

Worship Preview: One of the great tragedies in our world is that some people live without hope in their lives. Sometimes when people experience great loss, or they can't see their way through tough times, or they feel like they are in a situation where there is no way out, they give up, and believe there is no hope. And unfortunately, this is more common than we care to think.

One of the gifts that faith provides for those of us who embrace faith, is that we always have hope, because we know that God is all-powerful and over all, and that God is still with us. And even though we experience loss or tragedies in our lives, we believe that it is not the end. We read many stories in the Bible where people suffered great loss. Job is one of those stories. Job suffered the loss of nearly every earthly thing he possessed, but he clung to hope, believing that it was not the end of his pitiful saga. The last chapter had not yet been written. And he was right. As people of faith, our lives are built on trust in God, and the foundation of our lives is not destroyed by the tragedies of life, because God remains.

On that last night Jesus was with His disciples, when He announced to them that He would be leaving them, they were mortified. They could not imagine life without Jesus by their side. Jesus had called them to follow Him, and they obeyed. Jesus had taken care of them and now the thought of Jesus not being with them anymore was more than they could bear. In one of the key statements in this entire discourse, Jesus said, *"You trust in God, now you must also trust in me."* And Jesus nailed it with that statement. The key to maintaining hope in our lives is to trust in Jesus when we can't see past the perimeters of life's tragedies. Jesus not only preached that message to His disciples, He lived it. Jesus headed to a cross and to a tomb with the disciples still not having a very clear understanding of Jesus or of His mission on the earth. That very night, Judas would betray Him, Peter would deny Him, and all the other disciples would abandon Him. But Jesus knew that this night was not the end of the story.

The gift of hope that Jesus gives to us is based on Jesus' victory over evil, His victory over death, and the authority Jesus has over all the world. And this becomes the foundation of our lives as we live in a very uncertain world. We can lose our possessions, our health, and our relationships. Our dreams, and much of what we have worked for in life can be taken away, but no one and no thing can take our faith and our hope from us. Jesus knew what was awaiting Him, and He knew what was awaiting His disciples. And one of the essential lessons Jesus must teach His disciples before He leaves them, is that they must never give up Hope!

~Pastor Phil

Message: Pastor Phil

Title: "Learning to Live With Hope"

Text: John 14:1-4

Worship Leader: Dave Graber

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

You can 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

## Happy February Birthdays

Pam Bingaman 3

Dorothy Nisley 11

Glenn Miller 12

Martha Weirich 12

Wayne Schrock 12

Tina Frye 20

Edith Hershberger 24

**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

### Office Hours

Pastor Phil

Tuesday 9:30a—1:30p

Thursday 1:00p—6:00p

Pastor Tim by appointment

Church Office: Linda Young

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 8 am—1 pm

### **Our Congregational Care**

**Coordinator Jean Shriner** can be contacted at (574) 596-3376 or email [jsshine@frontier.com](mailto:jsshine@frontier.com)

Words to Ponder: Life without Christ???? Ain't nobody got time for that!

## FMC HAPPENINGS

**PUT THIS  
ON YOUR  
CALEN-  
DAR!**

**GENTLEMEN**  
**Saturday, April 6**  
**Men's retreat @**  
**Hunter Lake**

At the **Ladies Retreat our Bible Studies** were from the Book "Turning your Heart Toward God." How the beatitudes can shape your daily choices. We will be meeting to continue the study on:

**Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. Chapter 5**

**Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. Chapter 6**

You are invited even if you do not have a book. Just bring your Bible!



Thought For the Day:  
*"You can cut all the flowers  
but you cannot keep Spring  
from coming."*

— Pablo Neruda



Please pray for:

- ♥ **Arlene, Rachel and Luke** as they mourn the loss of their husband and father and our friend and brother **Jim Schrock**.

Ongoing prayers for.... :

- **Friends with health issues:** Bill Johnson and Brad Miller (who are at the Laurel's), Gordon Kauffman who is in Hospice care, Evelyn who is Patty Yoder's mom, Ralph Burton (Martha Weirich's son-in-law—cancer) Tom Bontrager, Gary & Ruth Denlinger our missionaries in Israel, Mei Sasaki at Seminary.

**Church of the Covered Dish** by Thom Tapp



"Our family is trying one of those old-fashioned churches, with preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff."

