In the May Columns, the Committee on Ministry (COM) of Whitewater Valley Presbytery explained the interim pastor search process in a letter to our congregation. An interim pastor is appointed as part of a partnership between the Session and the COM. Time for intentional discernment (including interviews, discussion, and prayer) involving the Session, the COM, and the potential candidates for interim pastors is necessary.

Over the last couple of weeks, the Session, joined by the Deacons, has interviewed three qualified interim pastor candidates. It is our hope that an interim pastor will be announced in the next several weeks. We look forward to sharing this exciting information at the appropriate time via email, letter, and from the pulpit. And, we especially look forward to welcoming our new interim pastor in the next couple of months.

What does an interim pastor do? In addition to the traditional responsibilities of a pastoral leader, an interim pastor has additional training to work with a congregation during a time of transition. During times of transition, there are five additional responsibilities to be accomplished:

**Coming to Terms with History:** It is important for congregations to know their history so that they can appreciate their heritage and at the same time be aware of the issues and concerns that need to be resolved in order to move freely into the future.

**Discovering a New Identity:** Identity is the task of understanding “who we are now in our present context and what it is we understand God is calling us to be.” It is the task of developing the vision to which a congregation is being called.

**Shifts of Power/Leadership Changes:** In most congregations over a period of time the leadership begins to take on much of the style and values of the previous pastor. When that pastor leaves, there is often a time when persons who have been in leadership rethink their commitment and determine whether or not they want to continue in leadership positions. Other persons often see the interim time as an opportunity to take leadership roles. This is an opportune time to welcome leadership gifts from all parts of the congregation.

**Rethinking Denominational Linkages:** Congregations are often not aware of the support and resources they receive from their presbytery and national denominational structures. That relationship is normally more visible while the structures of the church beyond the congregation are engaged in working with the congregation in moving through the interim period and seeking to find the right pastor to call.

**Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future:** When a congregation has developed a shared vision of its future and has sought to call a pastor to help lead it in moving toward that future, there will probably be a new commitment both to that new leader and to that new future.

With great love for our church,
The Members of Session
People are defined by their problems.
Here’s a more accurate way to put it: You are defined by whatever you consider your most important problem.

Something like half the world has to address the same vexing problems day after day:

What are we going to eat today?
How can I keep my children safe?
Where can we find adequate healthcare?
Who will take care of me when I can no longer take care of myself?

People who experience greater prosperity begin to trade up for what we might call better and more interesting problems.

The problem with your problems, however, is that they might not be big enough. Sometimes we obsess over problems that are far too small:

How can I get the recognition I deserve?
What are the most secure opportunities within my field of work?
How can I get rid of this sag around my middle?
Who should my team draft tonight to put us on the road to the Super Bowl?

What’s the simplest and easiest way to get rich?

You might protest that figuring out how to become rich is hardly a small problem, or everyone would have solved it.

But it’s wiser to say that accumulating wealth is not a noble problem. It’s not a problem worth living for and dying for.

People with larger visions and what we might call “large souls” surrender their lives to extraordinary problems:

How can we end human trafficking?
How can a free society be both secure and welcoming to outsiders?
How can we safeguard the earth’s fragile ecosystems?
How can we eradicate extreme poverty, so that no one has to wonder what they will eat today?

Sometimes the Good Life is pictured as the condition of having to face fewer and fewer problems.

Sometimes even spirituality is marketed as the surest route to a problem-free existence.

But as corporate change guru Ichak Adizes points out, the only condition that absolutely guarantees the cessation of all problems is death: “Having fewer problems is not living. It’s dying. Addressing and being able to solve bigger and bigger problems means that our strengths and capacities are improving.”

In other words, growing up and being successful doesn’t mean avoiding problems. It means having the courage to trade up for far more worthy problems.

So what’s your problem?

We all need a problem so big and so important that it cannot be solved unless God shows up.

Which, interestingly enough, turns out to be the truest definition of what it means to be rich.
Paint Party—June 25th

Ladies (ages 8 and up), join us for a Paint Party! We will create some art and admire some art! If you don’t want to try your hand at painting, join us for lunch and the visit to the art museum!

9:00    Gather for coffee
9:30 to 11:30    Works of Heart-Painting Party with Meghan Zick (limited to 35; cost is $25 to paint a 16x20 canvas) check out Meghan’s Facebook page: Works-of-Heart-Painting-Parties-by-Meghan-Zick
11:30 to 12:00    Clean up
12:00 to 1:15    Lunch/Fellowship Time (cost $10 for a prepared box lunch)
1:30 to 4:30    Visit to the BSU Art Museum (free!) we will walk or drive to the museum.

Reservations due to the church office by June 20.
(289-4431; keena@firstpresmuncie.org)

FPC is going back to the Prairie!
Save the Date! Friday, July 29

The Temptations offer a rich blend of voices accompanied by stylish, coordinated dance moves performing songs like “My Girl,” “Ain't Too Proud to Beg” and “Papa Was a Rolling Stone.” Then, the Four Tops bring back the hits with “I Can't Help Myself” (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch),” “Baby I Need Your Loving,” “Reach Out I'll Be There” and many others. Don’t miss these two Motown legends on one stage!

The cost is $55 including ticket, motor coach, and table.

*If you would like to go, call the church office 289-4431 or email keena@firstpresmuncie.org

Habitat Build Week  July 27-30

4th of July Tailgate
Bring your own food and drinks and join us at dusk for the fireworks!
**KIDS HOPE**

The 2015-16 school year began, and it was my second year to be with Gabby who was starting 3rd grade. We had a special relationship our first year together, and I was excited to begin another year with her. She was one of eight children in a "blended" family, and I'm sure the one-on-one relationship we had each week was very beneficial for her.

Then, early in the year, we started playing games with Lee Ann Brown and her mentee, Adrianna, and two more friends entered Gabby's life.

Tuesday afternoons were loaded with fun for our new "small group" which oftentimes was opened up to other mentors and their students. We soon realized that this gave us an opportunity to teach these children "group dynamics" along with gently improving grammar and proper social behavior. We understood that even though this wasn't one of the goals of Kid's Hope, we could see these children become kinder to each other, and begin to make friendships they might not have made except through this new endeavor.

When the 2nd semester started, Lee Ann's teaching schedule changed and she could no longer continue mentoring on Tuesday afternoons. About that same time, Gabby's father found a job and, since he was her only transportation home after Kid's Hope, she had to leave the program. So, with Gabby unable to continue, and Lee Ann unable to mentor, I volunteered to mentor Adrianna with the condition that if Gabby's situation changed and she could come back, I would be able to mentor both girls.

I mentored Adrianna until the year ended, and I must say that I think she missed Lee Ann as much as I missed Gabby. But, because we had established a relationship throughout the year with our "small group", it was much easier for both of us to continue with a new relationship.

It was very special when Gabby was able to come back at our end-of-the-year party for all the Kid's Hope kids and their families. The following is a letter she wrote to me that day, along with a colored cut-out of her hand with my initial on the palm and the word "love" written on the thumb.

"Dear barbe,

I will miss you. I hope you have a great summer. I hope you like your gift. You the best Kidhope mentor. But I can't wait to see you again. I hope no one ruins your summer. You are amazing. I hope everybody can see how nice you are. You the nicest person ever. You the sweetest. I wish I would never have to leave Kid hope.

LOVE

On second thought, maybe I should have spent more time with her on spelling.

Or maybe not -- Having fun always trumps spelling.

Kid's Hope is a wonderful program which does as much for the mentor as it does for the special kids we grow to love. .

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR ALL OF US!!

*Barbara Dennis*
“Working with Adrianna the past four years at Kid’s Hope has been the most wonderful mentoring experience. My life has been spent in education with disadvantaged youth teaching in Ferguson, Missouri, to volunteering at Southview Elementary in Muncie. The past semester, I was not able to be with Adrianna because of my teaching schedule. Because of the way our group worked with our dedicated and loving mentoring, Barb Dennis stepped in to be with Adrianna weekly. We were all used to being together as children and mentors each week. It is like a family. Adrianna and I still had this unbelievable bond, and when I came for the last day, it was like I had been with her every week.

One of the most interesting things with her was trying to explain why I could not be there. She at eleven did not understand why I had to be at work. You see, no one in her household works. I see the struggles this child has ahead of her, and I am sorry that my time is finished with her. My hope is that by spending this time with me and the other mentors, these four years will be a lasting memory of love and teaching. I know that she will be forever in my heart. God has blessed Adrianna and me for the gift of spending this time together.

Please pray for the children and their mentors.”

Lee Ann Brown

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.

Kids Hope USA develops these one-on-one relationships through the creation of church-school partnerships that pair church members with at-risk kids in supportive, mentoring relationships.

Kids Hope USA mentors spend just one hour per week, reading, talking, playing and listening to a child at school. By helping the child feel loved and valued, they help that child to learn, grow and succeed.

You can change a life...and that's no small change.

If you would like to be a mentor next school year or would like more information please contact Cathy@firstprespuncie.org

2016 SALVATION ARMY

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FIRST PRES

Volunteers will be needed from 1:00 p.m. until approximately 2:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Three volunteers are needed each day. The Food Pantry begins at 1 p.m. Please arrive no later than 12:45 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer or for more information please check the bulletin board behind the information desk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>June 14-16</th>
<th>July 19-21</th>
<th>August 23-25</th>
<th>September 27-29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

June donation item:

Cereals

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.
“KINDERGARTEN...HERE WE COME!”

Join us for our Kindergarten Readiness program for children entering kindergarten in the Fall of 2016. This one week program (July 18-22, 2016 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm) will allow the children the opportunity to review academic skills and encourage social and independent skills needed for success in kindergarten. Daily activities will include, but are not limited to, story time, letter identification and sound recognition, early math skills, problem solving, self-help skills and socialization with peers. The children will bring a sack lunch which will provide the opportunity for children to eat with their peers and socialize through table conversation but also eat their lunch within a designated time frame. Cost is a $20 registration fee (non-refundable) and $95 for the week. Space is limited to 20 students and registration is required. Sign up online at firstpresmuncie.org under the Pre-K & PDO tab!

Wacky Wednesdays

Join us for a mid-week program designed for children ages 3-5 (or just completed preschool) on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Cost is $18 (bring a sack lunch) per week. The program will run for 6 weeks, June 8th to July 13th, accepting 20 students each Wednesday. Your child must be potty trained to participate in the program. Sign up for one or all of the Wednesday adventures online at firstpresmuncie.org under the Pre-K & PDO tab!

June 8: “All About Zoo Animals”– Come learn about zoo animals, their habitats and activity throughout a typical day! We will enjoy various crafts and move like zoo animals.

June 15: “Dino Dig”– Travel back in time with us to the Dinosaur Days! We will participate in a dinosaur dig in the sand, crack open dinosaur eggs and make some dinosaur crafts! Come join the fun.

June 22: “Pet Palooza!”– Join us for a day all about pets! Phil Peckinpaugh from the Muncie Animal Shelter will be bringing a few animals and talking about pet safety. We will make crafts and learn how to care for the pets we have or hope to have in the future.

June 29: “Reach for the Stars” – Blast off to outer space as we learn about the moon and stars, as well as space travel. Crafts will include our very own creative constellations!

July 6: “Winter in July”– Today is all about winter, even though the weather is warm! We will make our own ice cream, play in the "snow" and paint with ice! Not only will we learn about the winter weather but other seasons as well.

July 13: “Go for the Gold”– In honor of the Summer Olympics, we will enjoy relay races, obstacle courses and learn about the origins of the Olympics! And most of all learn the importance of good sportsmanship!
**THE COLUMNS**

**SIGN OF HOPE**

How many of you looked at the sign in front of the church today? Could you tell me what it says? If you are like me, it’s just part of the background...something I just don’t pay attention to. Stop and look at the side you see when you are driving to Ball State. You will notice that some of the letters are tilted and that the plastic, which is supposed to hold them in place, is warped. If you were to open the case and arrange all the letters perfectly and then shut the case, the letters would still shift and get wonky all over again. To put it simply, the sign needs to be replaced.

The grounds committee has studied the problem over the last several years. We looked into several options, the first of which was replacing the sign with an identical one. We also asked Gary Mader of Advanced Signs to bring actual electronic signs to our grounds meeting so we could see them in person. After our research, our committee voted to replace our “non-techy” sign with a high definition, full color, programmable electronic sign. Rather than blending into the background, it will be noticed by those driving or walking by. The obvious advantage is that Keena can program it to show sermon topics, special events and so on. What a great way to let others know what’s happening at First Pres!

You might say, sure the sign needs replacing, but why now? Why now when our church is in turmoil? My answer is that is exactly why we need what I call “Sign of Hope” at this time. Our church needs a common goal or project to rally around. To me, this sign is a metaphor. It’s a sign of healing. It’s a sign of commitment to the community of faith that is the First Presbyterian Church. It’s a sign that the Holy Spirit is among us and calling us into a new and exciting future. I pray that the “Sign of Hope” be another step in our church’s continuing outreach to our community!

Donate to make this dream a reality. The sign will cost approximately $28,000 with 1/2 down before work begins and the other 1/2 due upon completion. Donations large or small can be made to the First Presbyterian Church “Sign of Hope” fund. Because of our congregation's generosity, we are well on our way to our goal of $28,000. As of 5/25, we have received $11,220 in cash and pledges, which includes the 1-1 match. I’m convinced that our “Sign of Hope” can be in place in time to welcome the BSU students at the end of August.

*Humbled by your response, Jan McCune and the Grounds Committee*

---

**A Day on the Burton Farm: July 23, 2016**

Parents and grandparents with children preschool to fifth grade come join us for some farm fun!

4:00 pm: Feed the animals, tour the barn and walk the creek

(Appropriate footwear, NO open toe shoes)

5:30 pm: Dinner by the Pool - Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Bring a side dish to share.

6:30 pm: Swim (bring your swimsuit and towel; plenty of places to change!)

