Have you ever been asked to pick a number between one and one hundred as a means to choose between at least two people? Sure you have. If you go first, I suggest that you choose the number 50. That way, no matter what happens, you have at least a 50 percent chance of winning (by the way, the other person should pick 51, not 49). If you go second and the person going first grants you the blessing of choosing something like 12, I suggest that you pick 13. In that scenario, 13 is almost sure to suddenly become your lucky number.

It’s called playing the odds. You can’t guarantee yourself a win, but you sure can maximize your chance of winning and, if you happen to lose, you can console yourself with the thought that you made the most logical choice.

It’s interesting to play the odds with different aspects of life. Whether we notice it or not, all of us do it to a certain degree. It’s not very interesting to question the odds of whether or not the sun will rise again in the morning, but we all know that there are several other scenarios in life where the best that you can do is to play the odds and hope for the best.

The odds are that if you get into the shortest line, you will get finished much faster with what you are trying to do; yet even so, my wife and kids will tell you that I almost always manage to choose the slowest line, no matter how short it is. If you’re headed to the casino, the odds will tell you that you should stick with poker or blackjack and that you should stay away from keno and the roulette wheel. That being said, your best odds come when you choose to stay away from that garbage altogether.

If there’s a 40% chance of rain, you have a 60% chance of not getting rain. Of course, we all know that it won’t rain at all if you remember to bring your umbrella and it’s sure to pour if you don’t. The odds that you will live a long life are very good. Yet, the very small chance that you will die tomorrow should challenge you to live life to the full today.

It’s very unlikely that you’ll ever be struck by lightning, yet even though the odds of that happening are very low, it’s always a good idea to do whatever you can to make them still lower. From billiards to basketball there are many crazy shots that would be considered one in a million, yet when the ball is on the way, hope and fear are still very much alive no matter how long the odds might be. Finally, simple odds declare that the Chicago Cubs will win the World Series one day, but hanging curve balls can change the odds in a second.

Obviously, odds play a major role in our lives. We know what they are and we know how to play them to our advantage. Yet, much of Christianity and much of our relationship with God stand in defiance of the odds. In fact, faith is very much about believing in the goodness and providence of God in the very moment when the odds would say that it makes absolutely no sense to do so. Our fears will encourage us to put odds ahead of God, but true faith knows that odds are nothing in comparison to the power and grace of Almighty God.

Think about it; we worship God not because God’s actions are easy to predict and sensible but because we are witnesses to the incredible things that God has done. We bow before our Lord Jesus Christ because he chose to defy the odds, He was born into our world, died for our sins and was raised from the dead. Indeed, if the stories of the Bible had to obey the odds, they wouldn’t be worth reading at all. You know, the odds are that these words of mine won’t make any difference to anyone. Even still, I’ve got to say, I like my chances.

See you in Church,

Rev. J.D.
Coming in the Fall: Fellowship Sunday and Adult Sunday School

The first Sunday of every month, starting on **September 6**, will be designated “Fellowship Sunday”.

Our regular “coffee/fellowship” time between services will take place in Fellowship Hall (refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall). From 9:45 to 10:30 there will be a group activity which fosters relationship building, gathering people together around tables (in circles!) or interacting with each other. Some ideas for this time together would include a trivia contest or ice breaker questions. This time together should be great fun, and to quote J.D., “the more laughter, the better!”

Fellowship Sunday will be a great time to invite people to visit our church.

The Fellowship and Church Growth Committee is sponsoring Fellowship Sunday. The Adult CE Committee (Elder Jason Arnold) will be in charge of the other Sundays in the month.

**The current schedule for Fellowship Sunday & Adult Sunday School this Fall is:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 6</th>
<th>Fellowship Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 13-27</td>
<td>Group #1 - The Reason for God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group #2 - Becoming a Good Samaritan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Fellowship Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11-25</td>
<td>Group #1 - The Reason for God (cont.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group #2 - Becoming a Good Samaritan (cont.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Fellowship Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8-29</td>
<td>Group #1 - Abiding in Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group #2 - Forgiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Fellowship Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Forum Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Advent Brunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meet Jo Ella Holman, our partner in mission in the Dominican Republic**

As regional liaison for the Caribbean, Jo Ella Holman’s ministry focuses on churches in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Grenada and Trinidad & Tobago. She works closely with the Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM), an organization that enables mutual mission among churches from the two regions. Her ministry involves facilitating and supporting programs of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partner churches and organizations and implementing regional strategies. She also works with mission personnel in the region by communicating regularly with them, offering them counsel and encouragement and helping them reflect on and assess their ministries. When in the continental United States, Jo Ella meets with PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries in the United States who are involved in partnerships with Christians in the Caribbean or would like to initiate such ministries.

