When hiking, I've come to streams that need to be crossed. Sometimes a footbridge has been in place to allow a quick and easy way forward. At other times, I've had the opportunity to move from one rock to another amid the swirling waters. Step by step, the far bank has been successfully attained.

First Pres is in the early stage of a crossing. We are moving from one chapter of ministry to another. Each month of these next few years brings us closer to our destination. If we see this as about a three-year time frame, we are now about twenty percent of the way across. We've made good progress and more is on the way.

Signs of recent progress include,

- Holy Week that culminated in our wonderful worship at sunrise with our band and at our later service with our choir and accompanists. Over four hundred people gathered to welcome the risen Christ once again.
- Our information meeting with key presbytery officials. As expected, this meeting stirred things once again, some of them deeply. Responses to the evening have been varied. Again, this was anticipated. Where clarity was gained, we can be grateful. Where questions remain, we can seek to understand and also trust God for what we may never fully know. Traveling forward always includes certainty and uncertainty held together.
- Our celebration of The Rev. Dr. Ron Naylor’s being named Pastor Emeritus. It was a joy to be part of this wonderful affirmation of your deep and lasting love for Ron and the years he ministered among you as pastor. I offer a special word of thanks to those who helped put details of the morning together including music, food and the proclamation.

May brings other steps right in front of us. Here are a few highlights:

- Carrie Jo Miller moves into a renewed Commissioned Ruling Elder role as a pastoral care provider. In addition to her care ministry, she will be available to administer sacraments, help from time to time in worship leadership and officiate weddings and funerals. I’m grateful Carrie Jo will journey with us in this role.
- Please set aside Saturday night, June 24th and Sunday morning, June 25th for our “Bearing Fruit” weekend. Jesus said, “I chose you to go and produce lasting fruit.” PCUSA staff person The Rev. Dr. Ray Jones, will share insights that our denominational leaders believe are vital for every congregation. Ray will spend time with officers and staff on Friday night and Saturday morning. The whole congregation is invited to supper Saturday where Ray will share more and facilitate conversations through the evening. Ray will also preach at both services that Sunday. This weekend provides a key jumping off point for all that will come in these next few years.
- Accompanying our Summer preaching series “Summer Light,” will be Wednesday evening gatherings in the garden starting June 21st. The evenings will have two parts: (1) a self-provided picnic meal in the garden, and (2) a conversation I will facilitate regarding the themes raised in the sermon series each week. I think it will be a highly stimulating, spiritually deepening exploration.

One step after the other, we keep crossing this stream of interim ministry together. While the opposite shore may seem a bit distant, each step takes us closer to our destination. Thank you for being part of it all!

The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
2017 Spring Memories
Financial Update

As of the end of March, one-fourth of the way through the year, things are looking good! Thanks to more pledgers than usual paying their entire year’s pledge in the month of January, we have collected over one-third of the annual budgeted amount through March. At the same time, thanks partly to another mild winter, our expenses are running slightly lower than one-fourth of budget.

While running ahead of budget is obviously better than running behind, I should point out that future months may run behind, since, as I said, we collected more pledges early than in past years. We will continue to watch this closely and report to you at least quarterly. Meanwhile, thanks be to God for the good news so far!

Bill McCune  
Treasurer

---

**May 2017 Sermon Schedule**

- **May 7**  "The Power of a Reminder"  John 21:1-9  Psalm 37:34-40  
  Theme: Great encouragement can come through being reminded of what is real.

- **May 14**  "The Power of Reinstatement"  John 21:10-25  Psalm 30  
  Theme: We all blow it. Jesus always forgives and calls us forward.

  Theme: Called to something big, living with purpose changes everything.

  Theme: Decisions will always need to be made for the good of the whole.

  Theme: God is constantly on the move for the good of the world.

---

First Presbyterian Pre-Kindergarten has a part-time teacher position open for the 2017-2018 school year. Anyone interested may contact Tracy Clinger, Director, at 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org for more information. All resumes with a cover letter and three references must be submitted to the Pre-Kindergarten office by May 10, 2017.

---

**Wednesday Weekly Weeders**

Everyone is welcome to join us to beautify the church grounds  
**Start Date:** May 3rd at 8:30 am  
Come! Help! Join!  
"Drop ins" are very welcome.
The Columns

Open House/Reception for Kathy Pretzsch
Kathy has announced that this will be her last year teaching preschool here at First Presbyterian. She and her husband, Scott, will be relocating to DeKalb, Illinois this summer. Scott has been offered and accepted a promotion with his employer 3M. We have been blessed with Kathy’s long term employment and the gifts she has brought to many children and families over the last 16 years.

You are invited to wish Kathy well as she and Scott embark on a new adventure!
Come join us Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Lounge.

Find Your Voice!
If you’ve ever wondered what it’s like to sing in the Chancel Choir on Sundays but didn’t want the extra time commitment, this opportunity is for you! During the month of May, The Chancel Choir simply meets at 10:30 am each Sunday to prepare an anthem for the 11:00 am service.
No mid week rehearsal!

Anyone high School age and above with previous choral experience is welcome.

Contact Kerry Glann (kglann@bsu.edu) to indicate interest.

We also need soloists and small groups of musicians to offer Special Music during the months of June, July, and August at both the 8:30 & 11:00 services.
A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Choir Room.

