One of my favorite jokes is short, well-worn and applied to many contexts. Here we go. How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb? The answer is, “Change? What do you mean change?”

It’s funny and not so funny. The not so funny has to do with tried and true understandings as Presbyterians about God and how God works and our responsibility to live as disciples of Jesus. Those don’t change. Some things are truly bedrock. Life should be built on a firm, never-changing foundation, especially life in Christ.

The funny (I hope it struck you as funny!) has to do with how we humans (not just Presbyterians) can be. We don’t like change all that much. We have our own ways that we prefer over others. It’s not just that we prefer things to not change, we really believe change will mean disaster. Well, maybe it won’t be disastrous. It’ll be worse at least. But that’s not the only option. Change can lead to good, deep, lasting good. We may not think so at first, of course.

When our doctor gives us a diagnosis, a prognosis and then options, we have a choice to make. We can keep going as we are and find that the news gets worse and our health deteriorates. We can also choose to change something through different practices or through treatment. Changes, no matter how challenging we find them, can allow us to get better and perhaps to be healthier than we have been in a long time. The changes we undertake can give us a whole new lease on life.

Our congregation is part of a group of congregations in Central and East Central Indiana that are organized as a presbytery. Pastors and lay leaders who guide the work of our presbytery have been prompted to encourage all our churches to bravely consider the following:

> Are we satisfied with where we are and where we seem to be headed?  
> If not, will we do the hard work to let God show us what we are to be and to do?  
> We need to face our fears. Of what are we afraid?

Lack of awareness can keep us from change. The book Our Iceberg is Melting is a metaphor for organizational life. All the penguins on a particular iceberg are content and think life is grand though there are some indicators that things aren’t like they used to be. Then one intrepid penguin discovers evidence that the iceberg itself is melting. Now aware, the whole penguin community begins to respond and respond in different ways.

We’re not penguins (though that might be fun). We are people (sometimes fun and sometimes not). Once we are aware of trends and know change is needed, fears can hold us back from actually accepting that change is needed and then taking steps to implement helpful, life-giving changes. This is true for any of us personally. This is true for organizations. This is true for congregations.

I’m so grateful that we who are First Pres are out in front of this movement to consider who we are and what God has for us to do. While all of us are engaged at different levels in conversations about who God wants us to be in the future based on who we are right now, we’re all aware that the greater Muncie area is not the same as it was thirty years ago. Our own specific church neighborhood is not the same. First Pres is not the same.

What is all this showing us? We can remain the same, of course. There are some things that will be the same. Let me ask you to consider this. If we remain exactly as we are now, where will that take us? Organizational experts indicate that the average life-cycle of a congregation is now sixty years from birth to death. Since First Pres has been around for one hundred eighty years, we’ve seen various rebirths throughout our existence.

Where are we in our current life-cycle? What is God showing us about the changes we need to make in order to enter into a whole new life-cycle? I’m not sure of these answers, nor are the rest of our leaders, but we are sure that God can both show us our need for change and enable us to make the changes that help our ministry grow into all that God desires.

How many Presbyterians does it take to change? It doesn’t matter. As long as we are open to all God desires to do in and through us, change will come and we can be part of it all with God’s help.

Thanks for being a part of it all!

Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
The Gospel of John

During Advent and Christmas we enjoyed a full celebration of the birth of Jesus. As we step into a new year it’s a good time to pick up the rest of the story in order to discover who he was and what he sought to accomplish. Our sources are the mini-biographies of Jesus called the Gospels, the “Good News.” This winter, we will walk through one of these documents called, The Gospel According to John.

