Over the next several months the members of First Presbyterian church are going to be challenged, at multiple times and in multiple ways, with the question of how much we really are allowing God to affect and define our actions and decisions and priorities.

As Christians, this is what we seek. We desire a life that is a joy in the sight of God. We want to be little examples of Christ in the world. We want to live to God’s glory, in accordance with God’s plans for us. This doesn’t mean that we want to be mindless drones who refuse to think for themselves. It is simply the belief that God has something to say about our lives and that we have the ability and the responsibility to discern it and to follow it.

This challenge will most profoundly confront us in the area of stewardship. As you know, we are working our way through a capital fund campaign that will culminate in May with everyone making a pledge toward the goal of improving several areas of our church building and ministry. In addition to this, it’s October again and that means that right now we will also be considering what we will give in support of the 2016 annual church budget.

In other words, at two separate moments, you will be asked to give; once for the short-term operation of First Presbyterian and once for the long-term, re-making of First Presbyterian. With all of that, in the quest to discern exactly how God wants you to participate in these two projects, it might seem that a calculator is now essential, indispensable spiritual equipment.

Certainly, with anything of a financial nature, a calculator is an important tool, but the things of which I speak are not financial. They are of a spiritual nature and because of that, since we want to do and be what Christ wants us to do and be, we will need to listen. We will need to be willing to learn. We will need to be courageous and bold. We will need to be willing to go where God wants us to go, even if it doesn’t immediately make any sense to us at all. Calculators are great for figuring out what we have, but not for figuring out what God has.

In an attempt to get people to turn off their cell phones before worship, I’ve been known to tell the congregation, “God is going to speak to you today, but He isn’t going to do it by means of your cell phone!” In the same Spirit, and in attempt to help all of us truly discern what God wants us to give, it should be said, “God is going to tell you exactly how to be true, Christian stewards, but He won’t speak to you through your calculator!”

When God finally spoke to Job, God spoke to him in the midst of a whirlwind. When God spoke to Moses, God did it in the middle of nowhere with a burning bush. When God spoke to Elijah, God did it on the top of a mountain in the midst of what was described as sheer silence. In one of my favorite Biblical moments, when God spoke to a man by the name of Balaam, God used the voice of a donkey.

Of course, we know that when God wanted to speak to the people of Nazareth, God came to them in person. Our Lord Jesus Christ came to them and announced to them the arrival of the Kingdom of God, but they refused to listen. Instead, they drove Jesus away and threatened to kill him. God spoke, but they had no interest in doing and being what God wanted.

As we go forward together, I know that God will speak to each of us. That is certain. It’s also certain that when God speaks, it will be in a way and at time and with a message that will surprise us. That’s always the case. The only thing that remains is whether or not we will listen.
Tables hosts are needed for the next Fellowship Sunday, October 4, 9:45 to 10:30

The first Sunday of every month 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, ice breaker questions, etc.

_Any Fellowship Sunday would be a great time to invite people to visit our church._

The Fellowship and Church Growth Committee will be responsible for Fellowship Sunday. There will be an emcee for each Fellowship Sunday who will start/end the activity on time. There will also be table hosts who will get the activity going at each table. To volunteer to host a table on _October 4_, please email Cathy Alexander

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**Fellowship Sunday & Adult Sunday School:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>October 4—Fellowship Sunday</th>
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<td>With Scott Truex in Fellowship Hall</td>
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<td>* Group #2 - Becoming a Good Samaritan*</td>
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<td>With Bill Rogers in the Bride’s Room</td>
<td>December 13—Forum Discussion</td>
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<td>December 20—Advent Brunch</td>
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</tbody>
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Our next trip to the Dominican Republic will be _March 4-12, 2016_. If you are interested in going, please fill out an application (available on the information desk) or see Cathy Alexander. We can only take a limited number of people, so get your application in quickly! Completed applications are due in the church office by _October 2, 2015_!

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**Coats Against the Cold**

We need hats, mittens, and gloves

FPC will be collecting children’s hats and gloves for distribution at the fairgrounds on October 17. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, _October 11_. A donation bin will be in the north lobby and outside the church office.

*If you have coat(s) to donate, please take them to Christian Ministries, 401 E Main St.*
Stewardship Sunday is October 25!
The Holy Act of Making an Offering—A Stewardship Sermon Series
October 4—Of Time—Genesis 18:1-8
October 11—Of Money—2 Corinthians 8:1-15—see also Romans 15:26
October 18—Of Worship—Matthew 6:19-21
October 25—Of Ability—Matthew 16:13-20—Stewardship Sunday

Dee Dah Day
Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group
October 9th & 23rd 9am-11am in the lounge.

Adult Ministry Luncheon
This year lunches will be on the
3rd Thursday of the month.
Join us on Thursday, October 15 at noon in Fellowship Hall for
lunch and to hear Linda Needham speak on “How and When to
Downsize Your Home”.

Lunch is $3.00 per person, please call the church office (289-4431)
to make reservations by
Tuesday, October 13.

Sunday school is off to a great start for ages 4 through 5th
Grade. The children are enjoying a new curriculum titled
“Hands on Worship: Where Kids Encounter God”. This
curriculum offers interactive music, a Bible story, an
opportunity for God sightings, and most of
all a time to gather in
God’s house and learn
more about Jesus
Christ Our Lord and
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excited to designate
their giving to a new mission project for the children of
the Dominican Republic titled “Pennies for Parachutes”. The children are hoping to purchase parachutes for the
next Mission team to take to the D.R. in March, 2016.

A night of food, fellowship, and learning
for all ages! Koinonia (Koy-nuh-nee’-ah)—
noun—Fellowship, Participation, Close
Relationship [with God], Gift

Wednesday Evenings
Dinner together at 5:45 pm
Bible Study at 6:30 pm
The Youth will now meet for a separate
bible study with Elinor.

