One day, a long time ago, God sent an angel with a message to a young woman who was living in the town of Nazareth. She was a virgin. Her name, of course, was Mary and the angel told her something incredible. The angel said that God had plans and as the angel told Mary about those plans, it quickly became clear that God didn’t mind if Mary thought that those plans were reasonable or even possible. To her mind and experience, they weren’t.

Eventually, Mary would give birth to the Son of God. His name is Jesus and He lived and He blessed people and He taught people and He healed people and, when it was the perfect time, He chose to die for all who believe so that they may be forgiven of their sins and so that they may be able to receive eternal life. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, the incredible and incomprehensible plans that God had begun to share with Mary were complete. At every step of the way, the story of Jesus was beyond what anyone dreamed. Mary stands out from everyone else who was involved in the Jesus story by her response right at the beginning. Upon hearing what the angel had to say, she simply said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your Word.” In other words, “I can’t see or understand what God is doing here, but because it is from God, let it be.”

If we are a Church, and I’m pretty sure that’s what we are; if, like Mary, we are followers of God, then God is going to have plans for us and we are going to need to receive them and participate in them in the proper way. From the story involving Mary, we learn that when God shares those plans with us, God never says, “I’ve got something that I’d like to do in and through your life…but only if that’s alright with you.” We also learn that God’s plans, whatever they may be, don’t ever fit nicely and neatly into the little lives that we are building and the routines that we so rigorously maintain. God’s plans always take us right on past our comfort zones and expectations. They often offend our sense of entitlement and assumption of control while taking us immediately into something new and unknown. That’s what happened to Mary and we shouldn’t at all be surprised when that’s what happens with us.

That is what’s happening with us. By now you know First Presbyterian is taking the first steps in a Capital Fund Drive. Now, upon hearing this news, the first conclusion of many might be that the leadership of the church recognized a need to raise extra money and decided of their own accord to make an appeal to the membership of the church to give a little more than they have in the past. That would not be accurate at all.

I can tell you that God has called First Presbyterian into the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. This proclamation is to be made by the people of God who are assembled in this particular body, through worship and learning, through service and sacrifice, through fellowship and through every form of mission work in which we are involved. This calling from God is the same today as it was when this church was founded.

The challenge of fulfilling that calling is now focused on improving and updating several areas of our building. We must make improvements to our building so that we may improve our ability to do ministry in today’s world.

This involves and concerns all of us. This is our calling from God individually and corporately and it will not be easy. It will require sacrifice and faith. It will require all of us to embrace the continued calling of God by joining Mary in saying, “Let it be.”

See you in Church,

Rev. J.D.
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 JD, “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—Fellowship Sunday</th>
<th>November 1—Fellowship Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 13-27</td>
<td>November 8-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Group #1- The Reason for God</td>
<td>* Group #1—Abiding in Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Group #2 - Becoming a Good Samaritan</td>
<td>* Group #2—Forgiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4—Fellowship Sunday</td>
<td>December 6—Fellowship Sunday</td>
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<td>October 11-25</td>
<td>December 13—Forum Discussion</td>
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<td>* Group #1- The Reason for God (cont.)</td>
<td>December 20—Advent Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Group #2 - Becoming a Good Samaritan (cont.)</td>
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TIME TO PRAY!

Thanks to all FPC volunteers who turned out Wednesday, Aug 12 to Saturday, August 15 to rehab this house at 200 E. Memorial into a home! Now, we must pray for a family which will be blessed by this home! Habitat has over 50+ applications but only 2-3 qualified applicants.
Don’t you think the foothills of Central Appalachia would be a wonderful place to serve God in October???

October 11 through 16 will be a beautiful time of year to be in this beautiful area! We will have a 3.5 hour drive after worship on Sunday, October 11, and return home on Friday, October 16.

Cost is $300 per person. BSU fall break is during this trip…come for part or all of the week!

Please email me cathy@firstpresmuncie.org or sign up at the information desk to be a part of this wonderful mission trip. Deadline to register is October 1.

2015 Burnamwood Appalachian Ministry

Burnamwood Camp and Conference Center, has resided in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky for over 50 years. Burnamwood began as a cooperative venture of three Presbyterian groups in Eastern and Central Kentucky. Now, it is the official camp and conference center of the Presbytery of Transylvania. In 2010, Burnamwood began a new tradition – the Burnamwood Appalachian Ministry (BAM).

