There’s an old adage that “home is where the heart is.” This is interpreted for the most part in two ways. First, the heart’s affections indicate what we most treasure. Second, a place or way of life we consider home is where our affections turn most frequently. In the first, the heart leads. In the second, the place leads. Both work. When heart and place come together equally and fully, that might be the best home there is.

God offers us a home like this. Perhaps it is our truest home where all comes into right perspective for what we gain and what we give. It is more of a way of life than a location, a way of life that fully satisfies our longings and molds our longings to live into what truly satisfies.

Sunday mornings this summer are stepping into a New Testament letter the Apostle Paul writes to people whom he loves deeply. They are a group of Jesus way people living in a very different place and time from us. What Paul tells them is just as pertinent and life affirming to us today. He speaks of a true home for us all.

You are invited to join us, and invite others too, as we walk open the door to “Our True Home” started on June 3rd and will conclude on September 2nd.

**Paul’s Hope for the Ephesians**

*Ephesians 4:17-32*

- August 5: Underlaid with Truth
- August 12: Light Shines
- August 19: Wisdom Permeates
- August 26: Perfectly Secure
- September 2: Complete Rest

---

Take a look at these numbers: 85.6, 83.7 and 77.4. Do they mean anything to you? Some of our more astute folks might get it. No, it’s not a sequence problem where we are to understand the difference between these three numbers and determine the next number to come. These numbers represent reality, our reality, as Indiana residents.

“What kind of reality?” you might ask. I’ll end the suspense. These are the average high temperatures for the months of July, August and September in the Hoosier State. The average high for July is 85.6 (the hottest month of the year), August is 83.7 and September is 77.4 degrees. Of course, all of us who have spent extended time in Indiana know that nothing is precisely predictable about our weather, but historic averages are factual computations, not guesses. How hot will it get in August? Who can say for sure?

Facts are one thing. Guesses are another, even very educated and fact-based guesses. For instance, it’s factual that brick repairs were needed on our building. It was understood that best information at hand indicated the extent of the repairs needed. When, it was obvious there were greater problems than expected, it was informed guesswork that estimated possible extra cost. Not until careful assessment was made and material and manpower costs calculated did we know exactly how much the project would be.

It’s a fact that the month of August contains many ministry opportunities for us as a congregation. For instance:

- A new school year begins as family vacations end and as Ball State students return to campus and to ministry investment with us.
- Ball State begins construction of their new parking structure to the north of our property (the start date is currently August 20th).
- Repairs on our brick facades and flat roofs continue, and with every brick removed and replaced, our facilities are secured so that ministry can grow and prosper.
- Our Summer worship life continues through the Labor Day Weekend in both settings we enjoy so much—the garden and the sanctuary.
- Leaders and investors in the Community Ministry Grant process are interviewing people “on the street” in possible key neighborhoods so we can learn where our presence might be needed most.
- All of us get to stay attentive to all God is up to in our world, in our communities and in our congregation and live with hearts that are ready to represent Christ well in every facet of our lives.

What’s the outcome of any of these factors and countless others this month? We can’t say for sure. What we can say for sure is that God goes before us to draw us into all God has planned, and we can do all we can to be faithful to what God shows us.

Let’s fill August with good for God’s sake among us and through us all to God’s glory.

The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
Our Community Ministry Grant (CMG) team of Cathy Alexander, Marty Kendrick, Myron Earhart, and Jan McCune and the Harvesters committee have been hard at work listening to both our congregation and community. Here are two highlights from the past month.

All of us participated in a fun activity called “Community Lurking.” Each person or pair picked a location in the Riverside-Normal neighborhood (or close to it) and spent a half hour observing and taking notes. Locations included the hospital, the Cup, the tattoo parlor upstairs from it, Tuhey Pool, the Farmer’s Market, several neighborhood gas stations, the dog park, and the White Spot laundromat. A few observations: After its renovation several years ago, Tuhey Pool is now a beautifully maintained swim park where whites and African-Americans and the north side and south side mix. In comparison, the Farmer’s Market draws a middle and upper middle class clientele, mostly white with some international diversity but few African-American or Hispanics. As you can imagine, the tattoo parlor and Cup (formerly MT Cup), had the most students and 20s-30s, along with many smokers of various ages and tattooed customers.

