“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” The word of God given to the prophet Isaiah is a word of hope to the Hebrew people and a reminder to all of us that God continues to do a new thing in our midst. This should be words of hope and comfort, about a God who does not give up on us, about a God who continues to find new ways to engage and love and call us into our best selves. But anyone who has encountered “a new thing” knows that it can also be a time of fear and wilderness and grief.

It seems fitting that we begin this new chapter in the life of First Presbyterian Church during the season of Advent. This is the season of new beginnings, of anticipation and waiting. This is the season where we are all invited to live into the liminal space of this moment, where we tell the story of Christ being born into this world even as we wait for the new heaven and new earth that has yet to come. This is the already and the not yet, a time of remembrance and a time of hope for the future. We tell the old story, and we remember that God’s story continues to unfold in our midst.

This is a season that seems to demand a lot of our time and energy. We are busy preparing our homes for visitors or ourselves to travel. We are preparing food for parties and buying presents for family and friends. We have end-of-year work that is piling up on our desks and we are all dreaming of a few days of rest and family and fun. But do we also have time to wait, to pause, to anticipate and discern the new thing that God is doing in our midst? Can we take a moment to breathe in deep breaths of hope and love, of joy and peace? Can we acknowledge our uncertainty and anxiety while we trust in God’s grace and mercy?

As we journey once more into the season of Advent, we are also called to be hope for the hopeless, to share love with the hurting, to bring joy to the lonely, and to speak peace in the midst of unrest. This is the season of new beginnings, of new things, and I look forward to beginning this season with you.

The Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann
The First Pres Giving Tree is UP!!
Stop at the hallway by the lounge...

This year, First Pres Church is sponsoring families and children from South View Elementary.
Pick up one or more tags, share your blessings and the love of God during this wonderful Advent Season!

Christmas Eve Worship Services
12:00 noon Communion Service in the chapel
7:30 pm Candlelight Service in the sanctuary

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th, also on December 31st and January 1st.

Christmas Brunch Celebration
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 15, right after the worship service.
Bring your favorite holiday dish to share!

Adult/Youth Spiritual Growth Class in Fellowship Hall
8:45 a.m.– refreshments
starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. Class wraps up at 9:45 am
Coffee and donuts served!

We hope to see you in Fellowship Hall at 9:00!

December 1st: No Sunday Class
Dec 8 & 15:
“Advent Study” A broad survey of the history of Advent!
Led by Joel Shrock and Warren Vander Hill.
*Its place in the Western liturgical year
*When it began
*How it has changed over the centuries
*How it looks back as well as forward
*How it is celebrated in other faiths

Dec 22: Christmas food baskets for South View families.
December 29: No Sunday Class
Sermon Series: **WHERE WE BEGIN**
The Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann

2nd Sunday in Advent:
Dec. 8: Matthew 3:1-12 - “Prepare the Way”

3rd Sunday in Advent
Dec 15: Isaiah 35:1-10 - “Strength Over Fear”

4th Sunday in Advent
Dec 22: Matthew 1:18-25 - “Righteous”

Christmas Eve
Dec 24: Lessons and Carols - “The Story”

New Year’s Eve
Dec 29: Ryon Herin - Princeton Theological Seminary Student

Epiphany
Jan 5: Matthew 2:1-12 - “Light in the Darkness”

**NEW OFFICER NOMINATIONS**
Officer Nominations are open for the Elders and Deacons Class of 2022. Please fill out a form and place in the offering plate, deliver it to the church office, or mail it to 1400 W. Riverside Ave, Muncie, IN 47303, no later than Sunday, December 8, 2019. Forms are available on the Church’s Information Desk, second floor.

**Dee Dah Day**
Women’s Book Study & Prayer Group

Dee Dah Day will be meeting on Friday, December 6, at 9:00 am in the Church Lounge where we will continue to study *The Gift of Years—Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. If any questions, please contact Barbara Ottinger at 289-4080 or lkbaott59@comcast.net.

