

Howard-Miami Mennonite Church Newsletter

3976 East 1400 South
Kokomo, IN 46901

December 2021

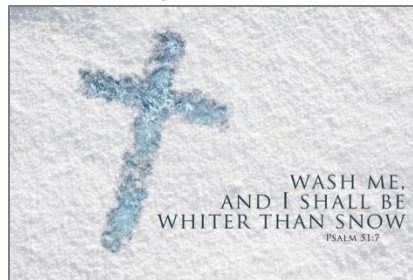
Volume 41 Issue 12

Purer Than Pure, White As Snow

Just a couple of weeks ago, we got our first snow here in central Indiana. It wasn't much, but it was enough to get my transplanted Nevada kids excited for winter. Of course, I tried to remind them that Indiana kids may not be as excited as they were for the first snow of the season. I can't say I shared their enthusiasm for snow (I like it OK just perhaps not as much as they do). But I did get excited reflecting on a truth that the snow brought to mind.

Snow has a history of making a recurring appearance in scripture. I'll list some examples of what I mean in just minute. But before I do, can you think of any?

Here's a verse from a very well-known Psalm that mentions snow. "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:7 NIV)



David's intention here is simple. The color white is often associated in the Bible with purity and, obviously, snow is a good, universal example of something that is white. But let's dig deeper. He doesn't just want to be white. He wants to be whiter than snow. Not merely pure, but purer than you can imagine. Further still, he knows this is unachievable by human means.

Being a "church-goer" will not purify you. Being a "good person" will not purify you. Being of a certain political party will not purify you. Being Mennonite will not purify you. Not even being a king can purify you. Just ask King David, the man who wrote this Psalm. According to David, only God can do that, and he looked forward to the day when God would make him purer than pure. In his words, "Whiter than snow."

With this in mind, let's jump to the Book of Revelation, specifically chapter 7. I won't put the whole text here, but I encourage you to read the entire chapter. As you do so, slow down a bit when you get to verse 9.

Here John mentions that he sees a "great multitude" of people, apparently from all over the world, as evidenced by their various languages and nationalities.

As you read on you will see that they are wearing robes, but not just any robes – white robes. But they weren't always white; they only got that way after being washed. Verse 14 says that what made them white was being washed in the blood of the Lamb. It was this passage that inspired the famous hymn you've probably sung a time or two "Are You Washed in The Blood?" by Elisha Hoffman. What

David longed for in Psalm 51, what John described from his vision in Revelation, what Hoffman knew to be true when he penned his hymn in the 1800s, was perfectly offered by Jesus on the cross as the Lamb who was slain.

When I reflected on the snow we got in November, my mind drifted to the scriptures. Specifically to the promise that as far as God is concerned, I am no longer filthy because His Son, King Jesus, has made me pure – more specifically, whiter than snow.

How about you? To quote Elisha Hoffman, "Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?" He didn't write a hymn titled "Can You Be Washed in The Blood of The Lamb?" but rather "Are You Washed in The Blood?" It's actually one of the most important questions you could ever be asked. And the answer is even more important than the question. It is my hope that you are able to say "YES!" to that question because you have come to love and trust Jesus as your Savior and your King.

So, the next time snow falls (and I know it will because I'm no longer in the desert), instead of grumbling about how annoying or treacherous it can be, let it serve as a reminder that because of Jesus you and I – as well as anyone willing – can be made clean and pure. Indeed, whiter than snow.

