God’s people needed to be rescued from slavery in Egypt, so God chose a wayward and unwilling shepherd who didn’t have any confidence, wasn’t eloquent of speech, and was guilty of murder to lead God’s people into the Promised Land. In the process, God’s chosen servant became a great friend of God and a great leader of God’s people. That shepherd’s name was Moses.

The people of the most powerful city in the world were so sinful in the sight of God that God decided to destroy them in forty days. But first, God chose a stubborn, self-righteous, prejudiced, and very rebellious prophet to go preach repentance to them, even though the prophet in question hated those people more then anything else in the world. In the process, God’s chosen servant was exposed to the depth of God’s love and grace. That prophet’s name was Jonah.

Even though most of them didn’t even know it, God’s people were in grave danger. They were only moments away from being completely destroyed and forgotten. In reaction to this potential tragedy, God called a very young, very naïve and uneducated orphan girl to deliver them. In the process, God’s chosen servant learned what it means to be brave and tough and fully committed in the name of the Lord. That girl’s name was Esther.

When Jesus decided to build a new Church, he chose a common, loudmouthed, undisciplined fisherman from a tiny and insignificant place on the edge of society to be its first leader. It took a while, but in the process, God’s chosen servant eventually learned what it meant to be a personal friend of God and learned how to share that relationship with others. That fisherman’s name was Peter.

All of those folks are famous now. Their names and their stories are well known, but they’re only famous because God chose them to do something very important at a very important time and they did it. They are well known followers of God because they followed God when it mattered and because they learned something as they did. Their stories are re-told over and over again because each of them became something new and because we must also become something new by means of following and serving and obeying God. So, with that in mind...

One time, God decided to bless the world through the lives of those who claim to put their faith in Jesus. God decided that they would be the ones to share love and live lives and make sacrifices that would show forth the kingdom of God to the world. It was a very difficult and challenging way of life, but in the process, each servant that responded to that calling with full commitment became all that God wanted them to be. That servant’s name is______________________.

See you in Church,

Rev. J.D.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.” Ezekiel 36:26
I have many thoughts about current events and the Dominican people's hopes for the future.

**Life in the Dominican Republic:** Most cities have regular blackouts of electricity, so homes have battery backup. The hotel had water usually only for a few hours in the morning after someone would wake up the caretaker. The church had water only when the pastor stretched a hose across the intersection between his house and the church. The city water supply is not treated and occasionally not available.

Concerning medical care, we asked if they had to take medicine to prevent malaria, as we did for our trip. They said “no” because they do not have malaria there, only dengue fever which is worse. We have heard that the hospital in the capital lacks syringes and that there is no treatment for diabetes. Professional people, for example, teachers do not have cars. They walk to work or take a bus. They do have smart phones for calling, texting and saving pictures. Last year we visited the local high school. The students attended for ½ a day, this year we hear that school is now full day.

**Life in the IED Church:** We asked them about the priorities of their church. Their answer is nearly the same as ours. They want to involve more young people and increase their membership. They believe and sing Mathew 7.24 “if a man builds a house on the rock, it will not fall”

Pastor Luis Jhonson has already graduated from seminary but is in law school. A pastor’s salary is so low that he needs another profession to support himself.

Pastor Pedro Radney, who leads a church in Neyba, told us that he wanted to speak to us in English. His English was very good but the topics being discussed were so emotional that he had to revert to Spanish. His current church, made of wood and sticks with a tin roof, was obviously falling down. He hopes to build a new church and is looking for ways to buy a plot of land. He had made tiny woven crosses to sell as a fund raiser.

A twenty-year-old student, Jaciento, came to spend the day with us, helping with children’s games. He said that if he could learn English then he could get a good job as a waiter at a resort.

We visited several churches to bring bible school supplies. There was a lot of picture taking. The pastors asked that we would pray for them, their families and their congregations. We visited with PC (USA) Missionary Jo Ella Holman. She has worked in the Caribbean for several years and advises us as to what is culturally appropriate to do. We also had a dinner guest, Rev. Cancu, who is the Bishop of the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana.

