I love Spring. If only it would actually get here!

As soon as I think of both these realities—certainty of seasonal change, uncertainty of the details — I remember that each season comes this way. We long for whatever is coming next way before it is reasonable to expect its arrival. Whether Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter, each season comes in fits and starts. One day gives a glimpse to which we attach hope, and the next day our hopes are put on hold.

It can seem as if all we really need is someone watching over the seasons who would get them all organized better, like maybe a Four Season Committee (Presbyterian, of course!). This group could grasp all the intricacies of planet tilt, moon phases, and barometric pressure systems. These people would have ultimate power to re-set everything so that each season starts and ends on a given date with temperatures that fall within the delineated optimum range and all attendant elements in perfect alignment. Wouldn’t that be so much easier than what we have now?

Think of what we would miss. First, we would no longer talk much about the weather. Well, maybe we wouldn’t miss that. Okay, a new first: we would not have to look at daily weather information as often to determine what we should wear or what the road conditions might be like. Well, maybe we wouldn’t miss that, either. Okay, another new first: we would not have to work from different seasonal wardrobes. Clothing choices would be simpler. That surely would be nice.

Then I begin to wonder if there isn’t something about the vagaries of the seasons that are really good for us. As they are now, they remind us that life is not very cut and dried. Predictability is a bit like a mirage. Just when we think we can count on something or someone, the unexpected happens. While life does move in the same direction over-all, the twists and turns add variety and challenge us to stay on our toes. If everything was predictable, we might take things for granted or miss out on something important.

This month of April will draw us toward changes as a church. It’s anticipated that the Worship Assessment Task Force might bring recommendations to the Session regarding any changes to our worship life as a congregation, things that might be different beginning in September. We’ll find out if we have been accepted into a wonderful program of learning related to how we engage in a new way in our neighborhood and community for “mutual ministry.” We think this opportunity is a Godsend and hope our application will be approved. If it is not approved, we will still find ourselves positioned for steps we can take on our own as we explore ways we can continue to invest in our community for the cause of Christ.

We also prepare to say, “Goodbye,” to three staffers who will leave us during the month of May. I know it is only April, but we are impacted by these pending losses even as we trust God for what staff will look like after they are gone. Lucas Clay will conclude his work as our Building Superintendent in mid-May. Anna Buck will conclude her leadership of our 8:30 worship at the end of May (though she might be coordinating things for our Summer worship). Ben Wright concludes his tenure as our organist/accompanist on Sunday, April 29th. A special lunch is planned in their honor for Sunday, the 29th after our 11:00 worship. Please plan to join in as we celebrate them and their ministries.

Every day in the life of our church brings hints, tugs, observations and opportunities to live in readiness for whatever comes. Just like an approaching change in season, we may not experience all we want to exactly when we prefer, but we can know that God understands it all and is walking with us every step of the way.

Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
April 1st, Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM
The first quarter of this service is planned to be in the garden, we will then move to the chapel. While worshiping in the garden, we will remain standing as the water saturation of the grounds will not allow us to set up chairs.

One Combined Traditional Service with Our International Congregation at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

Congregational Thank You Dinner for Lucas, Anna and Ben

We will host a congregational carry-dinner for Anna Buck, Lucas Clay, and Ben Weaver on Sunday, April 29 after the second service.

These three young people have given invaluable service to First Pres in the last year, and all will graduate from Ball State May 5.

Let us give them the send-off they deserve and show up en masse on Sunday, April 29 to honor their contributions.
Bearing Fruit Opportunity Update:  
Jan McCune’s Minute for Mission on Palm Sunday  

As most of you know, I’m an artist. When I enter the studio for a day’s work, I’m never quite sure what will happen. I have a general idea of the pendant or bracelet in mind, but when I start working everything may change. For example, this piece of copper might look better over there or this stone might be too large. Over the years, I’ve learned to trust the process: to realize that the final piece will be better because of the adjustments made along the way. To put it another way, I find out where I’m going by starting to work and then the next step and subsequent steps slowly reveal themselves.

I’m telling you this because this past week Harvesters took a step into the unknown and we’re not quite sure what will happen. We mailed off a program grant application to the Center for Congregations, a Lilly funded nonprofit whose sole purpose is to help congregations thrive. They are choosing 30 Indiana congregations (of any Christian denomination) to participate in an intensive multi-year program during which each congregation will develop a new mutual ministry in and with their community. What that means is starting a new ministry from scratch which addresses a specific community need. That sounds both exciting and scary.

