

**Worship Preview:** The last night Jesus with His disciples, Jesus said some very important things to them. It is hard to know what they really heard that night as Jesus tried to tell them what was coming, and to give them some hope and comfort at the same time. The disciples that night, vacillated between utter disbelief (this can't be happening) and being crushed in spirit. Their ambitions and dreams were shattered, all joy of being a follower Jesus had just been drained away, and their commitment to Jesus would soon be tested. Jesus said some very curious things that night, too, and it left the disciples wondering, had Jesus lost His mind? Had He decided to abandon His plans for a Kingdom, a kingdom all the disciples longed for? Did Jesus for some reason, loose His powers?

One of the very curious things Jesus said to His disciples that night was that it would be better for them if He went away. How is that possible? What could possibly be better than having Jesus by your side? We can see it now, but the disciples sure couldn't see it. It would be better because Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to replace Himself, and through the work of the Holy Spirit, the disciples would be transformed into very different people. They would soon have new insights, new powers, and a new focus in life.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in believers. Most churches today give at least lip service to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, although what churches teach about the Holy Spirit varies greatly. Some pay little attention to the indwelling of God's Spirit, while others make having manifestations of the Spirit proof of one's Salvation. Neither position is consistent with what Jesus taught His disciples that night. Churches that emphasize the presence of the Holy Spirit today generally look to the Spirit to provide some esoteric religious experience. This fits our cultural understanding of religion today. We have become consumers of religions, and the Spirit enables us to have great religious experiences with a lot of emotions and enthusiasm. But that is not exactly what Jesus had in mind when He told His disciples that He would send them another "Counselor." Jesus taught that the work of the Holy Spirit in the disciples would be to teach, to transform, to give power, and to lead them. And the Spirit's work in an unbelieving world would be a ministry of conviction.

The work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is essential today. But we would do well to pay attention to what Jesus said that work would entail, and not relegate the Holy Spirit to either a mere theological statement in a Confession of Faith, nor reduce the work of the Spirit to some esoteric experience that just makes me feel good. The entering of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the first disciples made them fearless, gave them new powers, new insights, and made them committed to follow the teachings and example of Jesus. In other words, the work of the Holy Spirit transformed them to be more like Jesus.

~Pastor Phil

**Thought For the Day:** "Christ's sheep are not offended by Christ's voice." - Charles Spurgeon

Message: Pastor Phil

Title: "Welcome, Holy Spirit!"

Text: John 14:15-20,26

Worship Leader: Tom Miller

Music: Ken Mininger

**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 March Birthdays

Ron Yoder 1

Mildred Ritchie 5

Virginia Hershberger 8

Gordon Kauffman 8

Vera Miller 10

Ethon Tepen 14

Jake Schwartz 23

Linda Miller 25

Bernie Miller 28

Joe Yoder 30

**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)



Please pray for:

- ♥ **Arlene, Rachel and Luke** as they mourn the loss of their husband and father and our friend and brother **Jim Schrock**. Luke, who came home to care for Jim, has now returned home and will be moving to Washington. Pray for traveling mercies and success in his new venture and that God can become closer to him.
- ♥ **The Food Pantry**. Their finances are low and their clients have been very high.

**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, and Patty as she recovers from her eye surgery. Ralph Burton (Martha Weirich's son-in-law—cancer) Tom Bontrager, Gary & Ruth Denlinger our missionaries in Israel, Mei Sasaki at Seminary.

**Praise for...**

- ☺ Knowing that Jesus is with us every step we take. Psalm 23:2&3: <sup>2</sup>He Makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the paths for his name's sake.

## FMC HAPPENINGS

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*



### **“Maranatha Class in the Toilet”**

The Maranatha Sunday School Class came through in a big way for Edilberto and his Cuban church members. When Joe Yoder was here in December he shared with our church that there was a need for bathroom facilities at the church in Cuba. Our Maranatha class was obviously not going to sit around and wait for paperwork to be done. They Contacted Pauline Yoder, through ‘Heart and Hand’ and sent a check for the entire replacement and rebuilding of the bathroom that is currently being used. Thank you and Blessings to all of you that contributed to this project.

## MYSTERY MENNO

This weeks Mystery Menno (MM) was also brought up in a home that only one gender was shared by siblings. Mother and father had been long time members of FMC. In fact First Mennonite was organized and started in the home that they currently occupy. Though retired now is definitely always busy. Worked prior to retirement in South Bend in a “happening” environment for 20 years. For 15 years was a leader for youth. Prior to coming to the Mennonite church was a Eucharistic minister in the catholic church. *Who is our Mystery Menno?*

**Last weeks Mystery Menno** grew up with two brothers, had three daughters of his own. He graduated from NHS in 1975. Working with Crystal Valley and then on his own, he has excellent knowledge of heating, cooling and electricity. Loves to help others with those things as well as home repairs. Is known to be very generous in helping his children when they choose to buy old buildings. Currently he 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. *Our Mystery Menno from last week is Jim Pletcher*

### MYSTERY MENNO INFORMATION

Are you enjoying reading about members of the congregation, finding out little tidbits you may not have known? It has been fun writing the articles, but I am nearing the end of the group of Mennos that filled out the initial paper work. I am once again distributing the paper to those that I have not received or that had minimal info on it. As a person that has been at First Mennonite for my entire life, I know a lot of info about a lot of you and I could just use that info to write something up, however, I am sure you would like to have your own info included in your story. So if you can take a few minutes and fill the paper-work out that is in your church mailbox, and put it in the office box, it would be appreciated. Thank you for your help with this!