If we take a face value what the Bible says, this man John knew Jesus well. He was among the first to become a disciple of Jesus. His declared reason for writing his treatment of Jesus and his ministry is “that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John’s gospel includes moments in Jesus’ ministry that provide compelling clues about himself, about faith and about big picture realities related to God and all creation. These startling clues are given in a series of conversations and miracles. With each of these events, Jesus points out something deeply important for those who were with him then and for us today. Come join us as we examine these “life clues” in the months ahead. Each of these clues might lead to vital discoveries for us all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Some Things Just Seem Too Good to be True</td>
<td>9:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>For the Opposition</td>
<td>10:1-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Death Isn’t Final</td>
<td>11:1-44</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25 (Palm Sunday)</td>
<td>Expectations Abound</td>
<td>12:12-19</td>
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<td>April 1 (Easter Sunday)</td>
<td>Death is Defeated</td>
<td>20:1-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>For the Ashamed</td>
<td>21:15-19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

First Presbyterian Church will be closed on Good Friday, March 30th.

Spring Forward

On Saturday March 10, remember to set your clocks one hour ahead.

Don’t be late to church on Sunday!
**Lenten Worship**

As we move through the season of Lent, our worship will take on a more subdued tone. In particular, our music at the 11:00 service will reflect a pairing down, with the voice of the choir being heard in different ways and hymns that are meditative in nature. Less pomp and circumstance, more introspection.

We invite you to enter into this season of quietness and simplicity as we prepare for the holy extravagance of Easter to come.

Kerry

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**First Presbyterian Church**

**Palm Sunday** March 25  
Brunch between services

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**  
Communion Service at 7:00 pm

**Good Friday Service, March 30**  
at 12:00 p.m. at Union Missionary Baptist Church  
1100 N Macedonia Ave, Muncie, IN 47303

**April 1st, Easter Sunday**  
Sunrise Service at 7:00 am; one combined service 11:00 am

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**Food Drive**  
For Cardinal Kitchen at Ball State

**Who are we helping?** Cardinal Kitchen a student-run food pantry on Ball State campus that benefits students.

**What are we collecting?** Jars of peanut butter (up to 2 lb. jars) and grape jelly

**When should I donate?** Anytime now through March 11th

**Where do I put my donations?** Donations should be placed in the Cardinal Kitchen box in the north lobby.

**Why are we doing this?** This is a great way to help our neighbors!
**Bearing Fruit Opportunity**

On February 1, on behalf of Bearing Fruit Harvesters, Cathy Alexander and I attended a workshop sponsored by the Center for Congregations. A Bearing Fruit opportunity dropped into our laps! The Center, funded by Lilly money, is seeking 30 congregations who will engage in a nine-month educational process (May 2018-Feb. 2019) listening to both their community and congregation in order to develop a new mutual ministry program.

First Presbyterian Church has a long history of community involvement and mission. This is a way to build on that record of participation.

What is a mutual community ministry? According to the Center for Congregations, it is a commitment to work *with* not *for*, the people they wish to serve. It is different from both charity and evangelism, both of which are important forms of congregational and community engagement. Mutual community ministry has three characteristics. It is relational: it begins by building relationships. It is asset-based: it builds on the resources and talents of both the congregation and those we hope to serve. Finally, it is collaborative: it is fleshed out and implemented *with* the community rather than *for* them.

Here’s what the educational sessions will cover:

- How to effectively LISTEN to your community (as we choose to define “community”).
- How to LISTEN to your congregation so the congregation is engaged and committed to the new ministry.
- How to integrate the strengths and passions of our congregation with the strengths, passions and needs of your targeted community in order to create a new mutual ministry.

After completing the educational component of the program, we will be eligible to apply for matching funds for up to $30,000 to fund our new mutual ministry. This is a one-time program and is highly competitive. The application (due March 20) states, “Please note that this is a highly participatory program. If your congregation chooses to apply, you are indicating your congregation’s willingness to participate in each stage of the process.”

Rev. Pat Smith and the Session (including the moderators of the Deacons and the Mission Committee) have already indicated their approval and willingness to participate. The Bearing Fruit Harvesters committee voted their approval and will co-ordinate this new initiative if we are one of the chosen congregations.

Are you willing to participate? Stay tuned and fasten your seat belts. The Holy Spirit is on the move!

Jan McCune and Cathy Alexander
Bearing Fruit Harvesters Committee
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**"FAMILY REUNION"**

If you have a functional full-sized suitcase with wheels, we could use it to transport items to the Dominican Republic!

Please bring your donation to the church office.

Thanks, in advance, for participating in this ministry in an important way!

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**Third Thursday**

*Everyone is welcome for lunch and fellowship in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon.*

**March 15**

"A Right Not a Privilege: Voting History in the United States".

Nicole Etcheson, Professor of History at Ball State University

To register, call the church office (765-289-4431) or email office@firstprespuncie.org by **Monday, March 12th. The cost is $5.00.**

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Fill your St. Patrick’s Day evening with the sounds of all-male singing! Free and open to the public.

Two male choirs, Muncie’s Magic City Music Men and the Ball State Statesmen will share the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church for a St. Patrick’s Day performance, on **Saturday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.**

The concert is free and no tickets are required. Musical selections range from barbershop choruses and quartets to Romantic hymns and songs with poetry by E.E. Cummings. Andrew Crow and Bryan Hughes will lead the singing.

The short, energetic concert is suitable for concert-ready children and listeners of any age!

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Spring is right around the corner...and so is the Annual Spring Clean Up Day!

**Spring Clean-Up Day**

Bring your tools and join us on **Saturday, March 24th from 9 till noon. Jobs include planting, digging, pruning, cutting back grasses, raking, shoveling top soil and mulch and more.**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach. -ISAIAH 58

Remember to bring your monetary gift to the service on Easter Sunday.

EDNESDAY’S BIBLE CONVERSATIONS
EAVESDROPPING ON JESUS: WHAT’S HE REALLY UP TO?
Participants look at each text of the “Life Clues” sermon series the week before that text is preached. The series explores deep conversations Jesus has with various people and the miracles recorded in John’s Gospel. Everyone is invited to these stimulating conversations in the Lounge, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. we started on January 10 and will continue until April 11.

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

KOREAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL
한국어 학교
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!

WE NEED LITURGISTS
for the 11:00 am services.
If you want to serve as a Scripture reader for a Sunday service, please sign up on the bulletin board, contact Gabby at office@firstpresmuncie.org or call 765-289-4431.
Readings for the week will be emailed to you or a copy can be picked up in the office. Thank you!

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!

Flower Calendar 2018
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.
Support our South View Food Pantry

Volunteers are welcome to distribute food at South View from 4:45 to 7:00 on the following dates:

- March 22
- April 26
- May 24

Email Cathy Alexander if you would like to be part of this wonderful ministry! cathy@firstpresmuncie.org

Volunteers always welcome!

Volunteers at 12:30 to 3:00 pm and Delivery drivers at 2:30 pm.

A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board, behind the information desk.

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.

Grand total $2,030.00!

A huge thank you to all who participated in our Pre-K fundraiser! The evening was filled with lots of trivia as well as fellowship, food and laughter! A special thanks to the Fellowship and Pre-K Committees for their hard work and participation. Table 23 was our winning table; please congratulate Jim and Jennifer Williams as well as Jon Moll and friends Nick and Ali on their win! The preschool is so fortunate to have the support of so many and remain one of the top ministry programs in Muncie!

Thank you!

**SALVATION ARMY PANTRY ITEM FOR MARCH: CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in Fellowship Hall.

**First Presbyterian Church**

1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303

Phone: 765-289-4431
Fax: 765-289-4486
www.firstpresmuncie.org
office@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

**Carrie Jo Miller, Commissioned Ruling Elder**
cjmiller3501@comcast.net

**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
We hope to see the sanctuary filled with beautiful Easter lilies on Sunday, April 1. As in previous years you have the opportunity to order lilies in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. The flowers may then be taken home with you after the Easter service.

To order, please place this completed form and payment in the offering plate or send to the church office at:

1400 W. Riverside Ave., Muncie IN 47303.

To ensure accuracy please print clearly.

Order forms must be received by the church office by

Sunday, March 18, 2018!

Qty. Ordered: ____ X $12.00 each = Total due ________

Date paid: _________ Amt paid: $__________

Chk#__________

In loving memory of:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

In honor or celebration of:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Given by:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________