The Dominican people wanted very much to communicate with us. They were polite, energetic, enthusiastic, caring and wished to express that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. The final evening in Mella, we were at the pastor’s house, on the dirt patio, under the corrugated metal roof where we usually ate our meals. The members of the church presented each of us with necklaces in a ceremony as serious as if we were getting a Nobel Prize. They wished us a safe journey home and they hope that we return again.

**A message from Pastor Luis on March 15, 2015:**

_que la gracias y la paz de Dios este con usted y tu familia hoy y siempre._

_Despues de saludarle en el nombre del senor, aprovecho este medio para agradecerle su presencia en nuestra comunidad de Mella, esperando en Dios que siga bendiciendo el grupo de misioneros y su lider, pastor y congregacion. Nosotros nos sentimos mas que agradecido de Dios y de ustedes por su aporte a esta comunidad y el materiales para trabajar en escuela de verano. Mil gracias por todo._

That the grace and peace of God be with you and your family today and always. After greeting you in the name of the Lord, I take this way to thank you for your presence in our community of Mella, I hope that God continues to bless the missionary group and its leader, pastor and congregation. We feel more than grateful to God and to you all for your support to this community and the materials for making summer (bible) school.

A thousand thanks for everything.
Rev. Luis Manuel Jhonson Mercedes
A Rewarding Experience
By Lauren Simmons

If you would have asked me a few days before our trip or even the day we left, I was completely and absolutely apprehensive about this trip. I was overwhelmed with school and utterly exhausted, and I knew that this trip was going to be awful. I was going into this trip with the completely wrong mindset; I was questioning why God had called me to go on this trip. Why you ask? I wish I had an answer to that question, but instead all I knew was that there was a purpose in my going on this trip, and I was apart of God’s plan to serve brothers and sisters in Christ.

From the time my apprehensiveness had set in to the time that we stepped off of the plane in Santo Domingo my mindset had completely changed, I felt energized and prepared to serve God and his people. I could not help but continuously look around on our initial bus ride to Mella admiring the beauty of the land and people God had created. Sunday morning stepping into Mella reassured that I was in the right place. God had a plan to serve his people, and I was an important tool in the process.

A small smile was flashed my way when she walked in the door, a little girl that I did not have any recollection of meeting on my previous trip, and I sent a smile back her way. She quickly made her way over to me and said, “Mi nombre es Crismeydis.” (My name is Crismeydis) I told her my name and she gave me a hug and sat down in the pew. From the moment she shot a smile my way, a relationship had been built and Crismeydis did not leave my side the entire week. Much like the beginning of my relationship with Crismeydis, vacation bible school was filled with a multitude of other relationships built in the same fashion. The children never ran out of energy, thriving on the singing, dancing, stories and crafts we had prepared for them. While they took in every moment and loved it all, the spark with the children in the week was found in the song “Days of Elijah,” a song that talks about heroes from the Old Testament and proclaims how great our God is. By the end of our time in Mella, I think the entire village knew the motions to the song and the ladies of the church even asked if we could translate the song into Spanish for them and with the help of our wonderful translator we did just that!

On Tuesday we were fortunate to be able to travel to several villages neighboring Mella to deliver what we called a “Dorcas basket.” Dorcas is a woman found in the book of Acts who was full of good works and deeds. The idea for a Dorcas basket came from Pastora Alfreda’s church in Jaquimeyes on a visioning trip taken by our presbytery in December. Women in Pastora Alfreda’s church bring small food items together either bi-weekly or monthly and create a basket to be given to a woman in need. Members of the visioning trip continuously heard that resources to serve the children were needed, so the idea of a vacation bible school Dorcas basket was created. Eleven Dorcas baskets were created by various churches in the Whitewater Valley Presbytery in Indiana and packed in carry on suitcases. In turn, members of our mission team carried these bags on the plane with us and on Tuesday the baskets were delivered to the villages of Neyba, Jaquimeyes, Palo Alto, Tamayo, Barahona, Duverge and Mella. Seeing the joy and gratefulness on church members’ and pastors’ faces made it evident once again that God was using us as part of a greater plan.

There are two things that this week taught me: smiles and God’s love are universal. It did not matter that I could not easily communicate with others due to a language barrier, it did not matter that I was from a different country or a different race, they still loved me because God loves me. Serving God is not always easy, but in the end when you fall completely in love with God’s creation you will question why you ever had the temptation to resist his call to serve.
You are invited to the Service of Installation of The Rev. Elinor Dale Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 10:30 am. Luncheon to follow in Fellowship Hall. Please call or email Keena to make lunch reservations by Monday, April 20, 2015. (289-4431; keena@firstpresmuncie.org)

Adult Sunday School

**April 5**
No Class
**April 12**
Witnesses for Christ (in the brides Room)
**April 19—May 10**
Faith in a High Risk Occupation

Join our mailing list!

Our weekly FYI e-mails let you know what’s happening and how you can be involved. If you would like to start/stop receiving these e-mails, or maybe your email has changed, let us know by emailing keena@firstpresmuncie.org

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

**THE REV. 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 BENTLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
keena@firstpresmuncie.org

**Hot Meal Program**
Volunteers needed for April. If you would like to help prepare meals or deliver them, please sign up on the bulletin board or email cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

**SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:**
April donation item:
PASTA & SAUCES
Please place your donation(s) In the cart in Fellowship Hall.
Preschool News:

After many months of hard work by teachers, the Pre-K board and myself, it is with great pleasure that I announce our preschool has received our certificate as an Unlicensed Registered Child Care Ministry by the State of Indiana from Family and Social Services Administration. We passed all inspections and our certificate is posted in the preschool hallway!

Most recently, the preschool children enjoyed a trip to the Delaware County Fairgrounds for the Farm Festival activities! Many of the children enjoyed milking a cow for the first time, seeing other animals and the huge farm equipment! But many of the children will tell you the highlight of the day was riding the MITS to the fairgrounds!

Registration for 2015-2016 is currently under way! If you have not registered or know a family looking for an AMAZING preschool please refer to our website firstpresmuncie.org under the education tab for more information.

Children’s Ministry:

Calling all young families with children birth to 5th grade, to join me on Sunday, April 12 from 5-7 pm for a ‘Visioning’ meeting in Fellowship Hall!

Dinner will be served from 5-5:30 pm therefore please RSVP by April 10 (tracy@firstpresmuncie.org or 751-7960) so food may be planned accordingly! Childcare will be provided. Plan to be a part of your child’s spiritual growth and development and how First Presbyterian Church moves towards an active, fulfilling spiritual presence in your child’s life.

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 23-25, 2015

OUTBACK ROCK: “WHERE KIDS VENTURE INTO ROCK SOLID FAITH”

Three days of high energy songs, crafts, Bible stories and games!

Volunteers Needed!

please contact Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry at 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org if you are able to help! FPC offers one of the best VBS programs thanks to those who volunteer and give generously of their time! Thank you in advance for continuing to support this ministry to the community!


**Koinonia**

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** — Dinner together at 6 pm; Bible Study* & Children's Programming at 6:45 pm

**April 2 - Maundy Thursday Worship**

**April 8 - May 6**

(5 weeks)

Prayer

**Koinonia for Kids!**

---

**A big thank you** to everyone who attended and participated in the youth visioning night on April 12.

With such a wonderful turnout, there are lots of great ideas to help plan for the future of the youth program.

**Thank you!**

---

High School seniors interested in applying for First Presbyterian, Muncie college scholarships may pick up applications at the information desk or in the church office.

