

Worship Preview: Sunday is Mother's Day. It is a day we get to return in a small way a bit of the special attention and love our mothers poured into our lives. Our mothers were not perfect, but they loved us, and I am sure, most of our mothers did the best they could to raise us to be good people. Many mothers go through their lives sacrificing, loving their children, making home, and praying for their children, and are never recognized for the unique role they have in shaping, not only their children, but our society. And at least on Mother's Day, we are reminded to honor our mothers for their efforts.

In the Bible, just like in our world today, there were good mothers, and there were mothers who, well, could have done better. Hannah was one of the good ones, and is recognized as a model mother, because of her prayers and her faith. But it didn't start out well for Hannah. She was barren, unable to have children. But instead of allowing this to turn her into a bitter woman who turned her back on God, she came to God crying out of the anguish and deep suffering of her soul. Her response to her suffering is what makes Hannah a model for all women. She brought her case before the Lord, praying, weeping, and crying out **TO** the Lord, not **AGAINST** the Lord for withholding something she wanted so desperately. I don't know if Hannah ever realized this or not, but it was God's hand at work in her life that gave her that deep longing for a child and anguish of spirit until it was fulfilled. That difficult journey was necessary to prepare her and her son Samuel for the important work God was preparing them to do. We live in a culture of instant everything. We throw something in the microwave, and in two minutes we have supper. TV shows would leave us with the impression that deep generational problems and be solved, houses can be renovated, and mysteries can be solved, in only 30 minutes. Many people today want instant greatness without investing the years or the sacrifices required to achieve it.

We today, honor Hannah, hold her in very high esteem for her faith and life of prayer, and we see her as a model of motherhood. But we can easily forget that those early years in Hannah's life were full of misery, and suffering, and feeling that the Lord had rejected her. I doubt that Hannah could see why she needed to travel the difficult journey she did in her formative years, a road of suffering and heartache. But those years were necessary for Hannah, to shape and form her heart to be the mother God was preparing her to be, and perhaps even more significant, was preparing Samuel to be the leader God was raising him up to be. So many of the great people in the Bible can trace their beginnings to the faith and the prayers of their mothers.

~Pastor Phil

May 12, 2024
Pastor Phil's Message
"The Hand That Rocked The Cradle"
Scripture : 1 Samuel 1:9-23, 27-28
Worship Leader: Shari Graber
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. 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



Thought For the Day: *"All that I am or hope to be I owe to my mother. I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."* - Abraham Lincoln



Please pray for:

- ♥ Leonard Miller’s son and daughter-in-law, **Mel & Joanna** experiencing health issues
- ♥ Remember the family and friends of **David Bontrager**, “Big Dave”, who passed away last Wednesday. He was a good friend of Dave Yoder.
- ♥ Gary & Ruth Denlinger our missionaries in Israel that are experiencing possible danger

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 who was diagnosed with cancer (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.....

- ☺ The mentoring of the youth that gentleman in our church have been doing

2024 Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale:

The Relief Sale will be held Sept. 27-28 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. You can begin supporting the sale now:

- Bless others and the work of MCC with your donation to the 2024 Quilt Auction. Comforters and quilts of all sizes, quilted wall-hangings, plus knitted or crocheted afghans are all needed. Please see the website for how to register your item <https://www.mennonitesale.org>. Registration ends August 25. For more information contact Gail Shetler, 574-333-7142.
- The Relief Sale's Online Silent Auction is accepting donations of works of art, tickets/certificates for services and experiences, wooden toys, new, antique or gently used items in excellent condition, with a value of \$50 or more. Contact Bob/ Deb Kauffman @ Kauffman.mmr@gmail.com or call/text 574-849-0053
- Plant enthusiasts, share your plants at the Relief Sale. Now is the time to nurture your indoor plants or pot up your perennials as you divide them. A good plant sale depends on healthy established plants. Consider what you could contribute to the sale. If you specialize in violets or succulents, they are always popular.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness, prayers and for the beautiful peace lily. Also thanks for providing the food for are family. It is all very appreciated. ~The Family of Mildred Ritchie

Mildred Ritchies family chose to use our church as one of the recipients of Memorial Gifts in Mildred’s Memory. FMC was blessed financially with these gifts. Thank you Ritchie family for blessing our church family.



