"Stepping Forward"

The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith

I like to walk. I’m apparently in good company. My sources indicate walking is the most popular form of exercise. There’s no financial cost. People of any age can engage it. It’s simple. Movement does the body good. No matter how, where, when or why we walk, every walk starts in the same way. A walk starts by taking one step. One step changes everything.

This has been a unique year for us as a church. At this time last year First Presbyterian was full of hope and making plans for the future regarding facility changes to enhance ministry for years to come. The departure of your former pastor and attendant matters challenged this church individually and as a congregation as you moved through the Spring and Summer. I joined you as your interim pastor two months ago. It is a privilege to stand among you.

I’ve heard people express gratitude for where we are right now. It’s like we have caught our breath a bit. We are getting our feet under us in ways that steady us. We are reminded that God is with us and has been and will be. There is a growing sense of anticipation for all that God wants to show us and accomplish through us. It is good to be in a time and place where we can get our bearings, something vitally necessary in order to begin our journey again.

Our theme for the Fall is Hope. Because we are called to faith in God through Jesus, hope is to be our constant companion, our unalterable conviction. This leads us to believe that there is a path for us to travel, one that begins with one step and then another. Each step takes us closer and closer to all that God intends, a future full of love, peace and joy. The journey to that future begins right now.

I am grateful to stand with you right where we are as pastor and church. It is my conviction that we have been brought together by God. I know, pastors — especially interim pastors — are supposed to say things like this! But, I mean it. I mean it with all my heart. I am excited about what God is doing and will do in and through us all.

In the next few weeks, a letter will come to all who call First Presbyterian Church home. This letter will give more details about our "Stepping Forward" generosity emphasis as we approach the end of the year and the beginning of 2017. I encourage us all to joyously consider what we will do to help our church totally support the ministry God has given us at this key juncture.

This is a vitally important time for us as a congregation. Henry Ford once said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." May we show ourselves to be a hope-filled people as we journey together, Stepping Forward into what the Apostle Paul describes as the "whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

I look forward to how we will get moving in fresh ways as we step out for the cause of Christ.
**Many Thanks for Many Years**

Dear members of First Presbyterian,

A week after the splendid celebration in my honor, Kristi and I continue to bask in the afterglow of this wonderful weekend. The loving care and overall attention to detail by Aileen Howard and members of the Worship and Religious Arts Committee, and by Julia Wadsworth and Bill Rogers and members of the Fellowship & Spiritual Growth Committee were evident throughout the celebration. Very much appreciated were remarks/tributes at the dinner by Tom Schwartz, Alan Wilson, composer Bob Hobby, Asher John and Sunaina Asher, Ron Naylor, John Foster, Nancy Swickard, and members of the Chancel Choir; the remarks at the Sunday service by Kerry Glann and Pastor Pat Smith were gratifying as well. Thank you for all of this, as well as the congregational gift as described by Julia Wadsworth!

Speaking of gifts, the commissioned anthem—*Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord* by Robert Hobby—is yet another remarkable gift, for our choir and church choirs at-large. The preparation and presentation of this piece at the Sunday worship service by Kerry Glann, Sunwoo Lee, and the Chancel Choir was outstanding. I’m confident this work will rank among the very best choral settings of Psalm 100! In addition, our family appreciated the opportunity Tad and I had for sharing piano/organ duets during the service.

First Presbyterian Church continues on a wonderful journey in worship, music, and the arts!

Thank you very much, and Godspeed.

Kirby Koriath

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**Celebrating Don Ester’s Music Ministry**

The 8:30 service on November 13 will be a special event! Several members of Don Ester’s family will participate, and they will be joined by other musicians who have been in a Praise Team with Don over his many years of service to the church. Don’s daughter Kate, a PCUSA pastor, will preach at both services that day.

A brunch between the services will provide a chance to greet Don’s whole family and thank him for his ministry. Please bring a dish to share.

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**Volunteer Bus Drivers**

A team of volunteers is being assembled to take over this ministry. The church bus is very easy to drive and doesn’t require a special license. The bus leaves the parking lot at 10:20 to arrive at Westminster around 10:30 am. The group is in the main lobby waiting for the bus (pull under the overhang). After the service, you bring the van to the circle to pick up the group.