- Pastor Will Douglas



December Worship

Worship Coordinator: Elizabeth Hannah

December 5

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: The King is Coming: Announcing the Arrival of Jesus (Part 2) – Will Douglas

Worship Leader: TBD

Music: Margi Bontrager & Karen Kendall

Usher: Terry Kendall

December 12

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: The King is Coming: Announcing the Arrival of Jesus (Part 3) – Will Douglas

Worship Leader: TBD

Music: Debbie Statton & Teresa Miller

Usher: Brian and Jane Mast

December 19

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: The King is Coming: Announcing the Arrival of Jesus (Part 4) – Will Douglas

Worship Leader: TBD

Music: Margi Bontrager & Teresa Miller

Special Music: Teresa Miller & Karen Kendall

Usher: Craig Miller

December 24

7 p.m. – Children's Play & Candle Lighting Service with Christmas Carols

December 26

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: Gospel of Mark series resumes – Will Douglas

Worship Leader: TBD

Music: Debbie Statton & Teresa Miller

Usher: Danny Miller

In Need of Worship Leaders

We are always in need of people willing to lead worship. If you are interested in volunteering or just want to learn more, contact Elizabeth Hannah, worship coordinator. Her information is in the Church Directory.



For a complete list of upcoming events, visit www.HowardMiami.org/events.

Women's Sewing & Fellowship

Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



This event will leave you in stitches! Come ready to work on various mission projects while sewing new friendships. Please bring a sack lunch. Beginning sewers welcome!

Evening of Music with John & Terri Bond

Dec. 5 @ 4 p.m.



Come out and enjoy music with locals John & Terri Bond. Bring friends and finger foods.

Men's Breakfast

Dec. 11 @ 7 a.m.



Come enjoy a good meal, good message, and GREAT fellowship. Men's Bible study will follow breakfast. No registration or fee required.

Women's Coffee & Conversation

Dec. 11 from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. – Cross America



All ladies are welcome to come for a hot beverage and fellowship at Cross America in Kokomo for Women's Coffee & Conversation.

Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 12 from Noon-3 p.m.



Children and grandchildren from Howard-Miami are invited to a Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 12 from noon-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Youth will enjoy crafts, activities, games, and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24 @ 7 p.m.



Enjoy a play put on by the Howard-Miami youth and then participate in Christmas carols and a candle lighting service.

Merry Christmas!

Dec. 25



Our Savior is born! Let's praise the Lord for the wonderful gift of His son!

More Events in December

Dec. 7 @ 6:30 p.m. – Children's Ministry Team

Dec. 7 @ 7 p.m. – Playground Committee Meeting

Dec. 13 @ 7 p.m. – Women's Ministry Meeting

Dec. 28 @ 6:30 p.m. – Outreach Team Meeting

committee updates

Women's Sewing: November Minutes

We had a group of seven ladies at the November 4 meeting of Mennonite Women.

We did our usual work of quilting, knotting comforters, and sorting donated items from the Rescue Mission. We completed two comforters and packed a number of boxes to send to The Depot in Goshen. The Depot is part of Mennonite Central committee.

We had our usual business meeting. Linda Mast led in devotions. The theme was "Abundance." As we near Thanksgiving, we are mindful of the abundance of blessings we receive daily. We live in a world where people always want more and more. They never seem to be satisfied and grasp for more.

We often forget God is a God of abundance. He can and will provide for us. Jesus provided for the Israelites by providing manna each day. On the sixth day he

provided enough for the seventh day also. Those who followed his commands of not taking more than they needed for one day

were blessed abundantly for the next day. Jesus also provided loaves and fishes to feed a crowd of 5,000. They had leftovers. He also turned water into wine and there was an abundance of it. Ladies were encouraged to be mindful of the abundance by which we are blessed.

Each month for this year we have designated a project to donate a monetary gift to various organizations. In November we chose to contribute to MCC for Dignity Kits. We hope to sew some of these kits in the near future. If you would like to give to our offering or make a donation for our projects, see our Treasurer Margi Bontrager.

Our next meeting is December 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have a carry-in meal for Christmas. Our project will be sewing kits for MCC.

- Linda Mast, Secretary



Women's Council: November Minutes

There were six ladies in attendance for the November 8 meeting. Linda Mast opened the meeting in prayer.

There was a discussion regarding the Women's Coffee & Conversation at Cross America that happens on the second Saturday of every month. This will continue and no changes will be made.

The Women's Bible Study "Jesus & Women" has seen good attendance overall, with a slight decline as it came to a close. However, it went very well and was a great success.