From MCC & MDS

It's always a great time to volunteer with MDS and there are opportunities for everyone! We are excited to have project openings through the spring and summer at traditional sites and Summer Youth Program weeks.


The back page of the Newsletter today are areas where they need volunteers for the summer. (there are many more to choose from! By going to this Web site [Ways to Volunteer | Mennonite Disaster Service - Respond. Re-build. Re... \(mds.org\)](http://www.mds.org) you can discover how you can serve or donate if you wish. (Editor’s note... I am sure there is going to be a call for helping our neighbors close by in Portage after they were hit by a tornado Tuesday evening.)

Come Knot! Help MCC knot comforters on June 17-21: Thanks to the diligent work of many creative people, MCC has an abundance of comforter tops that are ready to be knotted and made into blankets. We are inviting volunteers to join us from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on June 17-21 at The Depot Material Resources Center in Goshen – 1013 Division Street (Door #2). Space is limited, so please register for a 3-hour time slot (or all day!) by visiting mcc.org/come-knot or calling 574-534-4071. Please bring a sack lunch if you are staying over lunch time. Thank you for sharing warmth and comfort with our neighbors around the world!

Relief Sale Cont. Follow the Relief Sale on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and check out the website: www.mennonitesale.org for more information.

MYSTERY MENNO

Our Mystery Menno for this week who is always looking for adventure (or at least their spouse is.....) was part of a city-wide disaster drill. The disaster had to do with some kind of contaminate in a building, which they ran from, was hosed down, and taken, by ambulance to the local hospital, while authorities searched for 'their family' in the area. It was all part of a preparedness drill for various city workers. Who is this *Mystery Menno* that allowed their body to be used for a wonderful training experience for others????

Our Mystery Menno for last week grew up in Middlebury. As a first grader she met a classmate that "I thought was the prettiest little thing." They quickly became friends. Their father's both worked at the Pioneer Boat Factory together and the parents soon became good friends also. However in the 2nd grade her friend moved to Goshen (*back in those days, it was a long way....*) and they lost touch with each other. They both wondered if they would ever see each other again. One day while sitting in line to have her nails done, at Greencroft a lady came and sat beside her. While conversing with each other, the lady asked her maiden name. When she responded it was "Weirich" the lady responded, "you're not Mary Weirich are you!?! Of course the answer was Yes! Considering their ongoing conversation, she figured out it was her friend Gail Meil from elementary school. After all those years, 2nd grade—Evergreen Place at Greencroft, they finally found each other. "We are once again enjoying a wonderful friendship!"  Our Mystery Menno was none other than Mary Weaver!

FMC OUTREACH

May First Mennonite Women Project

CAM

A pack for boys ages 5-12

1 notebook (approx. 5X7 ")

3 tennis balls (no sponge balls)

1 matchbox-size car or truck

1 pencil

1 pen

1 comb

Please place items in the northeast corner of the lobby by June 13

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!



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 to donate:

Peanut Butter	Canned Meats	Soups	Cooking Oil	Long Grain Rice	Noodles
Canned Vegetables	Kid's Pasta Meals	Canned Fruit	Snack Cups	Mac & Cheese	Cereal

Mark your calendars!

LMC Future Events

Great Lakes West District Celebration

June 29 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

All ages are invited to join a celebration of Praise, Prayer, Lunch and Recreation @ Yellow Creek Mennonite Church
More info to come.....

The Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (pt. 1)

An Anabaptist Faith and Practice Class

In this class we will study basic theology as this is found in our confession of faith (1995). This will include an introduction to theology; a detailed look at the first twelve articles of the confession; and a more in-depth look at various theological topics related to these articles.