If you would be willing to drive, please contact the church office 289-4431. A reminder email with the schedule will be sent out weekly.

**Current bus driver schedule:**

- November 6: Jeff Clinger
- November 13: Claudia Sursa
- November 20: Jonathan Schmidt
- November 27: Bob Wadsworth
- December 4
- December 11
- December 18

*Thanks very much for your willingness to serve!*
“Meet the Smiths”

Over a hundred and fifty people have attended a “Meet the Smiths” home gathering in the past month. We’ve discovered that this is far more than meeting Pat and Laura on a more informal level. Guided conversations have helped us celebrate what has been meaningful about our church and our hopes for the future. For those who have not participated, there will be other opportunities announced soon. If you are willing to host a gathering between now and Thanksgiving, please let the office know. (765) 289–4431

Thank you all, Pat

Church Financial Condition Update

Last month the Finance Committee felt the need to share with you the state of the church’s finances. At that time, August was the most recent full month of revenues and expenses. We reported that our General Fund, which consists of tithes and offerings that are used to operate the church and help support our mission giving, had a deficit of nearly $72,000 year to date, which meant that we were spending more than we were receiving. While spending was below budget, revenues were well below budget, due primarily to the number of members who have left our church or have apparently chosen not to fulfill their pledges.

As of the October deadline for this November columns, the most recent full month of revenues and expenses is September, 75% of the way through 2016. The deficit worsened to $83,000 year to date, and revenues were $100,000 less than this time last year to date. Staff payroll and benefits have been reduced as discussed last month, and mission quarterly expenditures were charged against their endowment earnings rather than their general fund budget. These earnings are ordinarily spent for one-time needs that arise during the year, which means that the amounts available to meet these needs will be reduced.

We are hopeful that October will bring better news. Traditionally, the first month of a calendar quarter is when we receive payments from members who pay their pledge quarterly. In addition, the original report of our financial condition was in the October Columns, and we are hopeful that some of you responded positively to our request that you consider giving more than you planned this year. We are also aware of at least one family that paid their entire 2016 pledge in October.

Please continue to pray for our finances, and listen for God’s word to you regarding your financial support. As we said last month, we will get through this! We believe God is taking us forward to better days. Thank you for stepping forward with any extra gifts at this time.

Please feel free to contact any of us on the committee (Aaron Burton, Mike Cox, Bill McCune, Charlie Sursa, or Lisa Ulrich) if you have questions.

Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy fun and fellowship while making great music? The Chancel Choir sings for the 11:00 service each week, September- May. Rehearsals are held Thursdays 7:15–8:45 p.m. in the choir room and resume on September 8. Anyone high school age and above with previous choral experience who is interested in joining should contact Kerry Glann (kglann@bsu.edu) for more information.
"MOM! Can I have some of your money? I need it BAD!"

Last March, I was part of the team of missionaries who went to Mella, Dominican Republic. One of our goals was to explore the needs of the local preschool and how we may expand our already established church partnership to the preschool in the community. This preschool to preschool mission experience, which we are calling *Preschool to Preschool: Muncie to Mella*, continues to evolve.

After observing and teaching in the Mella preschool, several areas of need were identified. Few children were able to provide a snack from home. Some children would be eating while others sat hungry. If a child is hungry, learning becomes secondary. Our first priority is to help provide snacks for 55 students. Our students have a snack at school and therefore could relate and understand that other children would want a snack, especially if they were hungry.

Our preschool here at First Pres has always provided a mission project for the children, but this year will be a unique year-long experience. Our children will learn about Mella, where boys and girls their age live and attend school. Our children will also have the opportunity to actively engage in various activities such as coloring pictures, writing letters, raising money, as well as collecting toys and books for the Mella preschool.

I will personally be in the classrooms each month sharing information about the Dominican Republic, the culture as well as the people and children. I will be sharing pictures, facts and personal stories from the trip last March. Jesus says “love each other just as I have loved you” (John 13:34) and my hope is we can foster a loving partnership with this preschool where children can learn about another country, culture and people and share the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Children want to help and the response to this unique mission experience has been amazing so far. One parent texted me after school to share her son’s response to the first lesson on the DR: “MOM! Can I have some of your money? I need it bad!” He then showed the envelope that was sent home to his mom., “Do you know where this state is (the envelope has a picture of the DR flag)? They don’t have any food and I need your money to buy them some!” This child’s heart was touched by the need to help another child...maybe his interpretation was a little different from the way it was presented but he was passionate to help!