Jo Ella has spent a dozen years staffing various international ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She worked with partnerships in the Latin America and Caribbean region until 2005, when she began overseeing mission personnel training. She also has served on the World Mission Leadership Team. Prior to her seminary study and subsequent ordination by New Hope Presbytery in North Carolina, Jo Ella was an educational specialist with international health training agencies. Her work in 25 countries has taken her to Europe, Africa, the South Pacific and the Latin America/Caribbean region. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and French from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC); a master’s in education from UNC; and, a Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School.

Jo Ella has been instrumental in the planning and execution of our mission experience in the DR.

**Save the Date:**

Our next trip to the Dominican Republic will be **March 4-12, 2016**. If you are interested in going, please see Cathy Alexander. Seats on this bus are limited!

**Fall Adult Mission Trip**

This fall, **October 11-16**, we will travel to Burnamwood Camp, Lexington, KY, to participate in the Burnamwood Appalachian Ministry. We will stay on site in a three story lodge. During the day, our group will venture into Central Appalachia to take the love of Christ beyond the boundaries of the camp. The work will vary depending on our group size, age, and skill. To get a spot on the bus, contact Cathy Alexander.
Kids Hope
One child. One hour. One church. One school.
If you have one hour a week to devote to a child, there is a child at Southview that needs you.
But, you might be asking, how will I fill that hour with a child? No worries! I can provide all sorts of materials to help you fill the hour. And once you get to know your child, the time flies by!
Mentors from our church are at Southview on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, usually from 2:30 to 3:30 pm.
If you want to find out more (no strings attached), please contact Cathy Alexander with your questions about Kids Hope.

Time to Build
Wednesday, Aug 12 to Saturday, August 15
This house at 200 E. Memorial needs some rehab work to make it a home! 10-12 construction volunteers are needed each day from 8:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
A lunch crew is needed, too, to provide lunch for our crew and Habitat personnel at 11:45 a.m.
To volunteer for construction or lunch crew, sign up at the information desk or email cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Hot Meal Program
What has the summer been like at the Hot Meal Program? Here are some fun numbers:
♦ 57,124-Hot meals that will have been prepared and delivered by the end of the summer.
♦ 2,700-Volunteer hours invested in the program as of June 17.
♦ 12,900-Apples served by the end of the summer.
♦ 540-Pounds of baby carrots served over the summer break.
♦ 7,700-Salad served as of June 17.
All of these numbers are made possible by volunteers!
If you would like to volunteer for food prep or to deliver meals, please contact Cathy Alexander.
We will be offering visioning sessions for the future of the church in which we will be sharing hopes and dreams and proposed updates and improvements to the building that will be made over the next several months. This will be your opportunity to learn about the future plans of First Presbyterian and to provide vital input and feedback. Please plan on joining us for one of the sessions listed below:

**“Building... A Vision... Together...”**

Sunday August 23, 9:45-10:30 A.M.
Wednesday, August 26 (After Koinonia) from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m.
Sunday August 30, 9:45-10:30 A.M.
Thursday, September 3, 10-11 AM
Thursday, September 3, 7-8 PM.

**Koinonia** (Koy-nuh-nee’-ah)—noun—Fellowship, Participation, Close Relationship [with God], Gift

**Same Day, New Time!**

Wednesdays ~ Dinner together at 5:45 pm;
Bible Study* & Children's Programming at 6:30 pm

**Upcoming Sermons:**

- August 2 — The power of one—Ephesians 4:1-16
- August 9 — Ephesians 4:25-5:2
- August 16 — The Value of Wisdom—1 Kings 3:5-9
- August 23 — The offensiveness of Christ—John 6:56-69
- August 30 — Doers of the Word—James 1:17-27
- September 6 — Of begging and praying—Mark 7:24-37

**Backpack Blessing on August 9.**

All children Pre-K through fifth grade bring your backpack to church for the blessing of the backpacks during the Children’s Sermon at the 8:30 & 11:00 services.