Several ladies attended the Starfish Project Volunteer day, including Joan Ebert, Linda Mast and Ruth Andrews, Margi Bontrager, Karen Kendall, and Jeanie Miller. They assisted in placing jewelry sets in boxes to be sold as Christmas gift items. A meal was shared on the way home.

Meals for Joyce Dittfield will continue for the foreseeable future. It was mentioned that people may give restaurant gift cards and that she enjoys fruits and vegetables. The sign-up sheet and participation has been full, but there are still slots open for December.

A discussion of hosting an "Every Ladies Birthday Party" discussed. Suggestions were welcomed for activities, prizes, and decorating. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Ideas for future Women's Council activities were brought up. Secret Sisters (where women sign up to provide each other with secret gifts and notes), soup and silent auction, and a cook-out and retreat were ideas mentioned. Suggestions are still open. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Birthday cards were sent to Beulah Cobb, Danny Miller, and Carolyn Myers. Thinking of you cards were sent to Don Cooper and Elsie Horner.

The meeting closed in prayer that included blessing on the cards sent out. This was led by Linda Mast.

The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2022 at 5 p.m.



Children's Ministry Team: November Minutes

The Children's Ministry Team of Howard-Miami Mennonite Church met on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021. There were four team members present and Lynelle Mellady joined us for a bit to share her ideas for activities.

Cindy Miller opened the meeting with prayer. Lynelle then shared her ideas. She suggested a New Year's Eve party/lock-in for all ages with the younger ones going home early. This would include a video game tournament for the teens, pizza making, crafts for the little ones, and plenty of play time. She also wondered about doing a parents night out where we keep children so parents have time to Christmas shop or have a date night. She had several other ideas also for future events.

We discussed Christmas treat bags. Cindy Miller will order the items for the bags and will include candy, a tangerine, some non-candy options, and healthier snacks. These are to be handed out on Dec. 19 for 25-30 children. Cindy and Mary will assemble the bags on Dec. 15.

Dates for Winter Bible School were set for the last Friday in January (28), February (25), and March (25). We will be using stories that we didn't use last year due to COVID, which include Queen Esther, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and Daniel in the lion's den. Teresa Miller will be asked to do music and Lynelle Mellady agreed to do crafts.

Instead of a babysitting night, we decided to do a Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12 from noon-3 p.m. We will serve pizza, have table games (Uno, Dutch Blitz) and do a salt-dough craft and sock snowmen plus free time to just play.

- Submitted by Mary Birkey

2021: Year of Appreciation

December

Dec. 5 – Shannon Hatton
Dec. 12 – Janalyce Hatton
Dec. 19 – Jeff Hatton
Dec. 26 – Silas Douglas

Don't forget to place your card, note, or small gift in the designated basket at the Appreciation Station located in the Fellowship Hall. Let's all give thanks to one another & show the love of Christ.

Church Office

Updates from the Church Office

A few new policies and procedures will be rolled out at the beginning of 2022. To get everyone prepared for these changes, here is a list of items that will be rolled out (over time):

1. There is a new rental agreement for use of our facilities. Members and regular attenders may still schedule birthday parties, showers, reunions, etc. at no cost. However, if you are renting the facility for a funeral or wedding, the facility costs will be waived for members and regular attenders but cleaning fees and other service fees (audio, video capture, musicians, etc.) will now apply.
2. When scheduling a family event, shower, birthday, etc. there will be a form in the office to fill out. It needs to be turned in and approved before it will be officially added to the church calendar. Please do not add an event without first filling out the new form and getting approval through the church office.
3. All committees must submit a list of committee members and their positions, normal meeting times, and minutes for each meeting held. If there are changes to a meeting time, please alert the office if time allows so it can be corrected in the bulletin.
4. Please put all mail for the church office and for Pastor Will in the designated mailboxes hanging outside the office doors. This will help ensure urgent and time sensitive material is seen immediately. You may continue to use their family mailbox for personal communications.

