

Worship Preview: : : Sunday is Easter, the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. We like Easter, and we should. It is a day of hope and joy, of celebrations at church, and for many, of family gatherings.

We have grown up with the Easter story, singing the songs of resurrection, and retelling the story of resurrection every year. We are very familiar with the story of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, perhaps too familiar. I am not sure the impact of resurrection grips our hearts and imaginations anymore. Certainly, it does not like it did those in the first century, those who first discovered the empty tomb, or those who encountered the one who came out of the tomb alive. To those first century Christians, they never got over the resurrection.

Before Jesus came and ministered on the earth, the Jewish faithful believed that when a person dies, their body returns to the ground, and their spirit goes to a place called "Sheol." It is a dark, subterranean place for disembodied spirits which nobody knows very much about. And they believed that human spirits stayed there until the resurrection at the end of time, when all souls are resurrected to face a final judgment. That doesn't mean that "Sheol" was one big room, or that everyone experiences it the same way. The Apocryphal Book of Enoch states that Sheol is divided into 4 chambers, that it is a place of rest and peace for the righteous, but a place of torment for the wicked, and which chamber one goes into is dependent on how they lived their life on the earth.

Jesus didn't counter that thinking, nor did He speak to the issue. But what Jesus did was to add a new dimension for His Followers. Jesus promised His disciples that He is going to heaven to prepare a place for them, and that He would come back to take them to be with Him (John 14:2-3). Jesus prayed and asked the Father to bring His followers to heaven to be with Him there (John 17:24). And Jesus showed John, in that great vision we call "Revelation" human souls already in heaven worshipping God (Revelation 7:9-10). Jesus' resurrection opened the door to heaven for followers of Jesus.

And this idea of Jesus overcoming the powers of death, that death is not the end, that death is a transition from earth to heaven for the faithful, was so overwhelming to those first believers, they celebrated the resurrection of their Lord every week on the first day of the week. And soon they began to call it "The Lord's Day" in honor of Jesus' resurrection.

And yet, I think we have still not yet grasped the full significance of resurrection. Jesus' resurrection, and the new life that came out of that tomb on Easter morning, wasn't meant for Jesus alone, to be lived out in His resurrected body. The significance of Jesus' resurrection is that His resurrected life can now come to life in us. Jesus can be raised to new life in us. Most Christians today have never grasped this awesome concept, of Jesus being raised to life in them. And yet, this is the Gospel message, that Jesus rises to live in those who will follow Him. ~Pastor Phil

Pastor Phil's message for Sunday

"RISEN!"

Text: Luke 24:1-8

Worship Leader: Sonya Miller

Music: Worship team

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.

Easter Sunday

9:00: Carry in Breakfast

10:00 : Easter Service

Happy March / April Birthdays

Bernie Miller 28

Joe Yoder 30

Michelle Mullet 1

Al Yoder 3

Dave Yoder 10

Jim Wyse 12

Bill Johnson 14

Dorothy Miller 15

Marge miller 15

**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 jsshriner@frontier.com



Please pray for:

- ♥ The families that recently lost loved ones:
 - **Ron & Patty Yoder** and family in the passing of Patty's mother Evelyn, on March 26
 - **Sara Weaver** and family in the passing of Glenn who died on Thursday, March 7.
 - **Kenneth Yoder's** family. Kenneth passed away on Monday Evening, March 11
- ♥ For our nation, the world and the leaders that have so many decisions to make. May they be guided by our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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 at Hubbard Hill, Mary Gingerich, Elsie Yoder's mother, Ralph Burton (Martha Weirich' s son-in-law—cancer) Tom Bontrager, Luke Schrock and his walk with Jesus, Gary & Ruth Denlinger our missionaries in Israel, Mei Sasaki at Seminary.

Praise for.....

- ☺ **Karen Pletcher**—who's shoulder is 95% better after treatment
- ☺ Martha Weirich for her son **Tony Weirich** who is beginning to recover from his shingles.
- ☺ **Bernie Miller** who will be celebrating her 70th birthday on Thursday
- ☺ **Leonard Miller** for good doctors and positive appointments with them.
- ☺ Visitors that came to FMC on Sunday

LENT 2024

"Jesus Last Night"

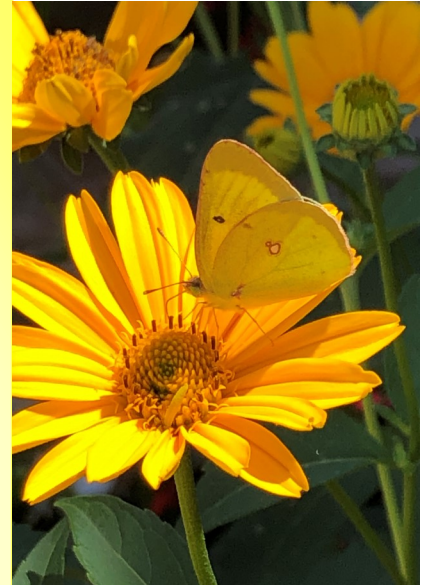
Listening to the conversation Jesus had with his Disciples the last night they wer together and "Learning a New Way to Live"

Mar 31—

EASTER SUNDAY

'RISEN'

Luke 24: 1-8



Maundy Thursday Service—Thursday, March 28

6:00 Sharing Soup Together

6:45 Commemorative Communion & Feet Washing Service

An offering will be collected for the Compassion fund

Good Friday Services— Friday, March 29

12:00 p.m.