**Calling all 3-5th graders and their parents!**

Acolytes will be returning to the 11 a.m worship service once a month beginning in September. If your child is a third, fourth or fifth grader and would be interested in serving as an acolyte, please plan to attend the information meeting on AUGUST 16 at 9:45 a.m. in Bride’s room. Both child and parent must attend. For more information or questions, please see Tracy Clinger, Director of Children’s Ministry.

**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.—Garden Services (Garden)
- 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 & Circle Ministry**
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
First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten, founded in 1955, will be celebrating 60 years of education in the Muncie community and surrounding areas this Fall! We are proud to serve the young children of our community and provide a quality education in a loving, Christian environment. In honor of 60 years of educational excellence we will be hosting a weekend celebration!

**September 19:** 2-5 pm Classic Car Show and Free Carnival including horse and carriage rides, photo opportunities with the Muncie One sign, and vendors will be available for food and ice cream! WERK FM will be broadcasting live! This event is open to the community! As a church and preschool, we have a wonderful opportunity before us to outreach and give back to the community we have served for 60 years!

**September 20:** 11:00 am Worship service
Current preschool children will sing during worship and former teachers, directors and those no longer with us will be recognized. An Open House/Reception will follow the service providing the opportunity to reminisce, tour the classroom, and enjoy photos from years past. Lemonade and cookies will be served in Fellowship Hall.

Please Mark Your Calendar And Help Spread The Word About This Celebration!

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**Children’s Ministry**

**Volunteer Meeting (Birth to 5th grade):**
Sunday, August 30 at 9:45 am in the Conference room
If you have an interest in learning more about the opportunities to serve the children of our church this is the place for you! Not only will this be an informational meeting but also a brief training session on safe church policy as well as Sunday school and children’s church curriculum. If you feel the call to serve our children in some capacity (whether as a teacher, sub, child care person on Wednesday nights for Koinonia, etc…) or want to learn more, please join me on August 30 as I share all the wonderful opportunities to love our children!

Questions call Tracy Clinger at 751-7960 or email tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are in need of one Sunday School teacher for K-2nd grade. If you are interested, please contact Tracy Clinger 765-751-7960; tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.

Pre-K enrollment for the 2015-16 school year is open! Sign up online at www.firstpresmuncie.org.
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 Elinor@firstpresmuncie.org

Aug. 2: 5 - 7 p.m. End of the summer cookout at the Simmons
Aug. 6: 6 - 7 p.m. Making calls for Gishler.
Aug. 19: Youth Koinonia starts
Aug. 23: Youth and Parent meeting
Aug. 30: Gishler Golf Tournament

John 15: 5
“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.”

JOIN THE FUN & HELP THE HOMELESS

On our mission trip to New Orleans, we had the chance to work with an organization called the St. Bernard Project which is doing home reconstruction. We worked on two separate projects–one inside helping with the final clean up so the homeowners can move in soon, and the other helping to build a fence. We also had a chance to see the Mississippi and eat good food! Thank you to everyone who bought a super bowl sub and helped make this trip possible!

The group Thursday night.

Please help by bringing your dessert contribution to Fellowship Hall by 10:45 a.m. on Sunday morning September 13. Bake up a storm. First Presbyterian is committed to providing 20 deserts.

You can also help by attending the auction at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 900 W. White River Blvd., starting at about 12 noon, and bidding on auction items.

Project Stepping Stone is a not-for-profit agency sponsored by First Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and Lutheran Church of the Cross. It provides free temporary housing for homeless working poor families for 3 months or more, which gives the families a chance to get back on their feet by saving enough money to pay for a place of their own.

