Laura and I celebrate our fortieth wedding anniversary this year. The exact date is August 27th. While we will do something low key that day, we have plans in the works for mid-September eight-day road trip to the northeast that we are declaring our anniversary trip. With the extent of our planning, we don’t know the details for each day, but we do know where we generally expect to be on any given day. This means we travel with a degree of certainty and uncertainty (to the extent we can know anything for sure.)

As almost an aside, I remember living through plenty of July days in previous years in Indiana. There were more days than I care to remember when I thought, “It’s just too hot to move. I don’t want to go anywhere. I just want to remain in the comfort of air-conditioned spaces as much as possible.” Don’t we know the comfort of those kinds of spaces? We tend to go reluctantly into the what we perceive will be less than comfortable.

The certain and comfortable; the uncertain and uncomfortable. It’s quite a contrast, isn't it?

From the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he joined people in their certainties and comforts. He lived with them there. He also drew them into places where things were different, edgy and unknown. This happened for people from all walks of life. It happened for those who believed they were very faithful to God and those who believed they were totally rejected by God. Following Jesus stirred things up.

Everyone Jesus encountered, and I mean everyone, had the opportunity to step into the life Jesus offered, a life that invites, alters and draws toward something better, something good, deeply, richly good. Sometimes we don’t fully understand why we need to move or see where we are headed, but there is a strange, almost undefinable assurance of something promising out there before us.

On the heals of our Bearing Fruit Weekend with Rev. Dr. Ray Jones, we now have an opportunity to continue forward toward a future of vast importance. Concrete plans are already being considered for how we examine who we are and where we believe God is leading us at this point in our history. Each of us who participated in any part of the weekend or who have been hearing about it from others is already considering what we’ve heard and implications for our lives and for our church.

Certainties and uncertainties. Comfort and discomfort. Isn’t it great to know and love and serve God who loves us enough to invite us into all these places? Isn’t it great to trust God and work in step with God so we can go to all the places God has already prepared for us? What a privilege we have to be on this journey into the future!

I offer a brief and sincere thanks to Cathy Alexander and a team of other staff (Tracy Clinger) and elders (Jacqueline Burton, Sue Desmond, Ron Kaitchuck and Jon Moll) who led in planning our weekend and coordinat ing with so many others to make it all happen. I also thank every person who participated in some part of the weekend.

All of us who are part of First Pres now get to continue our journey. Who knows where it will take us?!

Even as officers and staff and other leaders plan next steps, I know that God knows for sure all that is ahead. I look forward to traveling with you into this wondrous First Pres story.

The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
The Session and Board of Deacons were asked two months ago to begin reading a book Ray Jones recommended in preparation not only for our Bearing Fruit Weekend but for all that lies before us in these coming years as First Presbyterian Church. The book is Shift by Mark Tidsworth. We have begun to share quotes we find meaningful. We would encourage you to pick up a copy of Shift in the church library or borrow one from one of our officers. We’d love for you to share three quotes of your own from the book. Send them to Cathy Alexander at cathy@firstpresmuncie.org.

Selected quotes from Shift:

**Cathy Bretz, deacon**
The cultural norms reinforcing our theology and doctrine in the 20th century are no longer present. Rarely will 21st century spiritual seekers begin their entry into the church through believing first. They have not been prepared by their families, nor by their culture at large for belief in the Christ story. (Page 57)

**Ron Kaitchuck, elder**
So God is on a mission in the world, inviting the Church to join this mission. This is different than seeing our commission as establishing the Church in the world. Page102)

**Tracy Clinger, staff**
Ponder this...“what is it we are really trying to do in the church? What is our unique role in the world? Those questions are too large to fully answer, yet one aspect of the church’s commission is clear - to make disciples.” (Page 67)

**Connie Humphrey, deacon**
What is God doing in our community, and how do we need to change to join God on mission? (Page 117)

**Sue Desmond, elder**
Shift in mindset:
I am a member of this church to I am a disciple of Jesus Christ
I go to church to I am the church
We are the members of this church to We are disciples of Jesus Christ who gather as this church. (Page 52)

