

LIFE @ FIRST

All of heaven loves the cross of Christ, hell is afraid of it, it is only men on the earth who ignore it. ~ Oswald Chambers

VOLUME 16
ISSUE 9

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Worship Preview

In the Passion Narrative of Jesus, we find three crosses. Luke tells us that Jesus was crucified between two criminals. To the Romans, the three were all alike. Three who dared to interfere with how Rome ran the world, three criminals, three sentenced to die, and at the end of the day, three dead criminals. Three less troublemakers Rome now needs to worry about. You mess with Rome, and this is what you can expect. Let this be a lesson to all who would even think of opposing the world's dominate empire. If you are thinking of rebelling, you better be absolutely certain of what you are doing, because, even though Rome had already crucified thousands who opposed them, there were countless more crosses where those came from, and Rome will not hesitate for a second to use them. The cross was intended to bring death, and it did. The cross was intended to humiliate, to break, and kill the one who hung on it, and

it did. That dreadful day, the three crosses on Golgotha did what they were designed to do, they killed. That is what Rome saw when they looked at the three crosses they planted on Golgotha on that Good Friday.

Of course, the way God sees things is often very different from how this world see them, and these three crosses are no exception. And while two of the people hanging on crosses that day were there because of crimes they committed, God used their crosses to bring them close to Jesus, and one of them repented, even while hanging on his cross. And just look at what God did! When Jesus went to the cross, He carried the sin of the world with Him, and sin hung there on His

(Continued on page 3)

Sermon Title:
The Three Crosses

Sermon Text:
Luke 23:32-43

Sunday Worship - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:30 am

Worship Leader - Sonya Miller

Music - Ken Mininger

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

Gert Kauffman	2/29
Ron Yoder	3/1
Mildred Ritchie	3/5
Virginia Hershberger	3/8
Gordon Kauffman	3/8
Vera Miller	3/10
Selena Kurtz	3/10
Ethon Tepen	3/14
Ruby Bontreger	3/15
Jake Schwartz	3/23
Linda Miller	3/25

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

Outreach

FMW Sewing next project is for the Middlebury Food Pantry Shut-Ins

Small Pkgs of Bisquick Mix
 Sugar-free Syrup
 Sugar-free Jelly
 Canned Collard Greens
 Jiffy Mixes ie; muffins, corn bread, brownie
 or cake...
 Applesauce Cups - Unsweetened
 Mandarin Oranges
 Canned 3-Bean Salad
 Canned Potatoes
 Diced Tomatoes
 Easy to Heat & Serve meals ie; Chunky
 soups, Chicken-n-Dumplings, Beef Stew, Cup
 of Soups...
 Cooking Oil
 Foil pkgs of Salmon (no bones)
 Spam

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

Administration

Stewardship Report for February 26 2023

Money Given to Budget \$ n/a	YTD Money Given to Budget \$ n/a
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$ 5,047.52	Amount Needed Year to Date for Budget \$ 126,188.00

In an effort to get out a timely newsletter this week, it was given priority over the financial items. This info will be available in the bulletin.

College Student Donation Boxes

We have three students in college this year. There will be boxes in the foyer on February 26 and March 5 available to place items in the boxes. In the past people have given snacks , cash, food and gas gift cards and a multitude of items that they have thought of themselves. The following are our students and some things they may like....

Ty Miller is enrolled in the University of Phoenix on line classes this semester. He is currently working at Airxcel in order to not only learn from his classes but also to have hands on experience. He's not a real big snacker but he does like Taco Bell and as he is currently driving to work daily, gas cards are nice

Grace Rheinheimer is graduating from Calvin University, Grand Rapids in April and has already started the Grad program in Speech Therapy there. She enjoys Chick-Fil-A and Starbucks. She does have clinicals and eats vanilla wafers and pretzels between clinic sessions and class. Loves to chew gum and of course loves that great tasting Brownie Brittle. Grace also does a lot of driving to and from school.

Katie Walther is at Trine University and is very active with her classes as well as with the dance team. She will be heading to National Dance contest in April with her Trine team. She likes Taco Bell but says all food places are good. She also buys some of her own groceries and appreciates any gift cards for that as well as gas.

Worship Preview (cont'd)

cross, in Jesus' body. On that day, Satan lost his power to accuse and condemn those who place their faith in Jesus. The sins of those people who belong to Jesus were nailed to Jesus' cross, and they can never be used to condemn those people again. God used the cross of Jesus to bring death to the power of sin and to the power that sin has over us. God used the cross to put sin to death. God used the cross to demonstrate His power over death.

God never ceases to amaze! He does things nobody could ever have imagined. The Romans used the cross of Jesus to bring death. God used the same cross to bring life. God, in His great mercy, uses death, not to put an end to miserable, wretched, old souls, but to bring them into paradise. That is such an irony, God uses death to bring souls into eternal life.

On Golgotha, on Good Friday, the Romans placed three crosses in the ground. To the Romans, they were all the same. But to God, they represented three very different things, and they could not have been more different. One brought death, one brought repentance, and one brought salvation to the lost world.

Background Scripture: Matthew 27:1-66, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:66-23:56, John 18-28-19:37, I Corinthians 1:18

Worship

LENT - 2023 "Revealed Secrets in the Passion of Jesus"

March 5 – <i>"The Three Crosses"</i>	Luke 23:32-43
March 12 – <i>"Peter's Three Denials of Jesus"</i>	Matthew 26:69-79, Luke 22:31-34
March 19 – <i>"The Three Signs at Jesus' Death"</i> <i>Natural, Spiritual, Cosmic)</i>	Matthew 27:45-54
March 26 – <i>"Jesus' Three Trips into Jerusalem"</i>	Luke 19:28-48, 22:7-20
April 2 (PALM SUNDAY)	
April 6 (MAUNDY THURSDAY) – <i>"The Three Sacraments"</i>	Matthew 26:26-29, John 13:1-17
April 9 (EASTER) – <i>"Jesus' Three Days in a Tomb"</i>	Matthew 27:57-28:6
April 16 – <i>"Three Appearances of Jesus on Easter"</i>	Luke 24:13-49, John 20:10-18
April 23 – <i>"The Three Phases of the Human Body"</i>	Luke 24:1-6, I Corinthians 15:1-57
April 30 – <i>"The Three Phases of God's Salvation"</i>	Genesis 12:1-3, Revelation 19:9, 21:1-8