If you would like to help us by making a “snack donation” for a child in the Dominican Republic you may pick up an envelope at the information desk. Checks are payable to First Presbyterian Pre-K and indicate “DR snacks” in the memo. The total collected as of October 20th is $1,100.00. We will take donations throughout the school year.

In Christ,

Tracy Clinger
Director of Pre-Kindergarten
The school year is off to a great start! We have 115 students enrolled in the preschool program and additional families who utilize our Parents’ Day Out program. Preschool Open House is Tuesday, November 1 from 6-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall and preschool classrooms. You are invited to arrive at 6:00 pm and hear the children lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a song before touring the classrooms and enjoying fellowship with our families.

(Above & Below) Allan Thomas shares his knowledge and experience as a bee keeper with our preschoolers. Tasting honey was a sweet treat! Thank you Allan for the time you spent with our preschoolers.

(Above) Rev. Dr. Pat Smith enjoying some time with our preschoolers as he reads a book to Miss Driver’s class.

Many of our children have experienced their first field trip! Some children enjoyed Johnny Appleseed at Minnetrista Cultural Center, others enjoyed the pumpkin patch and fun activities at White Tail Tree Farm.
Celebrating 40 years of Music & Worship
Thank you Kirby!!!
ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS & CRAFTERS!
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ART & CRAFT FAIR—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016

An exhibit of works created by artists and crafters of First Presbyterian Church, the International Congregation, and youth will be held in Fellowship Hall as part of Fellowship Sunday on November 6, 2016. The exhibit can be viewed before and after both services and during Fellowship Sunday activities.

This is an opportunity for our church family to learn about and appreciate the artistic talents of our congregation. This is not a juried exhibition; no prizes will be given and artwork will not be sold. Original artworks from, but not limited to, the following areas are eligible (limit four entries): Beadwork, calligraphy, ceramics, collage, drawing, digital artwork/photography, fiber/textile art, floral arranging, glass work, graphic art, handmade ornaments, jewelry, knitting and crocheting, needlework, painting, papermaking, photography, poetry, printmaking, quilting, sculpture, sewing, woodwork, and wreath making. (If your area of art/craft is not listed, contact the church office or Worship and Religious Arts Committee members.)

Entries may be dropped off at the church office during normal office hours beginning Wednesday, November 2nd through Friday November 4th, 4:00 pm. Each entry must have a completed entry form. All items will be kept in locked storage. Any two-dimensional entries must be ready for display (matted or framed). Works may either be picked up after the 11:00 service on Sunday or from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, November 7. Table space will be available for any three-dimensional artwork. Please provide an easel or stand if you have one. Identify artwork, easel or stand with your name and telephone number. (Return address labels work well for identification.)

Entry Form (complete one for each piece)

NAME________________________________PHONE__________________E-MAIL_______________________

ART AREA__________________________________________________________________________________
(Example of art areas: Painting, Drawing, Ceramics, Knitting, etc.)

MEDIUM/MEDIA____________________________________________________________________________
(Examples of media include pencil, watercolor/acrylic/oil paint, metal, clay, fabric, wood, glass, etc.)

TITLE OF ARTWORK__________________________________________________________________________

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ENTRY____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Will you provide an easel/stand? Circle answer: Yes or No

Do you have an extra easel for the committee to borrow for this exhibit? Circle answer: Yes or No
Liturgists

Liturgists for 8:30 am & 11:00 am services are needed. If you are willing to serve as a Scripture reader for a Sunday service, please sign up on the bulletin board behind the information desk or contact the church in the office (info@firstpresmuncie.org; 289-4431).

Readings for the week will be emailed to you or a copy can be picked up in the office.

Thank you!
Our Mission Team is looking for 10 individuals/ families who would like to spread holiday cheer at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Food baskets will be assembled at the church, and volunteers are needed to deliver them as follows:

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**: November 20
- **Christmas Baskets**: December 18

A volunteer usually delivers both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the same family; however, if you are not available to deliver on both dates, you can sign up to deliver on one date and someone else will deliver the other date. Please call Janie Miller (289-3652) or email janiem13@att.net for more information, or to sign up to be a basket deliverer—especially fun for families or for 2 or 3 friends together.