**Pat Smith, staff**
This is the opportune time for loving disciple-making missional churches to rise up and be who they are called to be. Now is the time to shift. (Page 10)

**Don Fields, deacon**
Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is a life-long endeavor. (Page 67)

**Jon Moll, elder**
One of the quickest ways for people to move from seeing themselves as church members to this new identity of disciples is to engage Christ-centered faith practices. In fact, engaging Christ-centered faith practices is simply part of what disciples do. (Page 81)

**Joy Vander Hill, deacon**
For better or worse, the Modern Era with its cultural norms is over--------fewer churches are likely to return being church in the manner they used to be. (Page 21)

**John Foster, elder**
I hate to tell you, or to state the obvious, but there really are not people out there who are eager to join you in order to help pay the light bill. (Page 11)

**Jeanne Fields**
Humility, respect, and receptivity are spiritually based attitudes and practices which will serve us well on the missional journey. Page 124

**Cathy Alexander, staff**
This step, purpose seeking, involves putting our hands down, perhaps on our hips and saying, “Well, what’s the purpose of this whole church thing anyway?” When churches start asking this kind of question, we know they are on the way toward a more invigorated expression of their collective faith. In essence they are asking about the mission or purpose of the church. Below this question is another. “Is the mission or purpose of the Church worth all the pain and discomfort we will endure in order to adapt to our current context. (Page 35)
By now, you may have heard that there are some new residents in the building. Grace Village Campus Ministry now happily calls First Pres home. Grace Village has been serving Ball State as a campus ministry for over 50 years now! And, they are glad to be serving alongside First Presbyterian Church in this new chapter of their ministry.

Formerly known as the Lutheran Center, Grace Village is a campus ministry that is supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and their partner The Episcopal Church (TEC). Conversations for combined ministry between Grace Village and First Pres began five years ago when Pastor Kirk Johnston approached Pastor Robert Abner about the possibility of the two ministries working together. A wonderful proposal was written and presented to the Session at First Pres, where it was warmly received. After Kirk left, Robert consistently kept in touch with Myron Earhart and the two took advantage of a few opportunities to work together over the years.

When Ball State asked Grace Village to sell them their property on Martin Street, Robert wondered if there would be space for the ministry at First Pres and if they could solidify their partnership more formally. The answer was yes, so Grace Village worked with First Pres to draft an agreement to work together as a Lutheran-Episcopal-Presbyterian campus ministry serving all of the students at Ball State University. Two autonomous church bodies, working together to make Christ known on the BSU campus.

You can expect hear more about Grace Village in the upcoming months. They will host weekly Bible Study on Monday evenings, weekly worship services on Thursday evenings, and various other programming. If you see Pastor Robert, Administrative Assistant Loretta, or Peer Minister Jefferson around, don’t hesitate to say hello and introduce yourself!
Looking Forward to July 14 Concert on the Prairie.

Join your First Pres friends for the popular Indianapolis Symphony summer event at the Symphony on the Prairie. They will feature an array of John Williams movie music, including the popular Star Wars scores.

We have two tables reserved (20 people) and are offering transportation via the church bus.

The cost is $30, or $10 if you have pre-purchased your ticket. The bus is scheduled to leave at 5:30 pm. First come, first served to this spectacular concert.

Make your reservation at the church office before July 6th.

Join Us This Summer for Our New Midweek Events with Rev. Pat.

Each Wednesday through August 30th, Rev. Pat is hosting a series of “Summer Light Garden Conversations,” outdoors in the front church garden. The gathering has two parts, starting with a self-provided picnic meal at 5:30 pm, then, at 6:15, all friends present join in a conversation that Rev. Pat facilitates. Each week, the topics for discussion is a continued focus from Rev. Pat’s Sunday’s Sermon on the Mount series.

Those of all ages are welcome. Come as early as you wish, bringing your own supper and comfortable chairs, or anything to enjoy an informal picnic in the garden. The conversations that follow are based on the Scripture from the Sunday before. Everyone is encouraged to enter the conversation, as questions and reflections are offered.

Plan to make this a regular part of your summer evenings for a delightful weekly fellowship and meaningful spiritual enlightenment.
Meat & drinks provided, bring a dish to share

This summer’s Habitat Project for FPC will be new construction on side-by-side lots at 604 and 610 West Main Street in Muncie.

From Tuesday July 18 thru Saturday July 22, starting everyday at 9 am until 3 pm, we will put ourselves to work somewhere near ground level and work upwards under the patient and friendly supervision of Habitat Staff. They will provide all tools, materials, and guidance.

FPC provides willing workers – including gofers and cheerleaders –, hardworking hands, strong efforts, and lunches. Bring yourself, family members, friends, and neighbors who are at least 18 years of age.

To facilitate planning for each day, please sign up at church on the information desk, for work, or to provide lunch. Thank you!

Dee Dah Day’s July gathering will be at The Elks Lodge

(909 N Country Road 500 W)

on Friday, July 29, at 11:30 am.

if you have any questions, please contact Carol Watkins at 765-759-8009

WEEKLY WEEDERS NEED YOUR HELP!

Grounds Committee and Weekly Weeders deeply appreciate all your gracious compliments on our beautiful grounds.

However, even more, we would appreciate your help. We are short handed this summer, especially as our regulars take vacation. If you can volunteer one Wednesday morning between the hours of 8:30 and 10:30, you could help us get the garden ready for the Wednesday evening Bible Study and Sunday services.

We welcome you for all or part of the time. Just show up in front of the church any Wednesday morning with your favorite tools and we will put you to work.

Thanks!
The Weekly Weeders and Grounds Committee
The family of Michael L. Cox wish to thank the church members for their prayers, cards, and loving support during this difficult time for our family.

Thank you for all who attended a beautiful Memorial Service for Mike on Thursday, June 1. Your kindness and comfort was appreciated by our immediate family gathered to celebrate Mike’s life.

A special, special thank you to Jean McCauley and Ministry Guild for the time spent serving the family a comforting lunch after the service. It made the transition from church to home bearable.

Thank you again,
Sharon, Matt, and Grandchildren
First Presbyterian Church Office will be closed for business on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Fresh Directions Hot Meals for Kids Summer Hours
9:30 am - 11:30 am

Delivery drivers needed at 11:30 am
July 4: Closed  July 11  July 18  July 25

Please contact Cathy Alexander to volunteer cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Thanks all for your summer commitment to this ministry!

Salvation Army Pantry
July Donations Item

Canned meats:
- Chicken, tuna, ham,
- pork, beef, turkey, etc.

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.
The world as we know it is not the way it was meant to be. Way back in the beginning, God brought things into existence and ordered them for a common good. The Bible tells us that the first people, Adam and Eve, had it great, perfectly. They had nutrition. They had communion with God. They had each other. Life was Edenic for a reason.

Things turned upside down when a mutiny occurred. Adam and Eve desired to be more than they were. They wanted to be fully like God. Their decision and action twisted things up in a big way, a way that broke apart what was intended to be whole. Humankind has existed in this twisted state ever since.

Even the people of God, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, when called to know God and walk with God once again, got it wrong much of the time. They settled for the mutiny-tainted life. So have many people in all places and times, in all religions and even in Christianity.

Jesus’ teaching shed light on what God really wants from us. Jesus referred to this life as the "kingdom of God." It is a way of living that is counter-culture to everything we’ve been taught. With each word of his teaching, Jesus alerts us to the ways we are to get things right-side-up once again.

This summer, we’ll explore what Jesus said to a large group of people on a Galilean hill top one day as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, one of the guys who was there. As we interact with this "sermon on the mount," we’ll be as challenged in similar ways as Matthew and the rest of the people when they heard what Jesus had to say. Just like them, we’ll get a glimpse at life as God intends.

Sermon Series: Summer Light  
June 11th – Sep. 3rd

July 2  "True to Our Word"  Matthew 5:27-37
July 9  "The Giving Life"  Matthew 5:38-48
July 16 "The Generous Way"  Matthew 6:1-4
July 23 "Spiritual Integrity"  Matthew 6:5-18
July 30 "Our Hearts’ Desires"  Matthew 6:19-24