

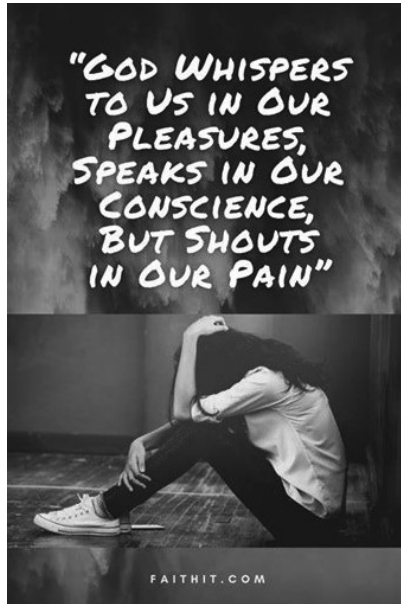
## Worship Preview

We have a guest speaker on Sunday. Susie Walter will be with us to tell us her story. I have not heard her tell her story, but those who have suggest that it is a story of her struggles and her suffering, and of God's faithfulness.

Life seems to be full of troubles, and no one is exempt from it. Some people are called upon to endure more trouble than others, but we don't know why. To be human comes with pain and suffering. Humans are born in great pain, and many die in great pain. Human pain and suffering is shrouded in deep mystery, we simply don't understand much about it. Bible Scholars believe that the earliest book of the Bible written, was the book of Job, a book that wrestles with the problem of suffering. In John chapter 9, the disciples tried to figure out why a man was born blind, and Jesus told them that that is not for them to know. Jesus Himself spent much of His life healing others, yet died the most painful, torturous, inhumane death anyone can imagine. The one whose hands touched sufferers and brought them healing, suffered unimaginably at the hands of other human beings. The thing human beings have in common regarding suffering, is that we don't like it, and we try to avoid it, but yet, it somehow seems to find us.

All of us have Psalms that we adore, Psalms that are filled with meaning and that comfort us. No doubt these are Psalms that remind us of all God does for us and the benefits of walking close to God. And yet, two-thirds of the Psalms are laments of people who are suffering, who are crying out to God. Many of the laments in the Psalms turn to prayer, and a few to praise before the Psalm ends.

*(Continued on page 3)*



### BIRTHDAYS

Katie Walther	1/24
Dee Weaver	1/25
Ben Eash	1/31
Pam Bingaman	2/3
Sam King	2/9
Dorothy Nisley	2/11
Glenn Miller	2/12
Martha Weirich	2/12
Wayne Schrock	2/12
Elizabeth Kauffman	2/13
Tina Frye	2/20
Aldine Wyse	2/20

**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 9:00a*  
*Sunday School 10:15a*

*Office Hours*

*Pastor Phil*  
*Tuesday 9:30a—1:30p*  
*Thursday 1:00p—6:00p*

*Pastor Tim*  
*by appointment*

*Business Office*  
*Monday and Tuesday*  
*8:00a—5:00p*

**Sunday Worship - 9:00 am**

**Sunday School - 10:30 am**

Worship Leader - Malinda Eash

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.

## Outreach

**FMW Sewing** next project is for  
MCC Hygiene Kits

*New items only, please*

- 1 adult sized toothbrush (in mfg packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel, medium weight, dark or bright colors, approx. 16" x 26"
- 1 wide toothed comb 6' - 8"

Please place your items in the tote in the lobby  
by February 9th.

## Board

The Board has adopted new by-laws which replace the OLD and long constitution. If you'd like a copy to take home and review, there are copies outside of Betty Lou's window, alternately a copy if posted on the Board's section of the hallway bulletin boards.

## Administration

Temporary Business Office Hours Change

- Monday January 30th 8a—4p
- Tuesday January 31st 9:30—3p
- Wednesday February 1st 9:30—3p

## Board

Please Note—The date in last weeks newsletter was incorrect—**the due date is actually Feb 12th!**

Have you gotten your Pastoral Evaluation yet? The Church Board is asking each church attender to prayerfully fill one out and return it to the church office. Your input is invaluable.

## Community Life

2023 Women's Retreat will be held at Hunter Lake again this year , February 3-5. Our theme is "Spiritual Growth through the Scriptures." There is always time for fun, food and fellowship along with the Bible Study. Bring a friend if you wish. This year we are having the opportunity to paint a picture for our homes while being instructed by a painter. Very little talent is required. You only need to know how to follow directions and hold a paintbrush. More information is available on the sign up sheet on the CLC bulletin board. Please sign up by January 29. You and We will be glad you did. Cost for the week-end is \$25 and if you can only come on Saturday, \$20. If you have any questions, call Linda at 574-612-3011

## Administration

### Stewardship Report for January 22, 2023

Money Given to Budget	YTD Money Given to Budget
<b>\$ 2,572.00</b>	<b>\$ 106,081.69</b>
Amount Needed	Amount Needed Year
Weekly for Budget	to Date for Budget
<b>\$ 5,047.52</b>	<b>\$ 105,997.92</b>

## Discipling

### **The Psalms: A Traveler's Guide for Walking on the Earth**

Beginning January 15 5:00 – 6:00 PM

(here at First Mennonite)

There are 150 chapters in the Psalms. Rather than looking at each one of these, we will notice major themes that emerge in the Psalms. Plan to come and be blessed as we explore this Book and join the countless multitudes who have come here over the centuries to find refuge in life's storms, solace in grief, hope in trouble, an outlet for anguish and anger, a guide for travelers on the earth, and expressions of worship, praise, and faith.

**January 29** Lesson 3: Worship (Life's Purpose) (Psalm 92-100)

**February 5** Lesson 4: Loving God's Ways (Psalm 119)

**February 12** Lesson 5: God is our Refuge (Psalm 91, 118, 121)

**February 19** Lesson 6: Revenge / Cursing Psalms (Psalm 109, 137)

**February 26** Lesson 7: In Praise of God (Psalm 103, 148, 150)

### **Worship Preview (cont'd)**

Living in close relationship with God does not exempt anyone from the pain and suffering of life, but it does provide a certain hope and at times, even joy in the midst of suffering. This we do know, God has compassion on those who suffer, and in the New Creation there will be no more pain or suffering. But until then, we are called to walk with God, and to rest in the goodness of God, and trust in the wisdom of God.



# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>5p POPS Advisory Board</i>	2 <i>6:30p Church Board</i>	3 <i>Women's</i>	4 <i>Retreat</i>
5 <i>9a Phil Preaching 5p Bible Study</i>	6 <i>7p- 8p LMC Virtual Prayer Gathering 7p Worship Commission</i>	7 <i>9a Mom's in Prayer</i>	8 <i>6:30p Admin Comm</i>	9 <i>9a FMW Sewing</i>	10	11
12 <i>9a Phil Preaching 5p Bible Study</i>	13 <i>10a-3p Immunization Clinic</i>	14 <i>9a Mom's in Prayer</i>	15	16	17	18
19 <i>9a Tim Preaching 5p Bible Study</i>	20 <i>12p-6p Red Cross Blood Drive</i>	21 <i>9a Mom's in Prayer</i>	22	23	24	25
26 <i>9a Phil Preaching 5p Bible Study</i>	27	28 <i>9a Mom's in Prayer</i>	<p><b>All Calendar Events are subject to change</b></p> <p><i>To get your item on the calendar, please make sure it's in your minutes, or get Betty Lou a note, both are needed <u>before</u> the last week of the month.</i></p>			