Our annual Dee Dah Day Christmas Gathering will be on Friday, December 20, at 11:00 am at the Delaware Country Club.

(Luncheon reservations are due by Wednesday, December 18 to Sharon Stephen at 284-3550 or wookie-1@msn.com)
Please remember to take your YWCA Residents items on Friday; for further information on this project, please contact Bev Wilson at 284-1170 or bev1200@gmail.com.

“A blessing of these years is finding a child who will help us to step out of all the old roles and become a human being again.”
USING YOUR IRA TO SHARE YOUR TREASURE!

Are you passionate about your generosity to First Presbyterian Church? Does our congregation’s outreach in the community inspire you? If you are age 70 ½ or older, there is an easy way to share your passion and treasure through the required minimum distribution from your IRA.

The Requirements:
- You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of the distribution
- The distribution must be an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA (excludes ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA’s)
- Distributions must be made directly to First Presbyterian Church
- Annual distribution limit of $100,000

The Benefits:
- Can satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA are not included in taxable income
- Take advantage of the new, higher standard deduction and the benefit of a charitable gift

**Please consult your tax professional before taking any action.

MASTERWORKS CHORALE PRESENTS “HOLIDAY CLASSICS”
Saturday, December 14 - 7:00 pm
High Street United Methodist Church

Join Masterworks Chorale for a seasonal concert filled with beloved holiday music from the classical, popular, and carol repertoires - including excerpts from Handel’s Messiah.

Several First Presbyterian singers are in the Chorale, and Kerry Glann conducts. A reception will follow in the HSUMC Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance by calling the Masterworks Chorale office at (765) 286–5347 ext. 22.

Third Thursday Luncheon
December 19, 2019

Speaker of the Month: Chris Flook
Associate Lecturer of Telecommunications, Ball State University

To RSVP, please call or email the church office by Monday, December 16, 2019 at 765-289-4431 or office@firstpresmuncie.org
COMMUNITY MINISTRY GRANT AT WORK

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: For a number of years, the Mission Committee has provided needy families with baskets of food at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year, a number of South View volunteers joined Mission in the effort... bringing food to 10 South View families that were chosen by the school counselor. Bill and I delivered food to the Knight family who we’d met before at the food pantry. Grandma and her sister posed for a photo but all 3 kids were in bed with the flu. One of our long term goals for the grant project is to develop relationships with the parents. Working at the food pantry and delivering the food baskets are a perfect opportunity to do so. Thanks to all who helped in the effort with special thanks to Debbie and John Foster who shopped for all the food.

STRESS BUSTERS: Once a month, we provide an after-school stress busting activity. Teacher Denise Gawrys loves the Pound Fit classes she takes and arranged for her instructor, Donna Philipps, to lead an hour long class. Pound Fit is a combination cardio and weight training exercise approach that uses “drum” sticks to keep the rhythm. There was lots of laughter as everyone struggled to keep time. Everyone loved it in spite of sore muscles the following day.

INDY AIR BEARS:
On November 22, the Indy Air Bears jump rope team made two presentations at the school (pre-K to 2, 3-5). The team travels internationally and in the US to compete and performs at half time at athletic events at Ball State, Pacers, etc. The students loved the show and were amazed at the tricks the team performed. Five of their team members are Ball State students who will provide two days of coaching during Kyanne Trissel’s PE classes in January. Besides the presentation and coaching, grant funds were used to purchase jump ropes and storage for them. This could be the spark that results in a South View jump rope team!

THANK YOU: Thank you to our congregation who takes investment in the Muncie community seriously. The CMG team feels fortunate to be part of a project that builds on that tradition. Jan, Cathy, Myron, and Marty
We had an Open House on November 18 from 6-7:30. The attendance was wonderful! It was a great turnout!

We originally scheduled the Open House for November 11, but had to cancel due to the extreme weather that night! The kids were so excited to show off their school and projects to their families! Several Grandparents were in attendance too! It was a great night!

All our preschool classes will come together to celebrate Thanksgiving!

The children will dress as Pilgrims and Indians and give thanks together before enjoying pumpkin bread, popcorn and apple juice.