**The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be up in the Lounge hallway on Saturday, November 26, and you can help decorate it with ornaments which are displayed on the table beside the tree. Please select an ornament or several, remove the tag from the ornament and place the ornament on the tree. Then purchase the gift, wrap it, PUT YOUR TAG ON THE GIFT IDENTIFYING THE RECIPIENT, MAKING SURE THE FAMILY NUMBER IS ON IT and put it under the tree.

Many ornaments represent a very special need of a family of children or of persons identified by the Salvation Army, A Better Way or the YWCA. Other ornaments represent gifts for agencies with whom we partner - some specific gifts and some monetary gifts.

It’s such a joy to buy for a child knowing how excited he or she will be. Each child will have two ornaments: one with toy or game suggestions and one with clothing suggestions and sizes. We ask that you choose only one of the suggestions per ornament because all the families have more than one child represented by ornaments. It wouldn't be fair for one child in the family to receive 12 gifts while the others each receive two. If you want to buy many gifts, you could take ornaments for all the children in the family. Agencies represented by some of the ornaments include Christian Ministries, Muncie Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Motivate Our Minds (MOMS), Home Savers, Stepping Stones, Harvest Soup Kitchen, and Muncie Mission.

Place your gift(s) under our Giving Tree by Friday, December 16, for delivery on December 18.

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**Saturday, December 10**

Fellowship Hall

8:30-11:00 am

**Cost: A Children’s book(s) in Spanish and/or 24 Count Crayola Crayons**

On behalf of the church, Pre-K Staff, and the Pre-K Advisory Committee, we are excited to host the 2nd annual Breakfast with Santa! Parents and/or grandparents of young children are invited to join our Pre-K families for breakfast at 8:30am, followed by visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus as well as the opportunity for children to make a craft! **Reservations are required and must be received by Sunday, December 4th as we plan for the breakfast. To make reservations please contact Tracy Clinger: 751-7960; tracy@firstpresmuncie.org or the church office at 289-4431; office@firstpresmuncie.org Please indicate the number of adults and children that will attend!**
Third Thursday (NOV. 15TH & DEC. 15TH)

NOVEMBER 15 (DATE CHANGE!)

**Dressing Downton**
We will visit the history museum in South Bend to see a special Downton Abbey Exhibition, housed in the elegant Oliver Mansion and the National Studebaker Museum.

DECEMBER 15

**A Day in Indy**
We will visit the Indiana State Museum to see the Bicentennial Celebration exhibit and Lincoln’s Mallet. We will have lunch at the Ayres Tea Room.

**Dee Dah Day**
Join us for Dee Dah Day women’s fellowship on Friday, November 4 & 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Lounge. If you have questions, contact Barb Ottinger (lkbaott59@comcast.net).

All are welcome!

**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 Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m.—International Service (Chapel)
- 11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

**The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith, Interim Pastor**
rpatsmith@firstpresmuncie.org

**The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor**
9brights@firstpresmuncie.org

**Cathy Alexander, Director of Mission & Circle Ministry**
cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

**Tracy Clinger, Director of Pre-Kindergarten**
tracy@firstpresmuncie.org

**Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator**
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

**Be a Bell Ringer for Salvation Army**
At the Muncie Mall (just inside the entrance by MCL Cafeteria)

Look for dates and volunteer sign up sheets soon!!

**SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:**
November donation item: Cereal
Please place your donations in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

**Hanging of the Greens**
Sunday, November 20th
4:00 pm

**Oh, Come All Ye Faithful…and Sing!**
Time for the all-church caroling party, Sunday, December 11, from 5:00 to 7:00! Bring the whole family! We will caravan to church members’ homes to spread holiday cheer (which means we need some good singers!) and return to the church for refreshments. Cider and hot chocolate provided…bring a plate of goodies to share.
Save The Date

November 13  Celebration of Don Ester’s Music Ministry  🎵
November 20  Packing and Delivering Thanksgiving Baskets
November 20  Hanging of the Greens  🎅
November 26  The Giving Tree
December 10  Breakfast With Santa
December 11  All Church Caroling Party
December 18  Advent Brunch
December 18  Packing and delivering Christmas baskets

More information inside!