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 Services (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 & 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

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keena@firstpresmuncie.org
First Presbyterian Church and Pre-Kindergarten celebrated 60 years of educational service to the Muncie community on September 19 and 20. Many families, alumni, and church members enjoyed a free Carnival & Car Show on September 19 followed by worship and Open House on Sunday, September 20. Our current preschool children sang at worship, teachers and directors were recognized, and Mayor Dennis Tyler read a proclamation honoring the preschool. An Open House followed the worship service where many enjoyed touring classrooms and viewing photographs from years past!

As the current director, I am humbled and thankful for the many volunteers (over 70) who gave graciously of their time to help during the carnival. Many thanks to the Pre-K Board and Church Growth & Fellowship Committee for their many hours of planning, visioning, and support since last May. First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten has the best teachers on staff who go above and beyond to serve the many children who come through our doors...they deserve a huge thank you for giving of themselves and loving the children as their own! I am thankful for Jean McCauley and Susie Burns who gave so generously of their time and artistic talent to paint a scripture tree in the children’s education wing. Many children will enjoy this beautiful tree for years to come. Church staff, elders and deacons, as well as the congregation have been so supportive of me and the vision to celebrate with this amazing event. Thank you. Most of all I praise God for His continued love and guidance.

Much love and thanks,
Tracy Clinger
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

Branches is off and running for the fall! Lots of exciting things are happening and there are many ways for youth to participate in the life of the church both on Sundays and during the week. New this fall, youth have the opportunity for a bible study on Wednesday evening at the same time as Koinonia. We are also continuing to meet on Sunday evenings for different kinds of programs. Check the calendar for what’s coming up!

Also, big in youth news is the renovation of Youth Hall! If you haven’t been down to see the progress, take a look! It is a great space for the youth to meet and a space they feel at home at First Pres and we will continue to settle in to our new space as it gets its final touches!

Save The Date

November 22  🐦 Packing and delivering Thanksgiving baskets

November 28  🌲 The Giving Tree

November 29  🎄 Hanging of the Greens

December 12  🎄 Breakfast With Santa

December 13  🎉 All Church Caroling Party

December 20  🎄 Advent Brunch

December 20  🎄 Packing and delivering Christmas baskets

October

Oct. 4:  5-6:30pm Messy night—A chance to get messy and talk about life.

Oct. 7:  Koinonia

*Oct. 11:  4-5:30 (Middle School) and 5-6:30 (HighSchool) Discussion night—Relationships

Oct. 14:  Koinonia

Oct. 18:  5-6:30pm Mission Project at FPC

Oct. 21:  Koinonia

*Sat. Oct. 24:  7pm-8am — Tentative lock-in
ZZZZZZZ

Hoping to catch a few z’s tonight? Most of us are, according to various studies. More than half of all Americans suffer from insomnia, and up to 70 million of us are on the brink of mental and physical collapse because of lack of sleep. Every year about 42 million prescriptions for sleeping pills are filled.

For those who are dying to get a good night’s sleep, Dr. Don Colbert offers practical advice in his new book, The Ultimate Sleep Guide (616.8 COLB). For those who feel exhausted, depleted, and defeated, he promises a 21-day program that will lead to “the best night of your life.”

Dr. Colbert is a practicing physician who has sold more than 10 million books on nutrition and various other health-related topics.

Eternal Life

What will it be like to transition into the very presence of Christ in heaven? Dallas Willard reflects on this and many other topics in Living in Christ’s Presence (248.4 WILL).

This book is an exploration of what it means to live well now in light of God’s kingdom. He discusses the power of the trinity in our lives, the importance of spiritual disciplines, and much more. The book closes with the theme of offering a blessing to one another.

The late Dr. Willard was a professor in the School of Philosophy of the University of Southern California. This book includes a discussion guide by Gary W. Moon.

Orphans of Afghanistan

The best-selling novelist Khaled Hosseini’s latest book begins with the story of two orphaned children in an Afghan village. They are Pari, 3 years old, and her big brother, Abdullah, 10. What happens to them echoes through the lives of many others in this multigenerational novel. The author explores the many ways in which family members love, wound, honor, betray, and sacrifice for one another.

The book is titled And the Mountains Echoed (FIC HOSS). It is the author’s third novel. The first two, The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns, which are also available in the church library.

Maxine and Chuck Leslie

Volunteer Mentors Needed!

Project Leadership, a local non-profit, is seeking volunteers to mentor 21st Century Scholars attending Ball State University. Mentors use their experience and problem-solving skills to help students achieve their personal and academic goals. Training and resources are provided by the program. Mentors focus on establishing the personal relationships that are critical to helping students overcome hurdles and persist through degree completion.

Mentor qualifications include: strong communication skills, the ability to develop relationships based on equal responsibility and respect, practical problem-solving skills, and an appreciation of diverse backgrounds.

We currently have 23 freshman looking to be matched with a mentor.

For more information, please contact Julie McGee at (765) 896-8616 or jmcgee@projectleadership.org

To submit a Mentor Application, go to www.projectleadership.org/mentor-application/
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FAMILY EVENT
HOSTED BY THE PRE-KINDERGARTEN

FALL IS OFFICIALLY HERE!

WHICH MEANS HALLOWEEN IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS OPENING ITS DOORS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 FROM 6:00-7:00 PM

FOR PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO
GATHER IN FELLOWSHIP!

BRING YOUR OWN PUMPKIN, CARVING SUPPLIES, AND
A SNACK TO SHARE.

THE EVENING WILL CONCLUDE WITH A PUMPKIN CONTEST
WHERE EVERYONE GETS A VOTE AND THE
TOP 3 PUMPKINS WILL BE AWARDED A PRIZE.

COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN!