First Presbyterian Church
March 2016

Dear First Presbyterian Church family,

Right now we are experiencing sadness and grief over the departure of The Rev. J.D. Georlett as Senior Pastor. It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to our brother in Christ. In these times of uncertainty, it may seem easy to walk away from the church. However, we are a congregation, a body, and a family bound together by Christ. Although we cry out to God in our own ways, we continue to rely on one another for support and strength, and continue to worship the one God who unites us as one. As a congregation, we continue on our Lenten journey with Christ. As we approach Holy Week and the joy of the Easter resurrection, our grief is not overshadowed, but can and should become a part of our journey as we seek to worship the Triune God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dale & Pastor Lee

Moving forward in hope...

**Sunday, March 6:** No 8:30 service. We will have Fellowship Sunday at 9:45 and Sunday school for children and youth. There will be **ONE worship service at 11:00 a.m.** with the Rev. Galen Schwarz, of Indianapolis, preaching and a Congregational meeting will follow at 12:05 p.m., moderated by Rev. Schwarz.

**Sunday, March 13:** We will follow our usual schedule; we will have a guest preacher. Julia Wadsworth will give a presentation about the Scotland trip during the Sunday School hour.

**Palm Sunday, March 20:** We will follow our usual schedule with Glenn McDonald preaching at both services. Tracy Clinger will give the children’s message about the children’s Bibles which will “debut” in the pews! There will be a brunch between services instead of Sunday School. We will also have a donkey outside during the brunch.

**Maundy Thursday, March 24:** We will worship at St. Andrew with Rev. Katherine Rieder preaching and Pastor Lee and Pastor Dale will assist.

**Easter Sunday March 27:** There will be an Easter Sunrise service at 7 a.m. in the Chapel and the traditional service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Glenn McDonald will be preaching.
Dominican Republic Trip News

Our fourth mission trip to the Dominican Republic is fast approaching!

Our team will fly out on Saturday, March 5, and return on March 12. Our first goal of the trip, as always, is to build relationships! How will we do that?? We will spend time with the children of Mella, teaching the story of Joseph. Pastor Lee will teach Taekwondo to older youth. We will branch out into the community by spending time in the Mella preschool which is directed by a pastor from another Mella church. In addition, as part of our cultural exchange, we will share pictures of our church and our activities. Our friends in the DR are eager to know about our life here, and I believe we have established a good foundation to share life at FPC! Please see page 3 for our teams itinerary.

If you would be willing to pray for a team member (Dan Alexander, Jessica Burkey, Tracy Clinger, Autumn Duncan, Michelle Kaitchuck, Pastor Lee, Carrie Jo Miller, Lauren Simmons, or Brad Southwick) or the whole team while we are gone, please see the prayer plan below.

Prayer Plan for the 2016 Dominican Republic Mission Trip

March 5
Pray for safe travels; pray for our friends who will meet us at the airport:
Pastor Luis, Eli, Abner, Jochy, Juan

March 6
Pray for our friends in Mella. Pray for a day of worship and rejuvenation.
Pray for Pastor Lee who will preach in the evening. His scripture is John 9: 1-12.

March 7-11
All this week, we will teach the children the story of Joseph.
Read and pray for us with the following curriculum prompts:

March 7
Theme: God mourns because of the divisions among his children.
Read: Joseph is sold by his brothers, Genesis 37:3-34
Memory verse: Colossians 3:14

March 8
Theme: God never abandons his children.
Read: Joseph is imprisoned, Genesis 39
Memory verse: Romans 8:28

March 9
Theme: God blesses the world through his children.
Read: Joseph is made governor of Egypt, Genesis 41:14-40, 56-57
Memory verse: Zechariah 10:12

March 10
Theme: God leads his children to make peace with one another.
Read: Joseph greets his brothers, Genesis 42:6-8, 45:1-15
Memory verse: Ephesians 4:32

March 11
Theme: God reunites his family.
Read: Joseph is reunited with his father, Genesis 46:26-30
Memory verse: Colossians 1:22

March 12
Pray for safe travels; pray for our reunion with our families
2016 SALVATION ARMY

Food Pantry Volunteer Schedule for First Pres

Volunteers will be needed from 1:00pm until approximately 2:30-4:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Three volunteers are needed each day.

The Food Pantry begins at 1pm. Please arrive no later than 12:45pm

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

2016 DR Mission Trip Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday, March 6</th>
<th>Monday, March 7</th>
<th>Tuesday, March 8</th>
<th>Wednesday, March 9</th>
<th>Thursday, March 10</th>
<th>Friday, March 11</th>
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<td>8-9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>10-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome and participation in their Bible Study</td>
<td>Bible School in the church and Taekwondo</td>
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<td>12-2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>2-6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Bible School, Preschool, Taekwondo</td>
<td>Bible School, Preschool, Taekwondo</td>
<td>Bible School in the Church of Duverge, Taekwondo</td>
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<td>6-7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Time to Share: Meet our missionary brothers</td>
<td>Celebration of women in the church</td>
<td>PowerPoint Presentation: Life at First Pres</td>
<td>Farewell Celebration</td>
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Third Thursday

BSU travel and tourism students will give a presentation on their class project, a proposed Day Trip for First Pres members and friends.

Thursday March 17th
12:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Cost: $3.00

Call the church office (765-289-4431) or email keena@firstpresmuncie.org by NOON Tuesday, March 15th to register.

March 1-3
April 5-7
May 10-12
June 14-16
July 19-21
August 23-25
September 27-29
First Presbyterian Pre-K Registration

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now open!
You can register online at firstprespumc.org under the Pre-K and PDO tab.
We are filling quickly! Our two year old, Toddler Time has filled, but we have added a second day on Wednesdays. One of three 4 year old classes has filled.
Please share with anyone you know looking for a loving, Christian preschool for next year.
Any questions, contact Tracy Clinger at 751-7960 or tracy@firstprespumc.org.

Children’s Bibles

Look for the children’s bibles in the pews on Palm Sunday, March 20! The response to children’s bibles in the pews has exceeded the original goal of two per pew and we only need 38 more to have three per pew, which would be ideal. The opportunity to purchase a bible in memory or honor of a loved one, a teacher, a child, etc. is still available. Please complete the information below or pick up a card at the information desk.

CHILDREN’S BIBLE FORM:

Please complete one form per bible.

Cost: $12.00 each

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

In Honor of _____________________________________________

In Memory of _____________________________________________

From (your name) _____________________________________________

Date you submit your form: ____________________________

Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and indicate in the memo: Children’s Bible. Please submit this form with your payment to Tracy Clinger, the office, or place it in the offering plate.
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

March
March 6: 5-7 p.m. Movie Night!
March 13: Dinner at Panera
March 20: 5-7 p.m. Movie Night!
March 27: No Branches

Palm Sunday All Church Brunch

Please bring a dish (serves 10-12) to share. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with church family during this Easter season. Weather permitting the donkey is scheduled to arrive at 9:15 am! Children of all ages may have their picture taken with the donkey outside the north lobby entrance between 9:15 – 11:00 am and enjoy making a craft in the north lobby!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are assisting in the empowerment of others as they move past emotional, physical, and spiritual misfortune, through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

From the beginning, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering has been an ecumenical effort. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Please give generously on March 27th.

Fellowship Sunday & Adult Sunday School:

March 6—Fellowship Sunday
March 13—Forum Discussion with Julia Wadsworth on the Scotland trip
March 20—Palm Sunday Brunch including a visit from the donkey (outside) from 9:15–11:00 a.m.
March 27—No Sunday School
April 3—Fellowship Sunday
April 10–24
  Group #1—The Case for Christ (Bride’s Room)
  Group #2—Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith (Fellowship Hall)
Family Game Night

Thank you to everyone who came to Game Night on Feb. 27!

We had a wonderful evening of fellowship, games, laughter, and snacks in Fellowship Hall.

Games included Mexican Train, Chicken foot, Giant Jenga, Euchre, Giant Twister, Headbanz, Catchphrase, and many more games! Be on the lookout for another Game Night in the future!
GROUND CLEAN-UP PARTY
Saturday, March 19 @ 9 am

Spring’s right around the corner...and so is the Annual Spring Clean Up Day! Bring your tools and join us on Saturday, March 19th from 9 till noon. Jobs include planting shrubs and pansies, digging out ground cover, pruning roses, cutting back grasses, raking, shoveling top soil and mulch and more. Juice, snacks, laughter and fellowship provided! Any questions, call Jan McCune at 717-4291.

Dee Dah Day
Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group
March 4th & 18th at 9 a.m. in the church lounge.
All are welcome!

Don’t forget to change your clocks
Sunday, March 13th 2016 at 2 am.

Salvation Army Pantry Item For March:
Canned fruits and veggies
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

The church will be closed on Good Friday, March 25th.

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.
We hope to see the sanctuary filled with beautiful Easter lilies on Sunday, March 27. As in previous years you have the opportunity to order lilies in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. The flowers may then be taken home with you after the Easter service.

To order, please place this completed form and payment in the offering plate or send to the church office at 1400 W. Riverside Ave., Muncie IN 47303.

To ensure accuracy please print clearly.

Order forms must be received by the church office by Sunday, March 20, 2016!

Qty. Ordered: _______ X $12.00 each = Total due _______
Date paid: ___________ Amt paid: $__________
Chk#___________

In loving memory of:
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

In honor or celebration of:
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

Given by:
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________