Our FPC group will stay on site at Burnamwood. During the day, we will venture out into Central Appalachia to take the love of Burnamwood beyond the boundaries of the camp.

Accommodations: Provided!
A beautiful three story home nestled into the side of a mountain.

Food: Provided!
The refrigerator will be stocked when you arrive. You can prepare your meals in your newly-renovated kitchen!

Work Sites: Provided!
The work will vary depending on group size and age, but the jobs will be lined up ahead of time in Irvine and the surrounding communities. As part of your registration packet, you will receive a document that your participants can complete to identify their work ability.

Leadership: Provided!
There will be an on-site work camp coordinator that will work with your group all week!

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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One simple thing will make a big difference in the life of an at-risk child: One-on-one, positive attention from a responsible, caring adult.

As the school year begins, please pray for our Kids Hope mentors and their students:

Cathy Alexander and Craig
Lee Ann Brown and Adrianna
Joyce Carmichael and Robert
Barb Dennis and Gabby
Muggs Gooden and Jordan
Sheila LaChat and Alfred
Carrie Jo Miller will be getting a new student!

These mentors have committed to one hour a week with their students. They are making a difference in the life of each child!

Adult Ministry Luncheon is back on Thursday, September 17 at noon in Fellowship Hall.
Julia Wadsworth will give a talk about the Panama Canal title “The Land Between the Seas”.
Lunch is $3.00 per person, please call the church office (289-4431) to make reservations by Tuesday, September 15.
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

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

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

We are in need of one Sunday School teacher for high schoolers. If you are interested, please contact Elinor Dale 765-289 4431; elinor@firstpresmuncie.org

The CHANCEL CHOIR rehearses weekly on Thursdays, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Members and friends of the church, of college age and above, are invited to participate. If you like to sing and enjoy good fellowship, you will feel very much at home with this group. Ball State students are very welcome! The choir sings regularly for the 11:00 a.m. worship service. For more information, please visit with Kirby Koriath at the organ following the 11 a.m. service, or contact him at kirbykor@comcast.net. The first rehearsal of the season is Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. The HANDBELL CHOIR presents music for worship on a bi-monthly basis. High school students and up with basic music reading skills are welcome to join. This includes BSU students! Contact Kirby Koriath for further information. Rehearsal schedule TBA (likely time, Wednesdays, one hour before Koinonia).

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
Youth will now meet for a separate bible study with Elinor.

Friday, September 11th at the Cardinal Lanes in the BSU Student Center, 6:00-8:00 pm. This is an event for families with children in pre-k through 5th grade. Cost is $5.00 per person and $15.00 maximum per family. We will be ordering pizzas so please make reservations with elinor@firstpresmuncie.org or by calling the church office (289-4431) by Tuesday, Sept. 8th!

We look forward to seeing you!

Acolytes are returning the fourth Sunday of the month at the 11 am worship service only! Grades 3-5 are eligible to participate as well as 6th graders! Any sixth graders or 3-5 graders who missed the first training session and are interested in participating please notify Tracy Clinger at tracy@firstpresmuncie.org or 751-7960.

Upcoming Sermons:
September 6—Of Begging and Praying—Mark 7:24-37
September 13—James 3:1-12
September 20—Mark 9:30-37—On Being Children of God
The Holy Act of Making an Offering—A Stewardship Sermon Series
September 27—Of Hospitality—Genesis 18:1-8
October 4—Of Time—Revelation 22:8-13

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First Presbyterian Church Pre-Kindergarten Celebrates 60 Years

First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten, founded in 1955, will celebrate 60 years of education in the Muncie community and surrounding areas this year. 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 host a weekend celebration for the entire community.

Join us on Saturday, September 19 from 2-5 pm at the church, 1400 W. Riverside Ave. for a Classic Car Show and Free Carnival including horse drawn carriage rides and photo opportunities with the One Muncie selfie station. Families will also enjoy a balloon artist and clowns! Vendors will be available for food and ice cream, so include the entire family! WERK FM will be broadcasting live.

On Sunday, September 20 at the 11:00 am worship service our current preschool children will sing during worship. Current and former teachers and directors will be recognized. A special proclamation from the Mayor’s Office will also be presented. An Open House Reception will follow the service providing the opportunity to reminisce, tour classrooms, and enjoy photos from years past. Cookies and lemonade will be served in Fellowship Hall. We encourages alumni and current families of the Pre-Kindergarten program to join us for worship.

For more information you may contact Tracy Clinger at 751-7960 or check us out on Facebook at First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten!
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.

What a summer we’ve had! With trips to a youth conference in North Carolina and to New Orleans for a week of mission work, it has been busy and fulfilling at the same time. The youth of First Presbyterian made a big difference and brought joy and laughter with them to the worksite each day. It was a blessing to watch them in action!

Branches is off to a great start this fall! With a new schedule and meeting times. Branches kicked off with a youth and parent meeting and we will be starting something NEW!

The second Sunday of each month middle and high schoolers will gather for dinner together from 5-5:30, with middle school meeting the hour before (4 p.m.-5 p.m.) and high schoolers meeting the hour after (5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.).

We also gather on Wednesday nights for our own Koinonia. Join us from 5:45-6:30 for dinner and from 6:30-7:30 for a Bible Study. Each week, we will look at scripture for the next Sunday’s worship service.

After a summer of trips and adventures, we are glad to be meeting in Youth Hall! The renovations so far look wonderful, and the rest is yet to come. If you haven’t had a chance to check it out, stop by and have a look at the progress!

We have lots of exciting things and programs planned for the fall. In particular, the youth will participate in the CROP Walk on September 27. In the weeks to come, be on the lookout for a way to support the youth!

Does your youth play a sport, an instrument, act, dance, or sing? Let Elinor know so she can come cheer them on!

“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
When It Hurts Too Much to Forgive

When someone hurts us, the natural response is to strike back. Revenge may sound sweet, but the result may be nothing but bitterness.

It may not be easy, but Christians must always strive to forgive. Overcoming the obstacles to forgiveness is the purpose of How to Forgive When You Don’t Feel Like It (234.5 HUNT) by June Hunt. She provides a step-by-step process to forgive – even the unforgiveable.

What if the other person isn’t sorry? How can I let someone off the hook for doing something so wrong? The author tackles these common feelings and shows how to get beyond them to find freedom from the shackles of anger and spite.

Ms. Hunt’s advice is based on many years’ experience as a biblical counselor. She is the founder of Hope for the Heart, a worldwide biblical counseling ministry.

The Role of Doubt in Faith

Doubt is not the enemy of faith, argues Barnabas Piper in his new book Help My Unbelief (248.4 PIPE). He invites readers to discover the God who not only desires our belief but also welcomes our curiosity.

Leaving Islam

In 2009, Rifqa Bary ran away from her Ohio home because her Muslim father had abused her and threatened to kill her because she had become a Christian convert. The event made headlines across the country. Rifqa has chosen to explain why she risked everything to become a follower of Jesus in a new book, Hiding in the Light (248.2 BARY).

Rifqa and her family came to the United States from Sri Lanka when she was eight years old. When she was 12, she secretly converted from Islam to Christianity. When her father discovered her secret four years later, she ran away from home.

Her story presents a challenge to readers to consider how far they might go and what they might sacrifice in order to live out their faith. Because of continued threats, Rifqa’s present whereabouts is undisclosed.

Chuck & Maxine Leslie

JOIN THE FUN & HELP THE HOMELESS

On Sunday, September 13, 2015 Project Stepping Stone will hold a dessert auction to raise money to support its ministry to the homeless.

You can help by providing a dessert to be sold at the auction. The dessert should be made by your kind hands (store bought are not welcome). A simple description should be on the top of each container. Please use containers that will not need to be returned. The desserts should be presented in the following portion sizes:

- One dozen brownies, bars or cupcakes
- Two dozen cookies
- A cake
- A pie.

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.
First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303
… Lifting Up Christ
    Building Up People

www.firstpresmuncie.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Presbyterian Church
60th Anniversary
Pre-Kindergarten & Parents’ Day Out Program

JOIN US FOR OUR 60 YEAR CELEBRATION!
Sept. 19th & Sept. 20th
LOOK FOR ALL THE FUN DETAILS INSIDE!