I begin this month with a word of thanks for all who participated in the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday the 22nd. The intent in having our meeting in between Sunday morning services was to allow a greater number of people from both worship hours to be together. I’m grateful for each person who was able to do that.

Those in attendance elected new officers for the coming year while celebrating the work of both those who step off the Session and Board of Deacons and those who remain. Please pray for and seek ways to affirm and encourage your officers. We Presbyterians believe the Spirit is the one who prompts people to serve and is part of the selection process, and that the vote of the congregation brings the right people to lead and serve in these offices. With these steps behind us, we get to stand arm in arm so our ministry grows and prospers in the eyes of God and the world.

We celebrate how each of us is part of a significant work to support our ministry through our regular giving and special gifts that allowed us to close the gap with which we were confronted in 2016 and to pave the way to greater support for this year. Everything we give in any form through this year will pave the way for greater vitality.

At the congregational meeting I shared the results of the conversations by over one hundred eighty people in the Meet the Smiths gatherings September-November. There is much to be learned from what we all shared. Our comments are already helping move things forward. For instance, the top three categories (with an almost equal number) of responses to the question, "What is one hope you have for our congregation?" are (1) healing and forgiveness, (2) fellowship and growth and (3) worship and music.

Session has begun conversations related to not only what we shared in these gatherings but how this informs our church right now. I believe there are signs that trust is being rebuilt, peace is beginning to form and hope is taking root. There is still pain, uncertainty and confusion. Your Session is intent on leading us forward well so full healing and forgiveness may be fully known.

The other two major categories speak to (1) our life together as we grow spiritually and (2) our life before God as we give heartfelt worship. Building on many wonderful strengths we have as a congregation for personal growth and relationships and for meaningful worship will draw us into discoveries that pave the way for all that God has in store for years to come.

As we move into February, may we all invest anew in all that God is doing as we live on the way of Jesus increasingly in the ways of Jesus.

The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
Volunteer at Christian Ministries Sleeping Room

Our church has been preparing breakfast and dinner for the men at Christian Ministries Sleeping Room from Sunday, January 29th breakfast until Saturday, February 4th dinner. Volunteers may sign up at the information desk in the hall.

If you have questions, please contact Michelle Kaitchuck at 747-9836.

Preschool News

Preschool registration for the 2017–2018 school year will begin on February 1 for church members and current preschool families.

You may register at www.firstprespuncie.org under Pre-K/PDO or call Tracy Clinger for more information (751–7960).

D Dee Dah Day Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group

February 10 and 24 at 9 a.m. at the Lounge

Join us for the Dee Dah Day women’s fellowship. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Ottinger(lkbaott59@comcast.net

Come worship with The Praise Team!

Our group is gathering on Saturday Feb. 11th from 7-9 pm for a time of worship and fellowship. Meet with us in the Fellowship Hall, we welcome any instrumentalists or vocalists, and if you are a singer, guitarist, drummer, keyboardist, etc. we hope you will join us too! Dinner will be provided!

Contact Anna Buck at annabucksoprano@gmail.com if you have any questions.
Adult Sunday School

**February 5**
Discussion on Protecting God’s Creation
Lucas Clay

**February 12 and 19**
Discussions about Christian Art and the Church in the 20th and 21st Centuries
Cathy Bretz

**February 26**
Preparation of 100+ sack lunches for Harvest Soup Kitchen. Everybody is welcome to join us!

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**Third Thursday**

Everyone is welcome for lunch and fellowship in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon.
The cost is $3.00.

**February 16**

Stories Along the Appalachian Trail
Speaker: Jim Dashiell, author/editor
To register, call the church office (765-289-4431) or email office@firstpresmuncie.org by Monday, February 13th.

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13TH ANNUAL
BUILDING **HOPE** WITH EACH STEP
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 8:00 AM

This event supports the Christian-based programs at the Muncie Mission.

Participants will walk from the Muncie Central Field House to the Muncie Mission (return transportation is provided). We hope you will consider joining the First Pres Team!

To register:
Go to http://www.walkformunciemission.com
Click: "Register Here"
Click "Join a Team" and select "First Presbyterian Muncie #122"
Fill in your information and don't forget to indicate your t-shirt size!

If you can't join us on February 11th, please consider supporting the First Presbyterian Team as we support Muncie Mission Ministries. You can donate online by going to http://www.walkformunciemission.com and clicking "Donate to a Walker (enter Presbyterian in the search box).” You can also donate by cash or check (checks should be made out to the Muncie Mission with "First Presbyterian Muncie #122" on the memo line”). Checks and cash can be dropped off or sent to the church office, or given to a church staff member or our team captain (Bill Rogers).

Thanks for your support as our church supports the programs at the Muncie Mission!

Contact Bill Rogers for more information: wrogers@bsu.edu
TRIVIA NIGHT IS BACK WITH JOHN FOSTER AS EMCEE!

Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship and support the preschool. Money raised will go towards scholarships for families in need.

Saturday, February 25, 2017, Fellowship Hall

Play begins at 6:30 pm (doors will open at 6 pm)
$10 per person; 6 people to a table or team!
You may sign up near the information desk.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

2017 SALVATION ARMY
Food Pantry Volunteer Schedule for First Pres

Volunteers will be needed from 3:00 pm until approximately 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Please arrive no later than 2:45 pm

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

Two volunteers are needed each day.

If you would like to volunteer there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board behind the information desk, or email Cathy Alexander at Cathy@firstprespuncie.org.