The deadline for submission is April 13, 2015

---

**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. If I don’t have your email address, please send it to cathy@firstpresmuncie.org.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 5</td>
<td>No Branches. Happy Easter!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Mission project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 26</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td>KOINONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Confirmation Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Youth Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*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

---

*Holy Molý!*
A Workout for the Soul

Author David Hansen worries that many Christians have a much too thin and tepid understanding of the soul. Once viewed as the essential human being, the center of all truth, goodness, and understanding, the soul now may seem of little value in a materialistic age.

In his book *A Little Handbook on Having a Soul* (HANS 233.5), he seeks to present a more complete view of the soul. He leads readers through a vigorous workout of the soul’s capacity to nurture and enjoy beauty, goodness, truth, and holiness. The author is pastor of Belgrade Community Church in Montana.

How to Hear God

Henri Nouwen, was one of the 20th century’s greatest Christian teachers, counselors, and authors. He believed that God speaks to us constantly both as individuals and as a people. He developed principles of discernment to help people hear and understand God’s voice. But his teachings were never gathered together and published. That task has now been done by two authors, Michael J. Christensen and Rebecca Laird.

Their book is *Discernment* (248.4 NOUW). Using Nouwen’s coursework, journals, and unpublished writings, they have created a guide for Christians to discern the voice of God in daily life and make decisions that are guided by God.

What America Will Be Like

Predicting the future is always a risky venture. Nobody has a magical crystal ball. But that doesn’t stop social scientists from trying. In a new book, *The Next America* (305.2 TAYL), Paul Taylor analyzes extensive demographic data to predict how our nation will change in the coming years. The picture that emerges is not always pretty as the evolving population trends portend drastic changes that will impact almost every aspect of American life.

The subtitle of the book is “ Boomers, Millennials, and the Looming Generational Showdown.” The generational showdown refers to a fundamental challenge: how will the young adults of today support the seniors of tomorrow? By mid-century, the U.S. population will be majority non-white and the median age will edge above 40 – both unprecedented milestones.

The author is executive director of the Pew Research Center where he oversees demographic, social, and generational research. The trends reported in his book are well supported by research results.

Unexpected Discovery

Kelle Hampton seemed to have a nearly perfect life. She had a loving husband, a pretty 2-year-old daughter, and a thriving career as a photographer. She and her husband were ecstatic when they learned a second child was on the way. But as soon as she saw her new daughter, she knew something was wrong.

Baby Nella looked different than her sister had a birth. Kelle was terrified when the pediatrician confirmed that Nella had Down syndrome. But gradually Kelle embraced the idea that she had been chosen to experience a special gift.

In her book *Bloom: Finding Beauty in the Unexpected* (HAMP 305.9) she takes readers through Nella’s first year. With prose and pictures she tells the touching and often hilarious story of a mother’s discovery that perfection comes in all different shapes.

Chuck and Maxine Leslie

"The Blessings of Funerals"

I have recently attended 2 funerals at our church. They made me once again realize what a blessing to belong to First Pres. J.D.’s messages are uplifting and memorable. He highlights the deceased as having a full and well lived life. And, he always emphasizes that the person is once again “made whole” in the arms of Christ and united with friends and family. What a powerful hope for us all!

We also are so blessed with church members’ talents. Kirby Koriath was the ever faithful wonderful organist. Stephen Burns and Tom Schwartz offered their gifts of beautiful voices praising faith.

Yes, indeed, First Presbyterian family of faith members are so blessed!

Mary House
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 2, at First Presbyterian
(with St. Andrew Presbyterian joining us)
7:00 pm  Communion Service

Community Good Friday Service, April 3
Noon at Union Missionary Baptist Church

Easter Celebration, April 5, at First Pres ~
7:00 am  Sunrise Service in the Chapel
11:00 am  Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Service will be supported by the Chancel Choir, the Hallelujah Choir, organ, and the School of Music Brass Quartet.

He is risen indeed!