Community Service at FMC by the Middlebury Ministerium

7:00 p.m.

Yellow Creek Mennonite Church Invitation to Attend their Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday Morning- Sunday, March 31

9:00 Carry In Breakfast



Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live,
even though he dies;
and whoever lives and believes in
me will never die."
Happy a blessed Easter

MYSTERY MENNO

No mystery menno this week as more information needs to be gathered! Have a good week and a happy Easter.

Last weeks Mystery Menno (MM) born on October 21, 1962. was raised on a 100 acre farm, the daughter of Daniel and Mary Ann (Lambright) Gingerich. She had 5 Siblings who just happened to be all sisters. Therefore having no brothers, this MM was very involved in doing the chores and working in the fields. She is married to Joe and is currently employed as a Principal Associate at Capital One Bank where she has been employed for 40 years. Her formal education ended at the 8th grade and she was married at 17 to Joe Yoder. Always one to strive for more; while working a full time job and parenting 2 children, she managed to attend Adult Education School to receive a GED and then went on to take some college courses that helped prepare her for her current job "playing with money." Our MM also loves to listen to music while working. She shared at the ladies retreat that she enjoys all kinds of music. One of her favorite music artists is Ozzie Ozborn. *Our Mystery Menno last week was Elsie Yoder.*

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"What I like best about Easter Sunday is the candy, and Jesus not bein' dead anymore."

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Check out the bulletin boards for what's happening at FMC, LMC and the community.

FMC HAPPENINGS

March First Mennonite Women Project Infant Care Kit for MCC

(New items only)

The kit should contain:

3—Gowns/sleepers

3—undershirts/onesies

1—receiving blanket

4—large, heavy duty safety pins

1—large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)

1—pair of socks

1—cap

NOTE size 3-12 months. Items can either be purchased or hand-sewn

***INSTRUCTIONS: Remove packaging material (except soap). Fold items into the receiving blanket. Fasten together with safety pins

Thanks to Jan Yoder for knitting caps for the babies!

Thank you!

(Katie was given a "Hero Award" for all she does for the church and community)

Thank you so much for the gift certificate and your support. It is greatly appreciated.

God Bless You ~ Katie Hochstedler

(The church received this Thank you note)

Thank you so much for being so kind and welcoming Grandpa (Ken) into your church family. The gift of the peace lily is also generous and much appreciated. We are so thankful and have peace knowing Grandpa was so loved and is singing in heaven.



The Yoder family

EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

Thrift at Woodland Crossing

(a sister shop to The Depot, under the umbrella of MCC)

TWC, 138 W. Hively Ave, Elkhart, has been such a blessing to its community in the last 21 months. They are meeting a huge need for affordable, gently used items for so many who can't afford them otherwise, in the name of Jesus Christ. TWC is 90%+ volunteers; all of what we make (after paying our bills) goes to ministries here in our community and around the world. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time

Cashiers - shifts are Monday-Saturday 10:00AM - 1:30PM and 1:30 PM-5:00PM. We need at least 10 more cashiers to fill our weekly schedule.

1. Warehouse - We need multiple people to help in the back. You choose what department works best for you, and we'll train you. Here are some departments you can choose from: clothing, linens, crafts, toys, electronics, office & school supplies, party supplies, personal care items, Christmas, accessories, garage, and sporting goods.
2. Donations: **Especially NOW**, we need your donation of gently used items. Drop off your items at our back door Monday through Friday, 10-5 p.m., and Saturday between 10 and 2pm. (will be changing to 10-5 pm May 4.) Please flood our warehouse with good donations to stock our store!
3. Shop our store! You will find great things at reasonable prices.
4. Please be praying for the store, volunteers, donations, and staff.
5. Please help us spread the word about the above needs. We can't do it without you.

If you would like to volunteer please reach out to Haiam Gendi, Store manager. 574-326-3674

April 7, 2024

Pastor Tim Eash's Ordination

Carry In Meal of celebration
to follow service
(No Sunday school)

SIGN UP TODAY!

FMC MEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, April 6, 2024

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

Comforter packets from MCC

Thanks to the diligent work of many creative people, our comforter bash committee has been overwhelmed with comforter tops that need to be made into blankets to be shipped around the world. But don't worry, we'll help you help us! Our wonderful committee is putting together comforter "packets" which will include a top, a back, batting and thread to knot it. These are available to pick up at The Depot Material Resources Center in Goshen - 1013 Division Street (Door #2) - **on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or by appointment (please call Nadine at 574-534-4071)**. The packets will be available while supplies last.

Thank you for sharing warmth and comfort with our global neighbors!

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
			5:00 - POPS Board Mtg	JAVA class Fund Raiser for and at The Window in Go- shen. 4:30—7:00 6:30 Ladies Night In	FMC Men's Retreat Hunter Lake 8:45 am—7:00 pm	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pastor Tim's Ordination and celebration. Carry-In Lunch. (No Sunday School)	5:00 Worship Commission		6:30—Administration Comm	FMW sewing & Lunch 9:00—2:00		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Blood Mobile 12—6	LMC Pastor's meeting				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				