Hey,  
that's  
what we  
do at First  
Mennonite



FMC Women's **February** Project

### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

**Everything is appreciated... Nothing goes to waste.**

Cereal	Instant Oatmeal
Chicken Noodle Soup	Canned Corn
Pineapple	Peanut Butter
Jelly	Canned Meats
Ketchup	Mustard
Toothpaste	Body Wash
Feminine Hygiene Products	

Don't know what to get, cash donations accepted

## MYSTERY MENNO

This weeks Mystery Menno (MM) came from a family of children that were all of the same sex. Graduated from NHS a few years ago. Very knowledgeable about things that need to be done around the house. Loves to help others with those things as well. Currently states, " I don't have much to do, tho I don't want a lot to do." :-) Enjoys Bible Study, Family, gardening, hunting, and fishing. Is a traveler and loves to see new places but can be content just staying at home. Tries to help others in need by using the profession that they made a living with. *Who is our Mystery Menno?*

**Last weeks Mystery Menno** was born in Topeka but at the age of 5 her family decided they should make a move to the Big City of Middlebury where they bought a small famr. She was educated in two different one room schools. She did chores before going to school which included milking cows. In her senior year, she set out on a train for an adventure in New York City. For thirty years she worked as a bookkeeper. She has traveled to all of the states in the U.S.A. and has been on several cruises. She enjoys books, puzzles and spending time out doors as well as taking coffee breaks. She has been a big assets on many committees and has agreed to take the minutes when asked. *Our Mystery Menno from last week is Carolyn Miller!*



LENT 2024

"Jesus Last Night"

Listening to the conversation Jesus had with his Disciples the last night they were together and

"Learning a New Way to Live"

Feb 25-	Learning to Live in HOPE <i>Promise of Heaven</i>	John 14:1-4
Mar 3—	The Source of New Life <i>Ministry of the Holy Spirit</i>	John 14: 15-20, 16: 5-15
Mar 10—	'The Secret of NEW LIFE' <i>The Vine and the Branches</i>	John 15:1-10
Mar 17—	The Fruit of New Life <i>Love &amp; Joy</i>	John 13:34-35 15:12-13, 17
Mar 24—	Learning to Live in Joy <i>Even in Tribulation</i>	John 16:17-33
Mar 31—	<b>EASTER Sunday</b> A New Way to Live <i>Trusting /Prayer</i>	John 17:1-26

## FMC RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Chai Tea Latte (6 servings)

Submitted by Linda Young

**Place in coffee filter in a drip coffeemaker**

6 tea bags  
3 tsp cinnamon  
1 1/2 tsp Ginger  
3/4 tsp Allspice  
3 Cups Water

**In small saucepan combine and cook and stir until heated**

3 cups milk  
3/4 cup brown sugar (may use less)  
6 Tbsp. Refrigerated  
nondairy French Vanilla  
creamer

**Pour milk mixture into mugs, stir in tea. Dollop with whipped topping and sprinkle with nutmeg (If desired)**

## Other News & Announcements

*Thank you!*

*To my FMC family, thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, food and visits during my surgery and recovery. Wishing God's blessings on everyone.*  
*Merle Mullet*

### Request for information:

Would the person that donated the Nicolas Sparks books to our church library please contact Liz Mast. It will be appreciated.

### THE WINDOW'S MARCH FIRST FRIDAY DINNER

Friday, March 1 4:30—7:30 pm

223 S. Main, Goshen

#### MENU

Steak Chili

Cornbread

Salad

Dessert

Suggested Donation \$10 (under 13 -\$5)



## DINE TO DONATE

Good Food. Great Times. Giving Back.

Wings Etc. Goshen is donating 15% of all pre-tax food & soft drink sales on **Thursday, March 21** to:

#### The Window!

Come to Wings Etc. at 2815 Gateway South Drive in Goshen, Ind. between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Bring this flyer in and show it to your server so you can support the cause. Thanks!

Use code D2D0011 at checkout when ordering online at [togo.wingsetc.com](http://togo.wingsetc.com)



## Anabaptist Events

### CRAFTER'S MARKET PLACE

Looking for a way to contribute your talents to the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale? A revamped Crafter's Marketplace is in the works for 2024 and we need your help. Come to a sewing and crafting workshop at East Goshen Mennonite Church, 2019 E Lincoln Ave, Goshen, IN on **Saturday, February 24 from 10-3**. All items made will be sold at the Relief Sale on Sept. 27-28, 2024. A carry-in lunch is planned so please bring a salad or dessert to share. Main course, coffee, water and table service will be provided. Please **RSVP** to [crafting.mmrs@gmail.com](mailto:crafting.mmrs@gmail.com) by February 16. Hope to meet you!

### MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE INFO

The latest edition of **On the Level** the monthly Newsletter from MDS is now available. You can read it or if you wish, volunteer for MDS at the following Website: <https://conta.cc/49pNHoc>. The following is an excerpt from the Executive Director of MDS in US, Kevin King. (I found it interesting and so true and I believe why Mennonites value meals with others so much! )

....There's an implied sense of acceptance and peace in the act of sharing a meal. The very act of coming together around the table combats social isolation which is so prevalent post-COVID.

So it is with MDS at our project locations. Meals are important. The cooks rise early in the morning and make a hearty meal for the volunteers before they are dispatched in crews to work. I have noticed that, as the days go by in the week, the weekly volunteer groups who came as strangers intermingle and get to know each other personally. Myths and stereotypes are dismantled. After the meal there may be a devotional reading and singing of a song or hymn. During the evening meal, community members may be invited in to share their story of when the disaster hit. Again, laughter and serious dialogue might be heard over the din of dishware. It is here I see and hear Jesus dining at the table. ....