To Our Sisters and Brothers of First Presbyterian Church in Muncie:

Isaiah, the great prophet of the Old Testament, spoke these words to a people facing great uncertainty about their future: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” (Isaiah 43:1-3)

The Commission on Ministry of Whitewater Valley Presbytery knows that the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Muncie also may feel that they are facing great uncertainty about their future. On your behalf, therefore, we claim the promises of God as shared by Isaiah.

And to speak to some of the uncertainty, we want to share with you some of the ways in which we plan to be in partnership with you in the days ahead. The Moderator of your Session, Rev. Jeff Jahn of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Marion, Indiana, already has discussed with the Session (on behalf of the Commission on Ministry) the need for the congregation to have an interim (or transitional) minister. The Session has provided some necessary paperwork to begin the process of searching for an interim pastor. Alan Thames, the Executive Presbyter, has been reaching out to qualified individuals who might consider serving as the interim pastor.

Many of you may wonder what an interim pastor does. 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, which are as follows:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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 an opportunity to take leadership roles. This is an opportune time to welcome leadership gifts from all parts of the congregation.

4. **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 continued on page 2
5. **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.

An interim pastor is appointed as part of a partnership between the Session and the Commission on Ministry. Time for intentional discernment (including interviews, discussion and prayer) involving the Session, the COM and the potential candidates for interim pastors is necessary. It is our mutual hope that perhaps an interim pastor might be identified and available to serve by the summer.

Many of you might also want to know when a Pastor Nominating Committee will be formed to call the next installed Head of Staff/Senior Pastor. The Commission on Ministry believes that there is much work to be done prior to that step of the process. Likewise, we do not believe that this work should be hurried or rushed. We ask for your understanding and your patience during the months ahead so that, in partnership with you, we might discern the appropriate time for the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and begin the search for a new Head of Staff/Senior Pastor. In the meantime, we believe that God will lead just the right person to you to lead during this time of transition.

Please know that our Presbytery seeks to walk alongside your congregation in the time ahead. We pray that in all times and ways we might continue to discover the presence of the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior!

In Christ’s Service,

The Commission on Ministry of Whitewater Valley Presbytery

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**Adult Sunday School:**

The CE committee is looking for individuals with input for the Adult Sunday School curriculum for 2016-17. We are not asking for teachers or facilitators. Rather, we are seeking input on format and content of the Adult Sunday School curriculum. Please contact Jason Arnold or join the CE committee at our monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 in the conference room.

**May Sunday School Schedule**

- May 1 - Youth Sunday/Recognition Brunch
- May 8 - Fellowship Sunday
- May 15 - DR trip presentation
- May 22 - Cuba trip presentation
- May 29 - No Sunday school
  
  summer schedule begins
Save the Date!

June 25
Paint party (for ladies only; see info below*)

July 4
Parking Lot Party (for all)

July 23
Day on the Burton Farm (for preschoolers through 5th graders and their families)

July 29
Symphony on the Prairie (for all)

August 14
Beef and Boards-Church Basement Ladies

Paint Party—June 25th

9:00
Gather for coffee

9:30-11:30
Works of Heart
Painting Party with Meghan Zick

11:30-12:00
Clean up

12:00-1:15
Lunch/Speaker

1:30-4:30
Visit the BSU Art Museum

Watch for more information!

Join Julia Wadsworth and friends for lunch and a presentation on Cuba!

Thursday May 19th
12:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Cost: $3.00

Call the church office
(765-289-4431) or email
keena@firstprespuncie.org by
NOON Tuesday, May 17th to register.

FFC 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!

Cost: $55

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

A big thank you to all of the youth who will participate in Youth Sunday, and who helped plan every aspect of the service. Youth spent two weeks planning the service, getting into the scripture in depth, and writing all of the liturgy for Sunday morning. It was a big effort, but their hard work payed off in amazing ways!

Congratulations graduating Seniors: Theresa Bittermann, Ian Bretz, Weston Clinger, Katie Rogers, & Owen Shrock!

Be on the lookout for news about a Summer Mission opportunity from July 11-14!
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.

May 10-12
June 14-16
July 19-21
August 23-25
September 27-29

SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:
May donation item: Peanut Butter & Jelly
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

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. 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

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.

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
Changing Religion

From examining the ways Americans worship, a social scientist concludes that old time religion isn’t good enough for many people any more. Professor Alan Wolfe studied worship and worshipers at a wide range of Protestant and Catholic Churches and synagogues. He found that religious practices often differ from those of previous generations.

Modern culture has had great influence on religion. For example, in many of today’s churches, worshipers are more likely to hear guitars than Mozart. Sermons may be accompanied by big-screen visual aids, and pews have been replaced by individual chairs – often with cup holders – so that church-goers can bring their coffee and soft drinks into the sanctuary.

The author is director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College. His book is The Transformation of American Religion (200.973 WOLF).

Save the Earth

The Lord calls his children to be stewards of the earth, but too often Christians have not met the challenge. In Serve God, Save the Planet (261.8 SLEE), author J. Matthew Sleeth calls Christians to action.

Turning to Jesus for guidance, the author discovered how scriptural lessons of personal responsibility, simplicity, and stewardship can be applied to modern life. He provides a rationale for environmentally responsible life changes.

Comebacks

Everyone experiences setbacks, failures, and disappointment. When these things occur, its time for a comeback, writes Louis Giglio in his book The Comeback (2291.3 GIGL). His book offers encouragement and perspective. It celebrates new beginnings.

The author points out that God gives fresh starts to people. He gives hope to the hopeless, direction to the directionless, and help to those who need help.

The author is a pastor in Atlanta, Ga.

Wisdom for Families

In his book Coming Home (248.4 DOBS) author James Dobson has compiled brief inspirational essays for families to read and contemplate together. The essays – none longer than two pages – are lessons from life each illustrating the importance of a particular characteristic such as tolerance or patience.

The author of numerous books, Dr. Dobson is founder and president of Focus on the Family.
Join our mid-week program designed for ages 3-5 (or just completed preschool) on Wednesdays.

June 8 - July 13, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

“Kindergarten... Here We Come!”

Kindergarten Readiness program for children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2016.

July 18-22, 2016, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

More information inside on Page 4 and online at firstpresmuncie.org!