Please be patient as we roll out these new items. There will be more information as each item is rolled out. We understand this process will take time to get used to and will provide detailed information on where to find forms and who to call with questions.

These items will not begin until January 1, 2022. If you have any questions before that time, contact Lynelle Mellady, administrative assistant, during regular office hours which are Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 765-395-7509 or office@howardmiami.org.



Tractor for Peace Update

Kaufman Mennonite Church (Davidsville, PA) was blessed to host Pastor Nehemiah (Nemi) Chigoji from September 29 - October 4.

A former professional soccer player, he was excited to share at Johnstown Christian School during Jr. High and High School chapels and ride along for a Girls Soccer game.

Pastor Nemi also helped lead a series of local revival meetings. On Saturday Nemi shared about the work of the Anabaptist Peace Center in his home town in Nigeria. He is working with widows whose husbands have been killed due to the conflict between Muslims and Christians. (All of the widows' husbands were Pastors.) Currently they are helping these women with Micro Business loans, housing and stipends for a two year period in order to help them get reestablished, and farming in order to grow food.

In addition to the material needs, they are also helping them with counseling and health care costs. A few of the Kaufman men who attended Nemi's Seminar at ReGen 2021 were so inspired by his sharing there about the farm work at the Peace Center that they committed to helping raise funds to purchase a new tractor for the work.

Part of Nemi's visit was to celebrate this accomplishment and to help him learn how to use the tractor. Thank you to the other Evana Congregations who sent gifts to help us reach our goal. The tractor has been purchased and will be delivered later this winter once all the paperwork is completed!

- Michael Dean, Pastor

Want to Help?

If you wish to join us in supporting pastors and resourcing congregations from a distinctly evangelical Anabaptist faith perspective, consider clicking "Donate" on www.EvanaNetwork.org or send a contribution via mail.



2021 Fall Finances Webinar Series

Everence is offering a fall webinar series titled "Improving Your Financial Picture in Retirement." This recorded series is online at www.Everence.com. Just search for "webinars" in the search box. The full link is below.

This series includes the following subjects:

Retirement Income Strategies

Get ideas for generating an income stream that lasts throughout your retirement.

Making Medicare Easy

Get the information you need to make informed Medicare decisions.

Financial Insights & Tips: Steps to Improving Your Retirement Experience

Learn about investment and retirement options to plan for your family's future.

You can access this series directly by visiting www.Everence.com/everence-events/national-advisors-and-representatives/recorded-webinars-past.

Linda Miller is our Everence representative.

Funny Church Sign





**Mennonite
Central
Committee**



Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more.

Give at mcc.org/delight or call **888.563.4676**.



Kokomo
Rescue Mission
Serving North Central Indiana

Drivers, Wrapping Paper Needed for Red Ribbon Christmas Event

Each year the Kokomo Rescue Mission gives out Christmas presents for families in need. This year, they are in need of delivery drivers and wrapping paper – and always, donations! Here's how you can help:

Red Ribbon Christmas Delivery Drivers

- All drivers must register
- Delivery drivers are needed to help on the morning of Friday, December 17
- Boxes are bulky and heavy so a van, truck, or SUV works best
- You will need to have at least one other person with you to deliver gifts as some boxes may be heavy or awkward to carry.
- All drivers must be registered prior to the event.

If you are interested in helping with the delivery, please register online at www.KokomoRescueMission.org/event/red-ribbon-christmas/. For more information, call 765-456-3838 and ask for Mary or Stacey.

Needed: 30" Christmas Wrapping Paper

- We are also in need of 30" Christmas Wrapping Paper to be put in the Red Ribbon Christmas boxes. Please bring your donations to the Main Office at 321 W. Mulberry St., Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Due to staff shortages and warehouse size wrapping nights will not be held this year. Instead, we will be placing rolls of wrapping paper in the boxes so gifts can be wrapped by those receiving the boxes.

For more information, volunteer opportunities, or ways to donate, visit www.RescueMission.org.