February 28
March 1 & 2
April 4, 5, 6
May 9, 10, 11
June 13, 14, 15
July 18, 19, 20
August 22, 23, 24
September 12, 13, 14

Liturgists
Liturgists for 8:30 am & 11:00 am services are needed.
If you are willing to serve as a scripture reader for Sunday service, please sign up on the bulletin board behind the information desk or contact the church office office@firstprespuncie.org 765-289-4431

2017 Per Capita

Please help offset First Pres’ $14,533.35 Per Capita expense to Presbytery for 2016 by reimbursing the church for the per capita ($38.55) of each FPC member in your family. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian, memo: “Per Capita”. Thank you!
Upcoming Sermons

February 5th  
The Jesus Way: Fruitfulness  
Theme: Proof is in the product  
John 15:1-8; Psalm 1

February 12th  
The Jesus Way: Relationship  
Theme: One person to another  
Galatians 5:22-25; Deut. 8:1-10

February 19th  
The Jesus Way: Attentiveness  
Theme: Listening to the master  
John 10:1-18; Psalm 95:1-7

February 26  
The Jesus Way: Everyone  
Theme: The world needs us  
Matthew 28:16-20; Isaiah 11:1-10

Lenten Sermon Series: Jesus' Last Week  
March 5-April 16

Lent is a time for introspection, self-examination and repentance leading up to our remembrance of the events of Holy Week. That last week of Jesus’ ministry before his death and resurrection contains a vital combination of events and conversations that often are overlooked because our focus is on the beginning of the week, Palm Sunday, and the end of the week, Resurrection Sunday.

This Lenten season, we’ll take a slow walk through that week from the joyously shouting crowds who greet Jesus to the profound silence of grieving women in the pre-dawn graveyard where Jesus’ body had been placed. As we travel from one Sunday to the next following in the footsteps of Jesus, we’ll discover pertinent moments that can inform our approach to the wonder of the Resurrection.

JOIN US!

On Ash Wednesday, March 1st, at 6:00 pm, come to Fellowship Hall for dinner, a communion service will follow at 7:00 pm.

Reservations are recommended. Please call the church office or email Gabby at office@firstpresmuncie.org
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TRIP NEWS

Our fifth “family reunion” trip to the Dominican Republic is fast approaching!

Our team will fly out on Sunday, March 5, and return on March 11. Our first goal of the trip, as always, is to build relationships! How will we do that??? We will spend lots of time with the children of Mella, teaching and learning from them! For the second time, we will branch out into the community by spending time in the Mella preschool which is directed by a pastor from another Mella church. We hope to spend some time in conversation with high school students who are learning English.

If you would be willing to pray for a team member (Cassie Alexander, Dan Alexander, Jessica Bryzek, Lucas Clay, Tracy Clinger, Michelle Kaitchuck, Sunwoo Lee, Carrie Jo Miller, or Allison Simmons) or the whole team while we are gone, please see the prayer plan below.

FPC Muncie to Mella Family Reunion, March 5-11, 2017

Prayer Guide

Saturday, March 4
Pray that God would put a hedge of protection about the entire trip.

Sunday, March 5
Pray for safe travels; pray for our friends who will meet us at the airport.
Pray that God will be glorified by every aspect of our trip.

Monday, March 6
Pray that we will hear the voice of God in Mella and Duverge; that all of us will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday, March 7
Pray that God’s love would be shared and strong bonds of Christian love will be renewed with our new DR friends.

Wednesday, March 8
Pray that God would provide strength and good health throughout the trip.

Thursday, March 9
Pray that God would protect and provide for our families and church back home.

Friday, March 10
Pray that the unconditional love of God would radiate in and through each of our lives.

Saturday, March 11
Pray that each of us, as well as our old and new DR friends, would have a personal and powerful encounter with God. Pray for safe travels; pray for our reunion with our families

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10
**Support Our South View**

Because First Pres is already a presence at South View through Kids Hope mentoring, Second Harvest is asking our church to provide volunteers for the monthly South View Food Pantry. Below are the upcoming dates:

- **February 23, 2017**
- **March 9, 2017**
- **April 27, 2017**
- **May 25, 2017**
- **June 22, 2017**
- **July 27, 2017**

To volunteer, please email Cathy Alexander: cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

**Volunteer duties may include:**

- Help distribute food at the school site on a monthly basis and potentially bi-weekly or weekly basis (approximately 2 hours per distribution)
- Check-in families prior
- Help individuals take food to their cars if needed
- Help set up tables and food for food distribution (approximately 1-1.5 hours)
- Help take down tables after food distribution (approximately 30 minutes)
- Must be able to pass a background check

*Note: Tasks can be broken up to accommodate an individual's capabilities.*

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**Salvation Army Pantry Item for February:**

**Personal Hygiene Items**

(soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

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**2017 Flower Calendar**

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday worship service during 2017, please sign up on the Flower Calendar posted behind the information desk. You will be contacted in advance of the date you request.

*Next available dates: March 26th, April 2, 9 and 16*
SPRING DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

We’re moving rapidly toward Spring even though we all know there is plenty of Winter yet to come. Since time moves so quickly, please take note of the following dates related to Lent and Holy Week. Remember, each of these opportunities provides wonderful entry points for neighbors and friends and strangers to come be part of our ministry life. Invite someone to join you and take part in First Pres!

**Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00 PM--Ash Wednesday simple meal and worship**

As Lent begins, Ash Wednesday sets a contemplative, self-reflective tone. We will fellowship over simple food, consider the invitation to enter a season of repentance and ready ourselves as we move closer and closer to Holy Week.

**Sunday, March 5--The beginning of our Lenten Sermon Series: "Jesus' Last Week"**

**Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 PM--Maundy Thursday Service**

**Friday, April 14--Community Good Friday Service**

**Sunday, April 16--Resurrection Sunday**