Fortunately, the Center has a 9 month educational process to help us on our journey. If chosen, Myron Earhart, Marty Kendrick, and I will attend a series of education sessions and then pass on what we’ve learned. The first several classes will prepare us to have listening sessions with both our church and community. We want to hear what our church members and those who live in our community perceive as the most vital needs in Muncie. We want to hear about the talents, resources, ideas, and passions that you and our potential community partners possess. There are multiple needs in Muncie and we will not be able to meet them all. However, I trust that as we build relationships with our neighbors and listen to one another, slowly the idea for a joint mutual ministry will rise to the surface.

At that point (next February), our church/community partnership will apply for up to $30,000 in matching funds to launch our new mutual ministry. Session has already approved making up to $30,000 available for this purpose.

What can you do?

1. Pray that we are chosen to participate in this exciting opportunity. I received an email that the Center received our application and that we should know one way or the other by the end of the day on April 19.

2. Take the time to read our completed grant application. You can access it through the Wednesday FYI or the First Presbyterian website. Click on the Bearing Fruit tree and follow the prompts on the website.

3. Ask God to show you the most pressing needs in Muncie and then put on your heart how you could use your talents and time to meet those needs.

4. If we are chosen, attend a listening session and participate in the process in any way you can.

5. Finally, trust the process. Don’t be anxious or fearful that we are starting on a journey where the end point is unknown. I will repeat what I’ve learned as an artist: We will find out where we are going by starting to work. The next step and subsequent steps will slowly reveal themselves.

Trust me. I know it works, Jan
Ambassador Bridgewater retired in 2013 after a 34-year career with the U.S. Department of State. Her overseas tours were in Belgium, The Bahamas, Jamaica, South Africa, Benin and Ghana. Her extraordinary accomplishments led Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barak Obama to name her U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Ghana, and Jamaica. During her time in South Africa, she served as Consul General in Durban; she also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Affairs.

In August 2017 Ambassador Bridgewater was selected to serve as Chair of the Secretary of State’s Accountability Review Board/Kabul. She wrote the introduction to the recently published book *United States and Africa Relations: The Obama Presidency*. In 2015, she was named CEO and Chairman of the Board of The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa, a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization which educates Americans, especially young people, about the African continent.

Ambassador Bridgewater is married to Rev. A. Russell Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, KY.

**INVITING ELDERS TO SERVE COMMUNION**

The Worship and Religious Arts Committee is responsible for recruiting elders to serve communion monthly and at some special services. We want to create a list of elders who are not currently serving on Session but who would like to serve communion occasionally as needed. If you have been ordained as an elder and would like to be on this list, please send me an email at jmoll@comcast.net and I’ll add your name and your preferred email address to the list. Thanks for your willingness to serve.

Jon Moll, Moderator, Worship and Religious Arts Committee

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!**

**Lewis Gishler Scholarship**

Applications for the Lewis Gishler Scholarship will be available at the information desk or at the church office. The deadline for submission is May 1st, 2018.
Adult Sunday School

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: PARABLES AND CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION

In a return engagement, Jason Knapp of Anderson will present a four week series for our adult class starting Sunday, April 8th, meeting in Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:30.

Jason Knapp is a studio artist, scholar, and retired university professor. A Nebraska native, he took some of his most important education at the University of Kansas and UC Berkeley, on a farm in Southern Illinois, in the cross-cultural communities of New Mexico, in the alto selva of Peru, in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and in the streets of Mwanza, Tanzania. Jason’s family is large, exciting, and a source of immense joy to him. He is currently a partner in Knapp Centennial Farms, LLC., serving The White Water Presbytery as a ruling elder, and the American Board Chair of Kwetu Faraja, a Tanzanian NGO and American 501(c) 3 organization, dedicated to caring for vulnerable children. He is also a Facebook writer and spoon carver."

Jason has provided this introduction to the four weeks of study and conversation:

Perform a simple mental exercise for yourself. Think about the biblical account of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Consider perhaps the description in the second chapter of Luke or the first and second chapters of Matthew. As images or pictures of the story come to mind, ask yourself where those images come from. Are they based on your experience visiting a first-century Palestinian village? Are they from illustrations or paintings you’ve seen? Are they from Hallmark cards? Some movie you remember? How reliable are your mental images do you think, compared to the witness of scripture?

Human imagination is far more than a special ability demonstrated by a relatively small number of creative artists or culture producers. We must each exercise imagination in dozens of ordinary daily activities. Much of the time we are not aware of this. But we imagine when our children tell us about their daily adventures, when our friend shares the neighborhood news, when we read, when we are empathetic, when we dream of a possible future for ourselves and our families.

