

Worship Preview: : Death is part of the cycle. We are born, we live, and we die. like it or not, we have little control over our or our death. Many people try to avoid thinking about death or talking about it. It be painful, and it certainly does change for those who are left to carry on, but that not stop its coming. We would rather think joyful things. Very often physical suffering accompanies death. But perhaps the worst pain associated with death is the emotional pain that comes with it, the separation from someone we love and have deeply invested our lives with. The thing that makes life enjoyable and that gives life meaning is our relationships, and death brings a painful end to those. At least, that is how it feels from earth's perspective.

April 28, 2024
Pastor Phil'd Message
"What Happens When we Die"
Scripture : I Corinthians 2:9
Worship Leader: Malinda Eash
Music: FMC Worship Team

life
And
birth

can
life
does
about

In our congregation, we have had ten deaths to deal with this year already. Not all were members of our congregation. But for those who weren't, it was someone in our congregation who lost either a parent or a sibling. It is at these moments we are forced to deal with death, even if it is excruciatingly unpleasant. In recent months, I have been asked questions like, "what happens to someone when they die? Will we see our lived ones again? Will we know them? And how will we recognize them if we have different bodies?" Those, along with a host of other questions are common when we lose a loved one.

There is much we don't know about what happens when our lives on this earth come to an end. But it did seem important to Jesus that we don't pass from this life without hope that we will live again. Jesus doesn't tell us a lot, and leaves us dangling for details, but Jesus does promise eternal life for those who choose to follow Him.

There are people who claim to have died and experienced either heaven or hell, and have come back to life, and now live to tell their stories. I have always been very leery of those stories, just because we have no way to verify them. How do we know if they are true? There are two sources that I do trust, Jesus and the Bible. And there are 2 people in the Bible who did pass through death and returned to life, Jesus and Lazarus. They could have spoken to what happens when we die, but neither one has left us with any comment about it.

However, we do learn a few things from the Bible about death, and it is exceedingly good news for followers of Jesus! From heaven's perspective, our death looks quite different. And while we see very little from heaven's perspective now, those who live by faith, more and more begin to see things and order their lives from the perspective of eternity in preparation for that moment when we do leave this world behind, and our faith suddenly becomes sight.
~Pastor Phil

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 available until 11 am.

Happy May Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Patty (Dave) Yoder | 4 |
| Leah Schwartz | 7 |
| Carol Johnson | 9 |
| Liz Mast | 9 |
| Judy Oesch | 11 |
| Shirley Riegsecker | 16 |
| Patti Miller | 17 |
| Ruby Yoder | 17 |
| Ron Rheinheimer | 22 |
| Tom Bontreger | 24 |
| Verna Weirich | 24 |
| Dave Graber | 31 |
| Janelle Walther | 31 |

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

Thought for the Day:

"I have never met a person on their deathbed who regretted having faith in Jesus."

~ Charles Spurgeon



Please pray for:

- ♥ For those that recently lost loved ones
 - **Joe & Elsie Yoder** and family in the passing of Elsie's mother Mary Gingerich, on April 10.
 - **Don Ritchie** and family in the passing of Mildred on April 13.
 - Merle Mullet requested prayer for his Sister and Brother-in-law, **Marie & Glenn Kuhns** in the passing of their granddaughter **Madi**.
- ♥ Gary & Ruth Denlinger and the recent threat to Israel from Iraq.

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, Ralph Burton (Martha Weirich's son-in-law, cancer) Willie Yoder (Merle Mullet's brother in law), Malinda Eash's Aunts; Marsha and Janine with health issues, Mei Sasaki at Seminary.
- ♥ 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.

Praise for.....

- ☺ Wonderful program that was shared by the Parables from Goshen College on Sunday. We were all very blessed.
- ☺ Mei Sasaki who has a full scholarship to Oral Roberts University for the next several years.
- ☺ Visitors that came to enjoy the program on Sunday.

PLEASANT OAKS PRESCHOOL FUND RAISER

This year's Preschool's Spring Fundraiser is Amish Fry Pies. There is a sheet in the foyer, listing the 12 flavors offered. So sign up for as many of these tasty treats as you wish. The cost is:

1 for \$4 5 for \$18 10 for \$35

Orders are due by **Friday, April 26** and the pies will be delivered the week of May 6. Payment is due at the time you sign up. You can put your payment (With your name on the envelope) in the church office slot.