~Linda Young, Editor



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”*

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

## Other News & Announcements

*Thank you!*

I would like to thank everyone for the Prayers, meals, cards and visits during my eye surgery and recuperation. It was very much appreciated.

Blessings:  
Patty (Ron) Yoder

**PUT THIS  
ON YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

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

8:45 am—7:00 pm

Location: 10273 Cottage Grove Dr, Middlebury

**Theme: "Core Issues Men Deal With"**

Quest for Significance

Finding My Purpose in Life

Living in Meaningful Relationships

Leaving a Legacy

**Resource Person: Bishop John Nissley**

(Taught at Winebrenner Seminary for 20 years, currently our Bishop, and a Man)

**Purpose:**

Deepen your fellowship with other men

Deepen your relationship with God

Deepen your understanding of what it means to be created a man

Deepen your self-respect as a unique creation of God

**Who is Invited to Attend?**

Men of all ages

Invite your fathers, sons, sons-in-law, grandfathers, grand sons, friends

**Cost:** 10 hours of your time on April 6, 2024

## Anabaptist Events



Pam Bingaman, Executive Director of "The Bridge" has sent a letter out about the challenges that they are currently experiencing. The letter is attached on the next page of this Newsletter and in your church mailbox. Please read to find out what is happening with our community food pantry.

Registration is open for the annual **Goshen College Conference on Religion and Science**, held March 8-10, 2024, featuring Warren S. Brown, professor of psychology and former director of the Travis Research Institute at Fuller Theological Seminary. He will explore the topic "Neuroscience and Christian Life." Brown will present two free, public lectures on March 8 and 9. More information and registration is available at [goshen.edu/religionscience](https://goshen.edu/religionscience).

Goshen College Performing Arts Series will host **International Guitar Night** on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. International Guitar Night is the world's premier touring guitar festival, with each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitar luminaries for a special evening of solos, duets and quartets that highlight the dexterity and diversity within the world of acoustic guitar. Tickets are available at [goshen.edu/tickets](https://goshen.edu/tickets).

**Words to Ponder: (Remember this...)**

**If God is your co-pilot, switch seats**

**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](https://togo.wingsetc.com)



Thursday, February 22, 2024

Dear FMC Member,

As the Executive Director of the Middlebury Food Pantry, I am reaching out to you because we are currently facing unprecedented challenges that threaten our ability to fulfill our vital role in the community. Over the past year, we have experienced a significant increase in the number of families and individuals seeking assistance from our pantry. This surge in attendance, coupled with the soaring inflation of food costs and a decrease in early year donations, has placed an immense strain on our resources.

In response to these challenges, we have implemented three immediate measures:

**Adjusting Food Distribution:** We have made the difficult decision to transition from providing six days food to three days, in line with industry standards and national emergency pantry guidelines. While this adjustment allows us to stretch our resources further, it also highlights the urgency of our situation.

**Pantry Diversion Program:** through this initiative, individuals have access to online money management classes and resources aimed at building financial literacy and independence. By investing in education and support services, we are working towards breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger in our community.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** We have found alliances with multiple agencies and suppliers to negotiate favorable terms and reduce our food costs by over \$50,000 annually.

Despite these efforts, the reality is that we cannot sustain our operations without the generous support of donors like you. Your contribution, no matter the size will make a tangible difference in the lives of those who rely on us for essential sustenance and support. Your donation will help us purchase nutritious food items, maintain our programs, and ensure that no one in our community goes to bed hungry.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that no one faces hunger alone.

With Gratitude,

Pam Bingaman

Executive Director

Middlebury Food Pantry

13307 County Road 16, Middlebury, IN., 46540

# MARCH 2024

**Sun**      **Mon**      **Tue**      **Wed**      **Thu**      **Fri**      **Sat**

1      2

6:30 LNI

3      4      5      6      7      8      9

Message Pastor Phil

Worship Commission

POPS board Mtg

10      11      12      13      14      15      16

Message Pastor Phil

10-3 Health Dept

9-2 FMW Sewing

Admin Commission

17      18      19      20      21      22      23

Message Pastor Phil

24      25      26      27      28      29      30

Palm Sunday

Message Pastor Phil

Community Good  
Friday Service

Maundy Thursday  
Service

31 Easter

Easter Breakfast

Message Pastor Phil