We are also all doing “Community Interviews” which are short “man on the street” interviews with a purposely broad spectrum of people. Marty Kendrick chose her Home Management interview class of 7 students and 2 female and 2 male that she teaches for Habitat. According to her students, the positives of Muncie are that it’s a college town, a small community where you can know a lot of people, a good place to raise kids, and has youth groups, restaurants, and Habitat. One noted that the murder rate had gone down, a rather half-hearted positive! Their major concerns were the drug culture (5 responses) and jobs (2 responses). Some of their suggestions for making Muncie better for all were rebuilding the neighborhoods, more vocational training for adults, more youth recreation and teaching social skills to our youth.

Come hear more stories at the August 5 “Talk About” from 9:45 to 10:45 in Youth Hall. The first 20–25 minutes will be an update and question and answer time with the grant team. Then Heather Williams, President of the Riverside-Normal Neighborhood Association and the head of BSU’s Building Better Neighborhoods initiative, will share her experience and expertise with us. Heather is a Ball State alum with two master’s degrees: one in business administration (entrepreneurship) and one in urban planning (community development). Prior to her current role at Ball State, she served as a zoning officer and structural inspector for the city, planner and (entrepreneurship) and one in urban planning (community development). Prior to her current role at Ball State, she served as a zoning officer and structural inspector for the city, planner and

Come, come, come! Gathering begins at 5:30
(for those who bring a meal or just want to hang out)
the discussion runs from 6:15–7:00.
Don’t forget to bring a chair or blanket

**Dee Dah Day women’s fellowship**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Merk’s (at the Muncie Airport) is where Dee Dah Day will spend its last summer gathering on Friday, August 24 at 11:30. (Note: August 24 is the 4th Friday in August.) Please confirm your attendance with Barb Ottinger (lkaott59@comcast.net) by Wednesday August 22.
Do get those finishing touches on your new masterpieces!

Here is additional information about the event:

- It will be held in the church Lounge, both before and after the service, with an artist reception and visitation at both times.
- You may enter up to five pieces.
- It is preferred that entries are recent work, having been completed within the last few years.
- Two-dimensional entries must be matted or framed, ready for display. If you have an easel or stand, please bring it, too.
- Table space is available for three-dimensional work.
- Each piece must have a completed entry form.
- You may include an artist statement to let us know more about you.
- Entry forms and instructions for dropping off work will be available next month.
- All original artwork or craft items are welcome.
- It is not a juried exhibition; no prizes are given and artwork is not for sale.
- Eligible media includes the following: drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, calligraphy, bookmaking, artistic journaling, poetry, altered books, collage, papermaking, graphic art, digital artwork and photography, fiber/textile art, needlework, sewing, quilt making, knitting/crocheting, floral arranging, glasswork, handmade ornaments and miniature houses/arts. (If your medium is not listed, please check with the church office.)

Important Information for all FPC Congregation Members and Friends

- Please be informed that during weekdays and until further notice, our church building will be open only during regular office hours and during times when meetings are registered, scheduled and confirmed in the FPC Church Calendar. On Sundays, the church doors will be unlocked only around worship times.
- If you would like/need to access or gather in the building on days and times that we are not aware of, we encourage you calling or emailing the church office, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and confirm your plans with the staff, so we can coordinate and have the building accessible to you.
- Starting now and until further notice, our recycling programs are suspended. Please place all your trash in the same container.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the above, please contact the church office at 765-289-4431 or office@firstpresmuncie.org

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

The Individual Gifts Survey

If you didn’t have the chance to turn in your survey by Sunday July 29, NO WORRIES! We are still accepting them. Grab a sheet from the Information Desk at First Pres, fill it up and turn it in the church office.

Rebuilding the Walls

Did you attend or hear about the Sunday, July 1st Talk About session between services? Jeff Clinger, Moderator of the Building Committee, explained what had been discovered about our exterior walls and what steps were being taken to remedy the situation. Briefly, while working to fix leakage problems at the Northwest corner of our building, it was discovered that much of our upper exterior walls in the flat roof sections of the building are inadequately anchored and are in danger of falling. Obviously, this must be fixed, and a contractor has already been hired to do the work. We expect the work to be completed by the end of this year.

The cost of this project will be just under $600,000, and yes, this is a big number. Thanks to a portion of the land sale proceeds plus some additional reserves, two-thirds of the cost has been covered. We still need to raise approximately $200,000, and you can help! The Generosity and Finance Committees ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to this critical project.

More information regarding ways to contribute will be mailed in the coming weeks. Progress updates will also be provided. In the meantime, please begin to consider how you can contribute to this project and help Rebuild the Walls.

