

On the Journey

Worship

Everybody worships. For human beings, worship is as natural as breathing. We are created to worship. Some people worship God, some worship idols, some worship themselves, some worship other people, some worship nature, some worship sports, some worship possessions, some worship power, some worship money, some worship ideologies, some worship their country, and the list could go on and on for a long time. The point is that we are created to worship, and we all find something or someone that takes center stage in our hearts and that our hearts hold dearer than anything else.

You don't have to come to church to worship. And most people don't. Even though worship is a religious term, there is far more worship that goes on outside the church walls than inside churches.

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Worship Preview

We are approaching another Valentine's Day, the day the world celebrates love. The idea of celebrating love is a wonderful idea, and hopefully it reminds us how important love is, that we all need love, and that all of us can make an important contribution in this world. The world focuses on Romantic Love in its celebration of Valentine's Day, and elevates romantic love above all other loves. And the problem is that the love the world celebrates misses so many people, single people, widowed people, divorced people, people in bad marriages, lonely people. And these people are just as valuable, just as special, just as deserving of love, but they don't fit the world's mold of who is loved and celebrated. Much of the reason is that the world's promotion of Valentine's Day is tied pretty closely to commerce, someone has something they are trying to sell. There is a profit to be made.

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FEBRUARY 7, 2023

BIRTHDAYS

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
Edith Herschberger	2/24
Gert Kauffman	2/29
Ron Yoder	3/1
Mildred Ritchie	3/5

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 - Tim 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 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.

Preschool

The Preschool Board met in February. Pre-registration number for next year are 5 in POPS and 15 in KPREP so far. March brings in Parent/Teacher conferences, as well as Around the World series for KPREP. We're looking for volunteers to represent a country to the students. We will have a spring fundraiser of Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn in March. We began planning our Spring Carnival the end of April.

Office Volunteer & Office Hours

Betty Lou is having hand surgery in a few weeks. It's anticipated that she'll be released to return the following week, however, there are a few things that are posing challenges already, and will continue to be challenging following surgery. If you would be willing to pop in for an hour or so, usually on Tuesday afternoon, to help out with stuffing envelopes (and there might be other things not yet identified) please sign up on the bulletin board so she knows who to reach out to for that week when things are ready for you to help!

Also, office hours might also be a little spotty depending on recovery and while she has post-surgical appointments. Your understanding is appreciated!

There will be a carry-in meal at the church this Sunday, February 12 following Sunday School.

Administration

Stewardship Report for February 5, 2023

Money Given to Budget YTD Money Given to Budget
\$ 4,292.57 **\$ 113,731.69**

Amount Needed Amount Needed Year
Weekly for Budget to Date for Budget
\$ 5,047.52 **\$ 116,092.96**

On the Journey (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Not all worship is directed to God, either. Worship can be directed to just about anything. In the Bible, the thing that seemed to upset God more than anything else was when people forgot God and began to worship idols.

There is private worship and there is corporate worship. And both are essential. At the core of the human soul is the heart. It is there that we make decisions, form the focus of our lives, and it is there that we worship. Jesus said that we must worship in spirit and in truth (John 3:23), meaning that authentic worship must flow out from our heart and not just be a show. But corporate worship is also essential, as it feeds the heart. Corporate worship binds our hearts with others who are on a journey with us, uses resources we don't individually have, and is much more structured. The Church keeps us accountable and keeps us practiced in worship skills. The church is a constant reminder to worship only God in a world in which we are deluged with distractions and with idols, idols that look fun and exciting, that appear good and beautiful and deserving of our affections, but end up turning the heart away from God.

This is why regular WORSHIP of God is important, WORSHIP trains the heart. Worship trains the heart to love, and directs the affection and adoration of the heart. Worship of God trains

the heart to trust God and to cling to God no matter what life dumps in our laps. Worship trains us to hope in God, trains our eyes to see God caring for us, trains us to see the greatness of God, and trains us to long for God.

The root word of worship is "worth." Through our worship, or lack of it, we show God what He is worth to us. Through worship we are reminded who God is and who we are, and from that vantage point, worship then trains the heart to love God, to long for God, and to seek God because of who God is. Another great value of worship is that it is in worship that we experience intimacy with God, and grow the conviction that God loves me, and even greater still that God likes me and finds pleasure in me, and God enjoys walking with me through life in spite of all the messes of life we find ourselves in.

One of the great benefits of worship, is that it goes a long way in keeping all things in life, good and bad, in their proper perspective. We are not consumed with the good, nor are we destroyed by the bad. We know that none of these has the last word, nor do any of these have ultimate power over a life which has learned to faithfully worship God.

Written by Philip Yoder

Board

Please continue to work at getting your Pastor Evaluation forms filled out and turned in by Feb 12th. Also, make sure to grab a copy of the new By-laws. We are continuing work on the Child Protection Policy and hope to have that completed soon.

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!**

Worship Preview (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

The Bible too, celebrates love, but in a very different way from how the world does, and it is a different kind of love, too. Jesus promoted the kind of love that God has for us, a love that loves the undeserving, loves the unlovely, loves those who don't love in return, and even loves the enemy. Jesus went so far as to say that the world would know we are His followers because we love like Jesus loved. And that is the mark of a Christian. There is a story in John's Gospel (John 21)

Sermon Title:
The Mark of a Christian

Sermon Text:
John 13:34-35

that is very helpful in understanding Jesus' kind of love, and Jesus' requirement that His followers learn to love in that way. After Peter denied Jesus, Jesus came and found Peter. Jesus never mentioned the denials, instead He invited Peter to not give up on following Jesus. Peter was just dealing with the greatest failure in his life, he had no confidence in himself. But Jesus did not reject Peter, and quickly moved Peter beyond his failures, and in doing so, left Peter know that he needed to learn to love that way too.

The wonderful thing about the kind of Love Jesus promoted is that Jesus looked past people's failures to what they could be, and that is what He chose to focus on. Peter had his failures, that is for sure, but Jesus came back to him to make sure Peter's failures were not the thing that defined Peter. Jesus quickly called Peter to move beyond his failures and to learn Jesus' kind of love. And this kind of love, which focuses on potential, not failures, drew Peter back to Jesus. And this is the kind of love Jesus has for each of us, this is the kind of love the world desperately needs, this is the kind of love Jesus commanded His followers to fill the world with.

Background Scripture: John 21:15-19

Discipling

The Psalms:

A Traveler's Guide for Walking on the Earth

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.
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)