On behalf of the church, Pre-K staff and Pre-K Committee, we are excited to host the 5th Annual

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7,**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**9:00-11:00 A.M.**

**COST:** Donations of shampoo, body wash, bar soap, deodorant (men/women), toothbrushes—all sizes, toothpaste, liquid laundry soap for Muncie Christian Ministries.

Also, we could use socks, hats and gloves for men for the Christian Ministers Sleeping room.

(Please note: This is the only time Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the preschool)

**Breakfast this year will be a continental breakfast.**

Pre-K families will enjoy breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. (you may arrive any time between 9:00-11 am for breakfast)

Then we will be visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and the kids will have the opportunity to make a craft!

Reservations are required and must be received by December 4

There will be great photo opportunities throughout the morning, please bring your camera!

We are very busy at Preschool and having a great time learning!

We are so excited with the holidays coming and enjoying every minute of it!

*Merry Christmas everyone!*
Join our team of Volunteer Bus Drivers
We have a volunteer opportunity providing Sunday morning transportation for our Westminster Village members.

The church bus doesn’t require a special license and is easy to drive.
The bus leaves the parking lot at 9:15 a.m. to arrive at Westminster around 9:30 a.m.
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, Tim Koontz, Jonathan Schmidt, and Bob Wadsworth.

If you would be willing to drive, please contact the church office. A reminder email with the schedule will be sent out weekly.

Ministry Guild continues collecting crafting items for Beyond I CAN:
Bring anything that can be used or repurposed: Magazines, newspapers, crafting materials, jewelry, paint, glue, yarn, old and new greeting cards, stickers, paint brushes, terracotta flower pots, cardstock paper, scotch tape, etc.

Beyond I CAN creates jobs and experiences that allow individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to operate a business with assistance from volunteers.
Please put your donations in the tub basket located in the North Lobby.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
10:00 am Worship Service
11:30 am International Congregation Service
4:00 pm Grace Village Worship

The Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann
daren@firstpresmuncie.org
The Rev. Dr. Myungku Lee, Associate Pastor
9brights@firstpresmuncie.org
Carrie Jo Miller, Commissioned Ruling Elder
cjmiller3501@comcast.net
Sharon Rogers, Director of Pre-Kindergarten
sharon@firstpresmuncie.org
Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org
Gabriela Burciaga, Administrative Assistant
office@firstpresmuncie.org
Asher John, Building Superintendent
ashersw@yahoo.com

THE SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:
Canned Soups
Please place your donation(s) in the cart in the coat closet in Fellowship Hall

TAKE HOME A HYMNAL
We are now using our new hymnals in our Sunday worship services and we need to dispose of the 1990 hymnals we were using.
If you would like to have any of our 1990 hymnals, please feel free to take them from the tables in the hallway outside the Lounge where they are stacked until further notice.

The 2020 Calendar for the Communion Table Flowers
is up on the Information Board, ready for you to choose your preferred dates for communion table flowers offering.
(look for it behind the 2019 calendar)

First Presbyterian Church
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Muncie IN 47303
Phone: 765-289-4431
Fax: 765-289-4486
www.firstpresmuncie.org
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sharon@firstpresmuncie.org
Lisa Ulrich, Business Administrator
lisa@firstpresmuncie.org
Gabriela Burciaga, Administrative Assistant
office@firstpresmuncie.org
Asher John, Building Superintendent
ashersw@yahoo.com
As in previous years, you have the opportunity to order poinsettias to decorate the church in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. The flowers may be taken home with you after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

Cost is $15 each.
Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church; memo: Poinsettias

Orders must be received at the church office by Monday, December 9, 2019!

To order, please place a completed form and payment in the offering plate or send it to the church office at 1400 West Riverside Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303.

Christmas Poinsettias

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Quantity ordered: _____ X $15 each = Total due $_______
Date pd: _______ Amt pd: _______ Check #_______

In loving memory of: ________________________________

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

In honor or celebration of: __________________________

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

Given by: ________________________________________