The funds go towards tuition scholarships and classroom



**Mennonite Disaster Service
Helping those in Need...**

I have included an excerpt from the latest Newsletter, "On the Level"

Dennis Sabourin took a leap of faith when he signed up to volunteer with MDS ten years ago. It's always a thrill to hear homeowner stories, Sabourin added. "It's very empowering for volunteers and the leadership here to be told that they're appreciated and to be told they're called angels."

Coming into someone's backyard and helping them rebuild or clean up after disaster is love in action, he reflected....

You can read the whole article as well as find places that need volunteers at the following Website: <https://conta.cc/3UjUriu>

" We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

~ Winston Churchill



The Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive will be **Saturday, May 11, 2024**

It is the nation's largest all volunteer 1-day food collection effort, held annually on the 2nd Saturday in May and is a community outreach effort of the national Association of Letter Carriers.

Your donations will go directly to **The Middlebury Food Pantry** to provide food to people in our community who need our help. Participating in this year's NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. *Just leave a non perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox, on Saturday, May 11, and volunteers assisting your letter carriers will do*

the rest.

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| Great Items | Peanut Butter | Canned Meats | Soups | Cooking Oil | Long Grain Rice | Noodles |
| To donate: | Canned Vegetables | Kid's Pasta Meals | Canned Fruit | Snack Cups | Mac & Cheese | Cereal |

MYSTERY MENNO

Our Mystery Menno for this week has only one clue..... 31 years ago, they jumped out of a plane and obviously are here to share this with us. **Who is this daring Mystery Menno?**

Our Mystery Menno for last week grew up in Honeyville and attended school there for 8 1/2 years. Later in life she was able to get her GED. She was blessed with 10 sisters and 2 brothers when she was growing up. After she married Levi, they moved to Millersburg and lived there for 47 years. In 2012 she retired from "Tower Ribbon" in Topeka. "We made lots of ribbons." Made 4-H ribbons for fairs all across the USA including Elkhart County. She has 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and 3 step grandchildren. Enjoys gospel music, reading, doing puzzles and spending time with the family. In the summer she enjoys taking care of her flowers on the terrace in her back yard. Currently lives in Goshen. *Our Mystery Menno was Edna Mast. Thank you Edna for sharing your life with us!*

ADVANCE

Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) is offering a program for young adults called "Advance". It has many exciting and good things that you will be able to do and see. Such as;

- Spending 9 months exploring God's calling for your life.
- Sharing love in outreach settings throughout the world.
- Building lasting relationships with other young adults in a team setting. And many more opportunities. See the poster on the west bulletin board for more information or look at the web site.... EMM.ORG/ADVANCE

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!

FMC OUTREACH

April First Mennonite Women Project

Crushed but not Broken

(All items need to be turned in by May10!)

Diapers

Wet Wipes

Toiletry items and soap

Shampoo and conditioner

Detergent

Cleaning supplies

Towels (Bath and or Kitchen)

Anything else that is used in the Kitchen

ASSISTING WITH PROJECTS FOR RELIEF SALE

Looking for a way to contribute your talents to the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale? A revamped Crafter's Marketplace is in the works for this year and we need your help. Come to a sewing and crafting workshop at East Goshen Mennonite Church, 2019 E. Lincoln Ave, Goshen on Saturday, May 4 from 10-3. Everything needed for these projects has been donated and all items made will be sold at the Relief Sale (Sept 27-28, 2024). Taco Salad will be provided so bring a snack, side dish or dessert to share for lunch. Please RSVP to crafting.mmrs@gmail.com by **April 29** or email if you have questions. We hope you or your church groups are working on your own projects to donate. Feel free to bring your projects along to work on.

May 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| | | | 1 5:00 Pops Board mtg | 2 | 3 6:30 Ladies Night In | 4 |
| 5 5:30-7 pm Graduation party for Katie Walther & Grace Rheinheimer | 6 5:00 Worship Comm | 7 | 8 6:30 Admin Comm | 9 9—2 FMW sewing | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 9-3 Health Department | 14 | 15 7:00 Church Business mtg | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |