A couple of years ago, I watched a documentary about a few men and women that had been entertainers several years back. Each of them had one thing in common. They had all gotten their big break into the entertainment industry on the exact same day and on the exact same show. Each of these men and women had gotten their long awaited chance to perform their talents on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Needless to say, each of them greeted this invitation with great excitement. They each prepared for their moment in the spotlight with great diligence and dedication. When the big night came, they went on stage and did their very best and received courteous applause for their efforts, but none of them ended up having a successful career. They all quickly disappeared from the entertainment industry.

Now, the question is, why in the world would anyone bother to do a documentary on a group of forgotten entertainers who happened to perform on the Ed Sullivan Show? The reason is simple. On any other night, these men and women would’ve been a critical part of the show, but on this night there was another act that was making its debut. The act consisted of four young men from Liverpool who called themselves The Beatles.

No matter how good these others were, no matter how long they had waited for their big chance, no matter how hard they had worked to get there, on this night they simply became the filler material in between the performances of The Beatles. Because of their poor timing, no one remembers or cares who they are or what became of them. One wonders how their stories would be different if they had been there any other time.

Perhaps timing is everything after all. Many of you would be surprised to find out how critical timing is for many Biblical stories and characters. The Bible proclaims that God has perfect timing even when it doesn’t seem like it at first. What God did in and through the lives of people like Moses and Esther and David and Mary and so many others wasn’t just remarkable as far as we can understand, it all happened at a moment in human history when it had to happen; when the effect would be most profound. The breadth and the depth of these events is something that only God can fully see.

We should take note of this. God worked in the lives of all the Biblical characters that we know and love with perfect timing and God does the same with us. This pattern of God is often very frustrating and hard for us to understand, yet if we are to bring glory to God in our service as a church or as individuals, we must begin to trust that it is God who is guiding the timing of things much more than we ever will. We must always be ready to move, but we must also be patient as we wait for the Lord.

God has great things in mind for His people and for His Church, and those things will all come at the perfect time. By the way, whatever happened to those four boys from Liverpool? Did they do alright for themselves? They sure did have great timing and a few other things going for them...just like us.

Merry Christmas!
A baby with perfect timing is about to be born!

Rev. J.D.
The Worship Committee and Rev. J.D. would like to extend heartfelt thanks to those of you who volunteered as liturgists during our Sunday services for the past eleven months. Thank you all for a job well done in your continued efforts to be faithful servants.

Sunday, November 16 was such a joy-filled day, not only personally, but in the life of the congregation. I am not only thankful to all of you for your welcoming spirit and hospitality, but also for your confidence and patience leading up to the 16th. I am so grateful for your positive spirit and open arms! After worship and lunch, Branches welcomed me to their group through a bowling night where we had a great time getting to know one another.

Thank you all so much for being the visible body of Christ in this time of transition. Thank you for being generous with your time and gracious when names escape me. My hope over the coming weeks and months is that we continue striving to be Christ's hands and feet in the world together.

And feel free to stop by the office and say hello!

Elinor
At this most wonderful time of the year, please remember to pray for our friends in Mella, Dominican Republic:
Pastor Luis, Abner, Eli, Bolivar, Wily, Navidad, Niuriha, Margo, Marie Mercedes, Oscar, Joedy, Carmen, Minerva, Olga, and many others.

We are pleased to announce that Keena Troyer has agreed to become our permanent church secretary. She replaces our dear friend, Jane Smith, who took a leave of absence that began back in August. During her leave, Jane decided that she wouldn’t be able to return to First Presbyterian. Keena has filled in admirably for Jane on an interim basis and when we reviewed applicants, it was clear to everyone that Keena was the perfect choice to fill the permanent position. Please join us in welcoming Keena to the staff of First Presbyterian.

EXCLUSIVE SHOWING FOR FPC!
Visit the new BSU Planetarium on Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm and see the Star of Bethlehem!
Call the church office for a reservation (seating is limited). Parking at the planetarium is limited. You may use the church parking lot. What a wonderful addition to the holiday calendar! If you have any questions, contact Cathy Alexander.

Dee Dah Day
Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group
December 5th & 19th 9am-11am in the lounge
All are welcome!

First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303
Phone: 765-289-4431
Fax: 765-289-4486
www.firstpresmuncie.org

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
8:30 a.m.—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

The Rev. J. D. Georlett, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
revjd@firstpresmuncie.org

The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor
ninebrights@hotmail.com

Elinor Dale, Associate Pastor
elinor@firstpresmuncie.org

Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Small Group Activities
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry
tracy@firstpresmuncie.org

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Keena Troyer, Administrative Assistant
jsmith@firstpresmuncie.org
Our Mission Team is looking for 18 individuals/families who would like to spread holiday cheer at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Food baskets will be assembled at the church, and volunteers are needed to deliver them as follows:

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**: November 23
- **Christmas Baskets**: December 21

Please call Janie Miller (289-3652) or email janiem13@att.net for more information, or to sign up for this wonderful holiday project—especially fun for families or for 2 or 3 friends together.

---

**The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be up in the Lounge hallway on Sunday, December 1, and you can help decorate it with ornaments which are displayed on the table beside the tree. Please select an ornament or several, remove the tag from the ornament and place the ornament on the tree. Then purchase the gift, wrap it, PUT YOUR TAG ON THE GIFT IDENTIFYING THE RECIPIENT, MAKING SURE THE FAMILY NUMBER IS ON IT. And put it under the tree.

Many ornaments represent a very special need of a family of children or of persons identified by the Salvation Army, A Better Way or the YWCA. Other ornaments represent gifts for agencies with whom we partner - some specific gifts and some monetary gifts.

It's such a joy to buy for a child knowing how excited he or she will be. Each child will have two ornaments: one with toy or game suggestions and one with clothing suggestions and sizes. We ask that you choose only one of the suggestions per ornament because all the families have more than one child represented by ornaments. It wouldn't be fair for one child in the family to receive 12 gifts while the others each receive two. If you want to buy many gifts, you could take ornaments for all the children in the family.

Agencies represented by some of the ornaments include Christian Ministries, Muncie Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Motivate Our Minds (MOMS), and Muncie Mission.

Place your gift(s) under our Giving Tree by Friday, December 19, for delivery on December 21.

---

**The Salvation Army**

December donation item: **Canned Meats**

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

**HIRONS FUND needs help!**

Please help replenish this fund which purchases food for the pantry beyond individual donations. Checks to FPC, memo Hirons.

---

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Wednesday, December 24**

- **12 noon ~ Communion Service in the chapel**
- **7:30 pm ~ Candlelight Service in the sanctuary**

Regular 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday morning services will be held throughout the season on Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28.
**Oh, Come All Ye Faithful... and Sing!**

Time for the all-church caroling party, Sunday, December 14, from 6:00 to 8:00! Bring the whole family! We will caravan to church members’ homes to spread holiday cheer (which means we do need some good singers!) and return to the church for refreshments. Cider and hot chocolate provided... bring a plate of goodies to share.

---

**Be a Bell Ringer**

for Salvation Army

at the Muncie Mall (just inside the entrance by MCL Cafeteria).

First Pres members will be ringing the bells on **December 8-11** and **December 15-18** from **4:00-8:00 p.m.**

Choose a one-hour time slot and **sign up later this month** in the Lounge Hallway.

This is a great holiday activity for the whole family!

---

**All-Church Carry-In Advent Brunch!**

**Sunday, December 21st**

**9:30 am**

**in Fellowship Hall**

includes a Christmas Program – Bethlehem Bound (starting at 10 am) by FPC performers of all ages that you won’t want to miss!

**Bring a brunch dish to serve 10 - 12!**

---

**The Most Important Gift Catalog in the World**

Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant.

Honor your loved ones with a free card from Heifer with every donation.
Branches’ Upcoming Events

To glorify God, Branches’ activities provide education, fellowship, mission, stewardship, and worship experiences for all junior high and senior high students. All gatherings are from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the church unless otherwise noted and will usually include dinner. Always check your email for more details and last minute changes.

Dec. 3 (Wed.) NO KOINONIA
Dec. 7 Advent Workshop
Dec. 10 (Wed.) NO KOINONIA!
Dec. 14 Caroling Party
Dec. 17 (Wed.) NO KOINONIA
Dec. 21 Check Email
Dec. 24 (Wed.) NO KOINONIA
Dec. 28 Check Email
Dec. 31 (Wed.) NO KOINONIA

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”
John 15: 5

Confirmation Class

The members of the Christian Education Committee here at First Presbyterian are dedicated to the education and the discipleship of the youth and children in our church.

Sunday, December 7—1-2:30 p.m.
Session 1—Bible Study 101

Sunday, December 14—1-2:30 p.m.
Session 2—Christian Theology #1

Sunday, December 21—1-2:30 p.m.
Session 3—Christian Theology #2

Sunday December 28—NO CLASS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you so much for your generous donations to Operation Christmas Child. Branches was able to pack 51 shoeboxes filled with Christmas cheer for needy children around the world!
wanted: books

an unusually large number of library books have been kept by readers beyond a reasonable time. could some of these tardy volumes be lurking somewhere in your house? possibly under a sofa, or on a shelf, or in a book bag? please check and see if you can find one or more. others may be waiting to read those books, so prompt return is appreciated.

books for the christmas season

among the library’s resources to help us celebrate the christmas season are books that will appeal to young readers. many are displayed in the library entry. three that we especially like are:

bethlehem’s busy (j 232.9 read) tells the story of a young couple’s arrival in bethlehem and the miraculous event that follows. the story unfolds (literally) by posing questions whose answers can be found behind flaps that the reader can raise.

mouse tales: things hoped for – advent, christmas, and epiphany (j fic bol) is a series of stories set in a fictional town and its church of the least of these. in the church, the mice live, work, and play together demonstrating hope through their daily lives. the stories take place during the christmas season. they show how children can learn to care for one another, welcome strangers, disagree in love, forgive their friends, and love as christ loves.

come worship with me: a journey through the church year (j 263.9 bol) was written by ruth boling, a presbyterian minister who has written many books for children including mouse tales which is described above. in this book, the mice invite readers to come and worship with them during the various periods of the church year from advent, christmas, epiphany, ash wednesday, palm sunday, good friday, easter, pentecost, and beyond.

shaping up: spiritually as well as physically

in shaped by faith (613.7 rowe) author theresa l. rowe offers a plan to strengthen both body and soul. drawing on her own struggles with heartache and illness, she provides step-by-step exercise instruction as well as prayers and spiritual guides leading to better health and firmer connection with god. the book is accompanied by an exercise dvd.

--maxine and chuck leslie

χοίνονια–a night of food, fellowship and learning for all ages at first presbyterian

koinonia (koy-nuh-nee’-ah)—noun—fellowship, participation, close relationship [with god], gift

wednesdays beginning …… ~ dinner together at 6 pm; bible study & children’s programming at 7:15 pm

there will be no koinonia the month of december.

we will return january 7th with the ten commandments
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
(please print CLEARLY)
Quantity ordered: _____ X $15 each = Total due $_______
Date pd: ________ Amt pd: ________ Check #: ________
In loving memory of: ______________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
In honor or celebration of: _________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Given by: ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
As in previous years, you have the opportunity to order poinsettias to decorate the church in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. The flowers may be taken home with you after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.
Cost is $15 each.
Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church; memo: Poinsettias

Orders must be received by the church office on or before Sunday, December 14, 2014!

To order, please place a completed form and payment in the offering plate or send it to the church office at 1400 West Riverside Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303.