey Cont'd

Other News & Announcements

The **Relief Sale Choir** is back! Practices start Sunday, August 14, 3:00-4:30 pm at College Mennonite Church. All are welcome! The choir will perform Sunday evening, Sept. 25, at Sauder Hall in the Goshen College Music Center. For more details, visit mennonitesale.org/volunteer#choir. **FIRST FRIDAY**

AUGUST 5-6 | 5PM - 9PM Are you ready for the **Goshen Games**?! Play around in downtown Goshen and enjoy a variety of tournaments and family-friendly competitions scheduled over the course of this two-day, sporting extravaganza. Planned events include cornhole and sand volleyball, as well as shopping promotions, restaurant specials and much more!

Ten Thousand Villages - Vintage Villages Auction is coming soon! On August 14th you can view the auction items online and on August 21st, bidding goes live. The auction will include beautiful art pieces and artisan crafted candlesticks, pots, wall-hangings, lamps and much more.

Save this link to view the items and bid: <https://auctria.events/VVAUCTION2022>. We would like to thank our generous sponsors below, who make this event possible!

Worship Preview

The church is viewed by the world as a human institution, which is at times full of failures and hypocrites. And they are not completely wrong. The church is not perfect, and the reason is that it is made up of imperfect people who are in process of growing into the likeness of Jesus. And we have a lot of growing to do, do we not? But the world does not see what God is doing in the church. God is at work in the church, reclaiming sinners, reclaiming his broken creation and working to fix that which is broken. And in this work, we discover the church to be a unique hybrid of sinful creatures and the holiness of God, made up of pathetically weak creatures, but also the power of God. The church recognizes its own brokenness but claims the healing power of God. We are dying, but we have eternal life. We confess our weakness and helplessness; we also bring hope and healing to a dying world. The church has one foot in this world, and one foot in heaven. The church has a mission in this world, and at the same time a mission in the heavenly realms, a mission in this present age, but also a mission in the ages to come. And these are not contradictions as the world might see it, but as God sees things, we are the work of God in process! We in the church, are in only the infancy stages of what God has planned for the church, of what we one day will be.

Sermon Title:

The Cosmic Mission of the Church

Sermon Text:

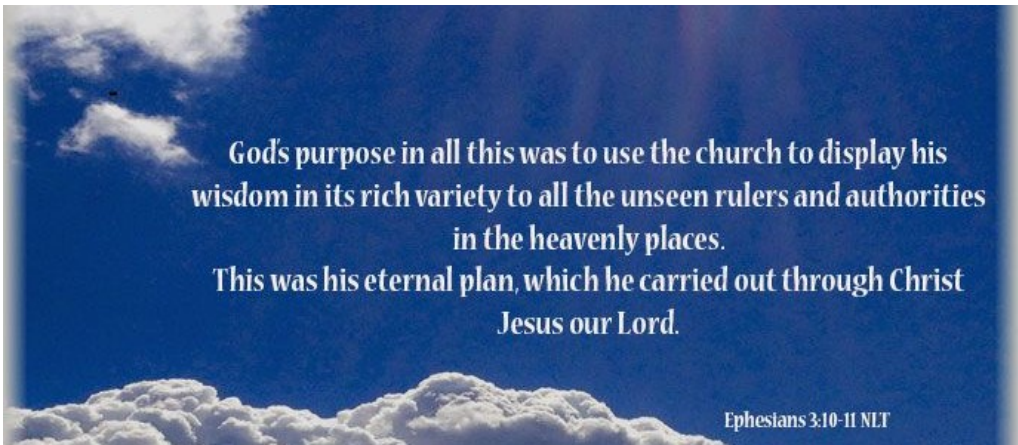
Ephesians 3:10-11

The world doesn't see this, and many Christians in the church don't see it either, but God has a cosmic role for the church, and it is not just in the future when we get to heaven, it is today. God has given the church an important role in God's cosmic work of redemption. Our lives, our work in the church, are being used by God for purposes that we aren't aware of. The book of Ephesians tells us of at least 5 ways God is using the church in his cosmic work of redeeming creation. And that is not all. The church has much significance in the world now, but Paul hints that the role of the church may even be greater in ages to come. The church is earthly, the church is cosmic. The spirit world is watching us. We lowly Christians, who are often tired and weary, and struggle with our inadequacies, are teaching the principalities and powers in the heavenly realms. Our work in the church, insignificant as it seems to us at times, has cosmic effects!

Background

Scripture:

Ephesians 1:9-10,
2:14-18, 3:10-11,
6:10-18



God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.