Any questions contact Jacqueline Burton (jacqueline@burtonfarm.org) or Tracy Clinger, Director of Children's Ministry, 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org.
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

Enjoy your Summer and watch your emails!

Branches’ Upcoming Events

Don’t forget: July 11-14! Final details are in the works!
We will be working with:
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Home Savers
- Harvest Soup Kitchen
And other local agencies!
Youth will be able to participate as they are able in the mission opportunities and fellowship opportunities throughout our time serving in Muncie.

Gishler Scholarships Awarded at First Presbyterian Church

Four high school seniors are recipients of this year’s Lewis Weber Gishler Memorial Scholarship. Friends, family, and former parishioners created the scholarship in Dr. Gishler’s name to further expand his commitment to education and excellence. The scholarship is given to children of members of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, where Dr. Gishler served for 30 years. This year’s recipients are Theresa Bittermann, Ian Bretz, Katie Rogers, and Owen Shrock.

Theresa Bittermann, the daughter of Katja and the late Duke Bittermann, plans to study engineering at Purdue University following graduation from the Indiana Academy of Science and Mathematics. Theresa ran the sound board on Sunday mornings, attended Branches (youth group), helped with Vacation Bible School, and participated in Youth Choir.

Ian Bretz, son of Erick and Cathy Bretz, will attend Purdue University after graduation from Delta High School and plans to study biochemistry. He attended Branches (youth group), went on 5 summer mission trips and participated in local mission activities, and served as a Youth Deacon.

Katie Rogers, daughter of Bill and Heather Rogers, is graduating from Muncie Central High School and will attend Miami University studying either German and Biology or Global Studies and French. Katie attended Branches (youth group), helped with the Preschool summer programming and Vacation Bible School, and served the larger church as a Youth Deacon.

Owen Shrock, son of Joel and Kelly Shrock, will attend Franklin College in the fall studying Public Relations and Communication. Owen participated in Branches (youth group), volunteered with local mission organizations, helped with Vacation Bible School, attended a youth conference, and served as a Youth Deacon.
We welcome Rev. Cancu to Muncie!

Reverend Cancu (center), the Executive Secretary of our partner church in the Dominican Republic, will visit us on Tuesday, June 14, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Our partner church, Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana (IED), The Evangelical Church of the Dominican Republic, was founded in 1922 as an ecumenical project by three denominations: the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the United Brethren, and the Presbyterian Church. In 1960 the church united with the Wesleyan Methodists, and later in the same year with the Moravians. In 1978, the Evangelical Church of the Dominican Republic, together with Dominican Episcopal Church founded the Center for Theological Studies of Santo Domingo, a Protestant seminary. Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana has a passion for evangelism, starting new churches, and Christian education. They are also active in medical outreach and clean water projects. Much of their medical outreach has included care for the Haitian community in the Dominican Republic and they provide assistance for medical, documentation, and new mothers.

Garden Services begin on Sunday, June 5, at 8:30 a.m. and continue through the summer.

Youth & Adult Sunday School and Fellowship Sunday will return in the Fall! See you then!

Calling all gardeners: Join the Weekly Weeders on Wednesdays from 9 - 11. Bring your own tools, and we’ll provide the fellowship and laughter. Call Jan McCune (717-4291) if you have any questions.

Pre-K enrollment for the 2016-17 school year is open! Sign up online at www.firstpresmuncie.org

Upper Room Devotional Booklets for May - June are available at the information desk and outside the church office.

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
YOU ARE INVITED...  Whitewater Valley Presbytery (WVP) began forming a partnership with the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana (IED) in 2013. This has included a vision trip with leaders from the Hispanic Ministry Lead Team, Music Workshops, and providing supplies for VBS through Dorcas Baskets. We seek to continue building our relationship with the IED by connecting congregations (pastors and members) in WVP with the IED. On this trip we will learn more about our partner church through visiting churches and speaking with their pastors, leaders, and members. Participants will be asked to participate in preparation work, the trip, and follow-up work.

We invite you to join in this process of building relationships, as we seek to faithfully live out God’s mission in partnership with our brothers and sisters in the DR!

**Location:** Barahona, Dominican Republic  
**Dates:** Sept 12-16, 2016  
**Cost:** Approximately $1200; This includes $750 for airfare and the rest for housing, food, and transportation. Limited scholarships available.  
**Ages:** 18 and older  
**Passport:** Required  
**Language:** None required; Spanish speakers are a blessing.  
**Contact:** Karen Herbst-Kim (revkaren@gmail.com or 815.354.0017)  
Barry Sumner (bsumner@indy.rr.com or 317.840.5638)
**June 25**
Paint Party

**July 4**
Parking Lot Party

**July 23**
Day on the Burton Farm

**July 27–30**
Habitat Build Week

**July 29**
Symphony on the Prairie

**August 14**
Beef and Boards Church Basement Ladies