Have you noticed that people's perspectives of the same experience can be different? Take for instance the passing of time. Just a few weeks ago, we were all anticipating Christmas. If we had asked folks then what that wait was like, some would have replied, "It feels like Christmas will never get here!" and others would have said, "It's all going much too fast!" Funny how that is, right?

I've been with you as interim pastor for a little over four months. Some of you will say, "Only four months? It seems like you've been here forever" (hopefully in a sense of gladness in our time together!) Others will think, "Really? It seems like you just got here!" Once again, perspectives on the same reality can be very different.

It has been a rich and deep joy to be your pastor these four months. I am so grateful for all of you and how you have served and led the cause of Christ in our church during 2016. This past year has not been an easy one for our congregation. Someone recently mentioned the adage that out of the hottest fire comes the strongest steel. I believe this is proving to be true for us as we continue to move forward.

What's coming up next? January is pretty packed with:

The start of an eight week sermon series called, "The Jesus Way." What we learn will help us be open to all God wants us to be and do individually and as a congregation as we increasingly live in the ways of Jesus.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 22nd. This year our meeting will be held between services at 9:45. Gathering at this time will provide the opportunity for us to come together as a whole congregation to fellowship together over doughnuts and coffee. We'll do some usual yearly business (like information on the 2017 budget and the election of new officers) and fold in a few timely updates. We'll also hear results of the sharing in the "Meet the Smith" Fall gatherings and have time to ask questions about the interim process.

The Officer’s Orientation on the morning of January 28th. This will provide all current and in-coming officers an opportunity to be informed and inspired related to the roles they have so our ministry will grow stronger.

New officers' ordination and installation during worship on Sunday, January 29th. This will offer us a time to celebrate how God has provided these brothers and sisters who will lead and serve with wisdom, joy, hope and love.

A series of adult classes covering several topics including a biblical look at care for the earth and latest news from mission work around the world.

Whether time is moving along quickly or slowly for you, we can all see January will be a great start to the New Year. I hope you'll keep all these events in your prayers as we step into the first four weeks of 2017.
**Upcoming Sermons**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8th</td>
<td>The Jesus Way: Royalty</td>
<td>Mathew 2:1-12; Psalm 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 22nd</td>
<td>The Jesus Way: Control</td>
<td>Psalm 23; Philippians 2:5-13</td>
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<td>January 29th</td>
<td>The Jesus Way: Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Mathew 11:28-30; Psalm 111</td>
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<td>February 5th</td>
<td>The Jesus Way: Fruitfulness</td>
<td>John 15:1-8; Psalm 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12th</td>
<td>The Jesus Way: Relationship</td>
<td>Galatians 5:22-25; Deut. 8:1-10</td>
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</tbody>
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**Fellowship Sunday and Adult Sunday School**

**What is Fellowship Sunday?**

Our regular “coffee/fellowship” time between services will take place in Fellowship Hall (refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall). From 9:45 to 10:30 there will be an activity which fosters relationship building.

*Fellowship Sunday is a great time to invite people to visit our church.*

**January 8**
Fellowship Sunday

**January 15**
God at work in Africa and Nepal (Our missionary, Joshua Park, will update us on his work in Africa and Nepal)

**January 22**
Annual Meeting (between services)

**January 29, February 5**
Protecting God’s Creation (Lucas Clay)

**Dominican Republic News**

Many thanks to FPC preschool families and other church members for donating 99 Spanish children’s books and 190 boxes of crayons to support the preschool in Mella. It will be a great joy to deliver these to our friends!

A trip to Mella is being planned for this year! If you are interested and weren’t able to attend the information meeting on December 28, please contact Michelle Kaitchuck or Cathy Alexander.
Preschool News

Preschool registration will begin on February 1 for church members and current preschool families. You may register at www.firstpresmuncie.org under Pre-K/PDO or call Tracy Clinger for more information (751-7960).

TRIVIA NIGHT is back! Join us on February 25 for a night of trivia as we raise money for preschool scholarships. Watch for more information.

Third Thursday

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

January 19
The Virgin Mary in Art
Speaker: Melissa Daniels

February 16
Stories Along the Appalachian Trail
Speaker: Jim Dashiell, author/editor

Call the church office (765-289-4431) or email office@firstpresmuncie.org to register.

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 office.

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

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@firstpemsotec.org

SALVATION ARMY PANTRY

NEEDS FOR JANUARY:
SOUP & CRACKERS

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATION IN THE CART

Dee Dah Day

Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group
January 13th & 27th at 9 a.m. in the church lounge.
All are welcome!
BRANCHES is raising money to help fund youth projects. Please help support the youth by ordering subs for Super Bowl Sunday!

It’s just this easy …

1. **Order subs by Monday, February 1, 2017.**
   Only pre-ordered subs will be made. **Complete one order form per sub.** Use/copy the form to the right or pick up forms at the information desk and turn in or mail to the church office **by February 1st!**

2. **Donations may be made when you pick up your subs in Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, February 5th.**