Jon Moll, long time member and committed officer of our current Session, kindly shares his thoughts on this subject:

“First Presbyterian Church has been the church home for Barbara and me for more than four decades. While I recognize that we who worship God at First Presbyterian are the true church, we have blessed to have such a beautiful building within which to worship. We inherited this building from those who came before us, and I feel the least we can do is help provide the money needed to Rebuild the Walls so the building will remain safe and sound for future worshipers to enjoy. I made a multi-year pledge, payable in 2018, 2019 and 2020, to make it easier for us to increase the size of our gift compared to what we could have done by just writing a check.”

One Service, One Congregation Worshiping Together

Starting on September 9, the church will now have one Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 a.m., allowing the entire congregation to worship together. The service will be based on the traditional model of worship, with other elements added as deemed appropriate by the senior pastor and the director of music. The Worship Assessment Task Force spent six months in discussions, surveys, and prayer before recommending to Session that the church move to one service. We thank everyone in the congregation who participated in the surveys, expressed their ideas and concerns, and helped with this process. More information is being finalized about our entire Sunday morning schedule. Stay tuned through the month of August via Sunday morning bulletins and Wednesday FYI emails for updates.
In this third installment of the Generosity Committee highlighting some of the organizations First Pres supports throughout the year through the generous support of our members, we turn our attention to Grace Village. Grace Village, a campus ministry, is a place for everyone at any point of their faith journey. As the brick work continues on our church home, Robert Abner, campus pastor, said, “It’s worth noting that the First Pres building has been a huge blessing to Grace Village and the several other ministries and organizations who gather here. Without space available at First Pres, who knows where Grace Village would have landed after selling their property to Ball State.”

The sermon series this summer has been focused on the theme of “Our True Home.” Although maintaining a building the size of First Pres requires the generosity of all of us, the blessing of having the space for organizations like Grace Village truly shows what our generosity can do.

The proximity of First Pres to Ball State University is a blessing in many ways. From the musical talent we enjoy from some of the students to groups of students joining us on Sunday mornings, we are an important part of campus and the surrounding neighborhood. The location of First Pres has enabled Grace Village to do some tremendous outreach, especially Wild Card Cafe, its free Wednesday morning breakfast that is offered to students on their way to class.

“Most importantly,” said Robert Abner, “First Pres has been a blessing to Grace Village through the people we interact with daily. The church members and staff make us feel welcome every single day and never hesitate to offer their willingness to help with, and be a part of, the ministry. We’ve met so many great folks here who have encouraged us in our ministry. We’ve been “living in” First Pres for a year now, and thanks to the warm welcome, it feels like home for the ministry.” Our beautiful building is not only “home” to our congregation, but it is also home to the ministry of Grace Village, thanks to all of our generosity.

Greetings from Grace Village, a new school year is right around the corner! That being said, there are plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of the ministry we do with the students of Ball State University. On August 15th and 16th, you can catch Myron Earhart and I hanging out in the parking lot offering water, snacks, and informational fliers to students who are moving in.

We would love to have you join us.

Starting on August 19th, Grace Village will begin holding their worship services on Sundays at 4pm in Youth Hall. Though the worship service is aimed at college students, it is open to everyone. This would be a great opportunity for you to drop in once in awhile to meet and worship alongside students who are active in the ministry. Also, we’ll be hosting a cookout after that first worship service on the 19th.

Then, every Wednesday and Thursday morning, starting August 22nd, Wild Card Cafe will return, offering free breakfast to students who are passing by on their way to and from class. This ministry was a wonderful outreach last year and we made some great connections with students. Now that we’ll be offering this meal twice a week, we’ll need some extra volunteers.

We would love for you to prayerfully consider joining us.

Last but not least, we’ll be hosting a monthly meal on the fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall that is open to the campus and the community. Each meal will include a speaker who will be discussing contemporary topics affecting our community. The first meal will be August 27th and the topic of discussion will be Race Issues in our city and our churches. More details to come.

If you have any questions, or you want more information on volunteering, don’t hesitate to contact me!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Robert

The Bearing Fruit Harvesters Group continues collecting peanut butter for BSU students.

Peanut butter (up to 2 lbs. jars) for the Cardinal Kitchen.

Cardinal Kitchen is a year-round food pantry on Ball State campus that is operated by students for student’s benefit.

Please place your donations in the plastic tote located in the North Lobby.

Thank you!

Fundraiser for Wild Card Cafe

We need your vinyl records! Yes, your 33’s, 45’s, and 78’s are needed. We will be selling these at the Old Washington Street Festival in September.

Start going through your records now and consider which ones to donate for a great cause!