**RED RIBBON
CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**
A Ministry of Kokomo Rescue Mission

GET CONNECTED

Keep up with the latest news, events, and praise and prayer requests through the following ways:



Website: www.HowardMiami.org



Worship Services/Past Sermons:
www.HowardMiami.org/sermons



Bulletins, Newsletters & Calendars:
www.HowardMiami.org/bulletins-calendar-newsletters



Facebook: Don't forget to like and share our posts!!
www.facebook.com/HowardMiami



YouTube: Don't forget to subscribe!!
<http://bit.ly/3aTkUNi> (or go to www.YouTube.com and search "Howard-Miami Mennonite Church")



CrossTalk: Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter at www.HowardMiami.org



Online Events Calendar:
www.HowardMiami.org/events

Are You Struggling?

Are you struggling with:

- Depression & Anxiety
- Addictions
- Family Issues
- Anger
- Dishonesty
- Anything else not listed but causing you turmoil

Pastor Will Douglas is certified in pastoral and biblical counseling and is available to meet with you on your schedule. If you need help or just want to talk, contact Will at Will@howardmiami.org or call the church office at 765-395-7509. You can also stop in during his office hours.

Welcome Home!

- YOU BELONG HERE -



Worship with Us!

Sundays

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship



Howard-Miami Mennonite Church exists to love, glorify, and worship God, to love and serve others, to share the Gospel, and to encourage each other to become fully devoted followers of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Howard-Miami
Mennonite Church Newsletter
is published by:

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765-395-7509**

office@howardmiami.org
www.HowardMiami.org

We are a member of the
Evana Network. Evana means
“God is gracious” and is of
Latin origin. Learn more at
www.EvanaNetwork.org.

THE WORD SEARCH BATTLE

Bible

Difficulty: Hard

R	O	M	A	N	S	Z	T	L	T	Q	T	H	T	P
V	N	L	L	R	O	E	H	O	I	P	G	X	P	M
D	O	E	C	E	Z	X	E	R	M	G	N	O	A	Y
Z	I	K	L	T	W	Z	S	D	O	G	I	R	Y	Y
Q	T	U	R	S	R	W	S	D	T	P	K	J	T	T
B	A	L	Y	A	I	A	A	L	H	R	E	S	E	O
N	L	X	Q	M	E	P	L	G	Y	E	I	T	N	N
H	E	B	R	E	W	S	O	A	M	R	F	E	E	P
O	V	A	L	Z	E	W	N	I	H	N	R	W	R	R
J	E	V	C	T	X	I	I	C	R	O	I	V	A	S
M	R	O	V	T	B	E	A	S	Q	X	U	W	Z	K
J	A	M	E	S	S	B	N	V	U	J	R	K	A	Z
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A	M	T	U	S	T	I	T	U	S	E	E	D	T	W
D	S	N	A	I	P	P	I	L	I	H	P	J	E	S

Play this puzzle online at: <https://www.wordsearchbattle.io/topic/bible>

ACTS
CHRIST
HEBREWS
JAMES
JESUS
JOHN

JUDE
KING
LORD
LUKE
MARK
MASTER

NAZARENE
PETER
PHILIPPIANS
REVELATION
ROMANS
SAVIOR

THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY
TITUS



10 Funny Bible Jokes for Kids

1. **What kind of cell phone did Delilah use?**
Samson
2. **What time of day was Adam born?**
A little before Eve.
3. **When was the first tennis match in the Bible?**
Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.
4. **How does the Apostle Paul make coffee?**
Hebrews it.
5. **What is the best way to study the Bible?**
You Luke into it.
6. **If Jesus was still on earth, what kind of car would He drive?**
A "Christ"ler.
7. **What's the best way to get a message to God?**
Knee-mail
8. **What animal did Noah not trust?**
Cheetah
9. **Where was Solomon's temple located?**
On the side of his head.
10. **Who was the most sinful man in the Bible?**
Moses – he broke all 10 Commandments at once.