If you have any questions about the auction or Project Stepping Stone, please call Roger Sherwood at 284-5260

Cutting Wood!
Pouring Concrete!
Putting Up Slats!
Part of Fence

Inside Demo
Inside Cleaning

By the Mississippi!
Meeting Jesus

In *Encounters with Jesus* (232.9 KELL), author Timothy Keller shows how the central events and encounters in the life of Jesus can change our own lives forever. The men and women who met Jesus faced the same big questions we face today. Answers were handed down to them, but sometimes those answers didn’t seem to make sense. But when they met Jesus, things immediately began to change for them. Jesus not only had answers, He was the answer.

Rev. Keller’s insights into familiar passages of Scripture expand readers’ understanding of even very familiar stories and serve to enhance their value. The author is pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City.

Shia vs. Sunni

Many of the events shaping the Middle East today can be traced to the ongoing rivalry between the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam. A history of the split has been written by Lesley Hazleton, a veteran Middle East journalist who has published many articles and books on the region.

Even as Muhammad lay dying, the struggle for control over the new Islamic nation had begun. A succession crisis erupted, pitting followers of the founder’s wife Aisha against his son-in-law Ali. Civil war followed shattering Muhammad’s ideal of unity.

Shia vs. Sunni

Ms. Hazleton’s book is titled *After the Prophet* (297.8 HAZL), and it provides a vivid account of the volatile intersection of religion and politics as it affects current events.

Change of Heart

A fresh approach to spiritual growth is laid out in *Renovation of the Heart* (248.4 WILL) by Dallas Willard. As Christians try to become more like Jesus, they begin to act differently. But changing outward behavior does not change the heart. The author argues that only through God’s grace can a person be changed internally.

The author lays out a Biblical foundation for what he deems transformation of the spirit. This is a process that leads every element of being into harmony with the will of God. Prof. Willard, who taught philosophy at the University of Southern California, challenges Christians to strive for change “from the inside out.”

Victories of the Spirit

The popular author Anne Lamott has published a new collection of essays titled *Small Victories* (248.23 LAMO). Her essays have been described as “funny mini-sermons, reminding us of what’s important in life.”

Some titles in this collection are “Trail Ducks,” “Dad,” “Knocking on Heaven’s Door,” “Ham of God,” and “Pirates.”

Please Let Us Know!

In the name of love and genuine concern for your ministry needs, all of the members of First Presbyterian should know that, because of laws designed to protect patient privacy, hospitals will not give out any information to the church if you or someone from your family is in the hospital. For this reason, we encourage you to call the church office or have someone call us on your behalf if you are hospitalized.

Got Spring fever? Just itching to get outdoors? Come join the Weekly Weeders as we beautify the church grounds. We meet each Wednesday morning from 8:30-10:30 through August. Bring your own tools, but we’ll provide the fellowship and laughter.

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
27th Annual Golf Outing

benefiting the
Gishler College Scholarship Fund

DELAWARE COUNTRY CLUB
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015
2:00 PM Tee Time

FOOD & PRIZES
• MEAL PROVIDED AFTER GOLF
• PRIZES FOR 1ST THREE TEAMS
• LONGEST DRIVE (MEN'S/ WOMEN'S)
• CLOSEST TO PIN ON PAR 3 (MEN'S/
  WOMEN'S)
• LONGEST PUTT (MEN'S/WOMEN'S)

Welcome
• 50/50 DRAWING
• ALL-WOMEN TEAMS
• NON-FIRST PRES MEMBERS

Register your team today!

Brochures/registration forms are also at the
information desk or online at
www.firstpresmuncie.org -
Gishler Golf Outing

Registration Form
First Presbyterian Church
2015 Gishler Golf Outing
For more info: www.firstpresmuncie.org
Please detach and return with payment
by August 24, 2015 to:
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303

☐ Team Entry - $300 Due by Aug. 24
Team Captain Name ________________________
Team Member Name ________________________
Team Member Name ________________________
Team Member Name ________________________
Contact Phone No. ________________________

☐ Individual Entry—$75 Due by Aug. 24
Individual Name ____________________________
Contact Phone No. ________________________

☐ Major Sponsorship - $500
No Team Included With $500 Sponsorship

☐ Hole Sponsorship - $100

☐ Personal Contribution - $__________
Name ____________________________

☐ Payment Enclosed:  ☐ Cash  ☐ Check