Confirmation in a 1st Century Village Context-An Intergenerational Experience.
A Jesus way of life, anywhere in the world, in any time frame, is firmly rooted in a Jewish 1st century village life context. Our 2017 Confirmation Experience is going to be a whole church, intergenerational adventure focused on, and built around our confirmands as the key players for the whole "village."
Over a seven week period, with five Sunday morning village learning experiences, participants will be part of a learning experience that begins with the broadest of strokes of God's work in the world, through all of human history, and ends with how we are called to live by faith in 2017 in the greater Muncie area and the rest of the world. Please join us, we started this intergenerational experience on April 23, sure that will have a lasting impact on the whole "village."
Join the Dee Dah Day women’s fellowship.
Friday, May 12 and 26, 2017
All are welcome!
For more details on the month of May, please contact Barb Ottinger at lkbaott59@comcast.net

Third Thursday
This time only we are moving to the fourth Thursday of the month
Tour Trip to Levi Coffin House
May 25
Fee per person is $10.00
Lunch will be at picnic tables at a park near the Amish store.
In case of rain, the group will probably eat at a Pizza King nearby.
Departure time is 9:00 am from First Pres parking lot. Return is estimated no later than 3:00 pm.
To register, please call the church office (765-289-4431) or email office@firstpresmuncie.org by Thursday, May 18.

SYMPHONY ON THE PRAIRIE
JOHN WILLIAMS STRIKES BACK
Friday, July 14 at 8:00 p.m.
$30 Per Person
includes a ticket and a seat at a table.
Stay tuned, more details coming soon...

First Pres is one congregation of the largest Presbyterian denomination in the United States. Under this "Denominational Corner" heading, we'll share occasional news that might be of interest.

First Pres is one of a regional collection of PC(USA) congregations called Whitewater Valley Presbytery. We are one of sixty-three churches that make up our presbytery. The congregation furthest west is in Clayton, south is in Greensburg, east is in Richmond and north is in Fort Wayne.

There are two other presbyteries in Indiana. While we are in the one running from the central part of the state east and north, Wabash Valley Presbytery takes up most of northern and west central Indiana while Ohio Valley Presbytery is most of the southern part of the state.
2017 Pre-K Summer Programming

**WACKY WEDNESDAY**

(3-5 years old)
June 7-July 12
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Cost: $18 per day; bring a sack lunch
Registration is required online @ firstprespuncie.org

**June 7: Flower Power**
Did you know that flowers have the power to help little ones’ observation skills grow? Children will study a flower piece by piece by drawing, identifying parts of a flower, counting petals, planting a flower and learning why the stem is the most essential part of a flower by participating in an experiment.

**June 14: Ten-Finger Fun with Paint**
Nothing is quite as much fun as finger painting. And nothing makes as much of a mess! Come ready to explore with paint not only with your fingers but with ice and canvas.

**June 21: Got Rhythm?**
A fun day exploring instruments through our senses of sight, sound and touch! Activities will include playing various instruments, hearing different kinds of music as well as creating an instrument and painting your own maraca.

**June 28: Fitness Fun**
Your child will be introduced to various fitness activities such as yoga and Zumba! The children will go exploring on a walk which will include the church grounds and Ball State University!

**July 5: Kites, Clouds and Parachute Play**
Have you ever really “cloud watched” and thought about how the weather affects the clouds appearance? Children will learn about the weather and make cloud pictures. Kites are best flown in what kind of weather? Paper kites will be made and decorated and the day will conclude with some very fun parachute activities.

**July 12: Create with Play Dough, Clay and Chalk!**
Let’s get messy! The children will explore with the textures of play dough and clay and each child will make a clay pot. Colorful chalk drawings will be designed on paper and outside on the sidewalks!
Parents’ Day Out
(15 months – 5 years old)
June 6 – July 13
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Cost: 1 day per week per child for six weeks $65
2 days per week per child for six weeks $130
$10 registration fee per child
You may register outside Tracy Clinger’s office beginning May 1, 2017

We need 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 at office@firstpresmuncie.org

Gishler Golf Outing
September 10
at Delaware Golf Country Club
Join Don Black to organize and run this important event that raises funds for the Gishler Scholarship.
For more details, 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, Coordinator of Ministry and Mission - cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

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

Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org

Gabriela Burciaga, Administrative Assistant
office@firstpresmuncie.org

Lucas Clay, Building Superintendent
lhclay96@gmail.com

SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:
May donation item:
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.
Sprint runners know what it’s like to carefully position their starting blocks as they get ready to race. There is a bit of science to the placement of the pads. Most experts agree that the front pad should be locked into place between two and two and a quarter feet from the starting line. The back pad should be one foot beyond the front pad. Well-placed blocks bring advantage to the runner, and what one does coming out of the blocks makes all the difference. The beginning of the race is key to the end of the race.

Jesus’ resurrection is the blocks from which he springs into a life no one imagined possible. Betrayed, arrested, tried, humiliated, crucified, dead and buried, everyone . . . repeat, everyone . . . thought that was the end. The grave was decidedly, definitely not the end. Bursting out of the tomb, the fully alive Jesus enters into a series of steps that set faith and life in a whole new light.

As we pick up the story following the resurrection, we take a look at the first six events on this side of the grave. Jesus’ followers found themselves in new territory. What we learn from those events can place us in new territory as well. May those early steps of resurrection faith inspire us to move forward boldly with Jesus each and every day.