The same class will be offered at two times each week for seven weeks. Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:05, starting September 10th and Thursday mornings 10:30-12:05, starting September 12th. You can attend by Zoom or in person at Hub 450, 450 N. Prince Street, Lancaster PA.

This class will be taught by William Higgins (PhD), LMC staff. For more information or to sign up contact William at whiggins@mcchurches.org or call 717 293-5246, ext. 121. The class is free, but for those who can, a \$20 donation is suggested toward the STEP scholarship fund.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



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Fun things to do & Eat!

Oasis Widow's Banquet

You are cordially invited to an evening of delicious food, refreshing company and musical concert by Crosswalk quartet.

May 21, 2024

5:30p.m.

Living Water Mennonite Church

2815 Dierdorff Road, Goshen

RSVP: Call Darlene Mishler @574-596-7967 for your complimentary reservation.

(this invitation is posted on the West Bulletin Board)

Requested Recipe from the kitchen of Katie Hochstedler

Rhubarb Dream Bars

2 c. flour
1/3 c. powdered sugar
1 c butter

Mix until crumbly. Press into 11X17 cookie sheet.
Bake at 350° for 15 mins

4 eggs
1/2 c. flour
2 c. sugar
1/2 tsp salt
4 c. diced rhubarb

Mix together eggs, flour, sugar and salt; fold in rhubarb. Spread on hot crust. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes.
May use a smaller cookie sheet if you want a thicker crust

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

"Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible."

Marion C. Garry



Mothers Day Bargains.com

Weekly MDS Volunteer Opportunities

Red Lake, MN/2021 Tornadoes

Jul 7-13; up to 2 volunteers
Aug 4-10; up to 8 volunteers
Aug 11-17; up to 3 volunteers

Plainfield, VT/2023 Flooding

Jun 23-29; up to 5 volunteers
Jul 7-13; up to 7 volunteers
Aug 4-10; up to 1 volunteer

Arcadia, FL/2022 Hurricane Ian

May 12-18; up to 2 volunteers

Lytton, BC/2021 Fires

Up to 5 Volunteers per week, contact
Clara for availability

Columbus, MS/Warehouse Project

**Note - group needs to supply
your own cook
May 19-25; up to 8 volunteers
June 16-22; up to 8 volunteers
July 7-13; up to 8 volunteers
July 21-27; up to 8 volunteers
Aug 11-17; up to 8 volunteers
Sept 8-14; up to 8 volunteers
Sept 29-Oct 5; up to 8 volunteers

Venice, FL/2022 Hurricane Ian

Jun 16-22; up to 6 volunteers
Jun 23-29; up to 4 volunteers
Jul 7-13; up to 6 volunteers

For more information or to serve, please contact:

Kaelan Miller at 800.241.8111 or email kmiller@mds.org

Leadership & RV Volunteer Opportunities

Venice, FL - 2022 Hurricane Ian

Office Manager, June 12-29
2 Crew Leaders, Jun 12-29
Head Cook, Jun 15-Jul 6
Assistant Cook, Jun 15-Jul 6
Crew Leader, Jun 29-Jul 27

Plainfield, VT - 2023 Flooding

Crew Leader, June 29-July 20
Crew Leader, Jul 6-20

Red Lake, MN - 2021 Tornadoes

Office Manager, June 12-July 6
Head Cook, June 1-July 6
Assistant Cook, June 1-July 6
Crew Leader, June 29-Aug 3
Crew Leader, July 6-Aug 3
Head Cook, July 6-Aug 3
Assistant Cook, July 6-Aug 3
Crew Leader, July 20-Aug 3
Assistant Cook, Aug 3-24
Project Director, Aug 21-Sept 28
3 Crew Leaders, Aug 24-Sept 28
Head Cook, Aug 24-Sept 28
Assistant Cook, Aug 24-Sept 28

For more information or to serve, please contact:

Josh Carson at 800.241.8111 or email jcarson@mds.org