Jesus teaching, as chronicled in the Gospels, is imagination-rich, calling for the most personal participation of those who hear his voice. Join us for the next four weeks as we explore the role of imagination in Christian experience and discipleship. We will consider some of Jesus’ parables, look at some interesting works of art representing biblical texts, hear some powerful stories of Christian faith, and discuss the challenges contemporary Christians face imagining our as followers of Jesus.

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend a DUO-HARPSCORD RECITAL IN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL,
Saturday, April 14, at 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, Muncie Chapter, artists Rebecca Burkart and Thomas Gerber, playing their own instruments, will present a variety of solo music as well as the Indiana premiere of a concerto for two harpsichords.

Both performers teach harpsichord and music history - Thomas, at universities in Indianapolis; Rebecca, at Ball State.

The program is free and open to the public.

2018 PER CAPITA

Please help offset First Pres’ Per Capita expense to Presbytery for 2018 by reimbursing the church for the per capita ($39.05) of each FPC member in your family. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian, memo: “Per Capita”. Thank you!
The Korean Church of Urbana, in Champaign, IL, invited Pastor Lee as a speaker for their retreat during Spring Break (March 16 - 17).

Pastor Lee lectured the book of Habakkuk, Haggai, and Malachi in the Old Testament to an audience of international students.

First Presbyterian is sponsoring a table at the HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST on Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 a.m.

This is a great time to learn more about all that Habitat does for our community. A sign up sheet will be at the information desk.

Fishers High School Choir is coming to First Presbyterian Church again! Saturday, April 21, 2018.

Come and enjoy the performance of this musical group.

HIRONS’ SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY needs help! Please help replenish this fund which purchases food for the pantry beyond individual donations. Checks to FPC, memo Hirons. Thank You!

The Dee Dah Day women’s fellowship is currently studying the book: THE GIFT OF YEARS--GROWING OLDER GRACEFULLY, by Joan Chittister

meeting dates in April are Friday, April 13 and Friday April 27, at 9 a.m. We start with coffee and snacks!

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Ottinger at 765-289-4080 or email lkbaott59@comcast.net

If you wish to provide flowers for a Sunday worship service, please sign up on the Flower Calendar posted behind the information desk. You will be contacted in advance of the date you request.
한국어 학교  
**KOREAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL**

has been opened by the International Congregation for students, children, and adults.  
We are in the Conference Room **every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.**  
Tuition is free, everyone is welcome!

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**REGISTRATION FOR PRE-K is Open!**

Registration will be online at firstpresmuncie.org.  
Your child must be of age by August 1.  
Please note when you register, your registration fee is due within 72 hours to secure your placement. Registration fees are non-refundable.  
For more information you may contact Tracy Clinger, Director at 751-7960 or tracy@firstpresmuncie.org

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**Join our team of Volunteer Bus Drivers**

Here’s an easy volunteer opportunity…providing Sunday morning transportation for our Westminster Village members.  

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 have any questions, ask one of our current drivers: Cathy Alexander, Jeff Clinger, Tim Koontz, Jonathan Schmidt, Claudia Sursa and Bob Wadsworth.  
If you would be willing to drive, please contact the church office 765-289-4431. A reminder email with the schedule will be sent out weekly.

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**Volunteers always welcome!**

Kitchen volunteers at **12:30 to 3:00 pm**  
Delivery drivers at **2:30 pm**  
A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board, behind the information desk.
April 15–Turn to God
Acts 3:12–19

April 22–The Name of Jesus
Acts 4:5–12
Psalm 23 1 John 3:16–24 John 10:11–18

April 29–Every Moment Availability
Acts 8:26–40

May 6–God Goes Before
Acts 10:44–48
Psalm 98 1 John 5:1–6 John 15:9–17

May 13–In the Right Seat
Acts 1:15–17, 21–26
Psalm 1 1 John 5:9–13 John 17:6–19

May 20–Bewilderment Gives Way
Pentecost
Acts 2:1–21

May 27–God Fully Present
Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1–8
Psalm 29 Romans 8:12–17 John 3:1–17

Jesus’ public ministry years came to a seemingly disastrous end when he was betrayed and crucified. The movement that he and his apprentices precipitated had its highs and lows, periods of immense popularity and also of unbridled opposition. There were people who adored Jesus and those who hated him. The haters win out.

Then, the totally unexpected happened. His followers started saying that Jesus, once dead and buried, was alive. They talked about his appearances to them in various places over several weeks. At the end of that time, those who knew Jesus as Rabbi, Master and Messiah, began to share this belief with others.

Over the next seven weeks, we will look at some of the pivotal moments as the Good News of God’s life-giving love begins to take hold back in the First Century. There are implications for us in the Twenty-First Century, too. Come explore how “Good News on the Move” starts to change the entire world for all time.