Resurrection Sunday was a special morning! Many of us find that it is the most joyous and celebratory event of all our worship opportunities. Family members came home to visit or made worship a part of their day. Visitors were drawn to be with us as part of new interest in spiritual things or out of long-held tradition. Most of us here that day are vitally involved in our congregation’s whole ministry life and think of First Pres as our always spiritual home. It was great to see everyone as we worshiped together!

This particular Easter Sunday was evidence, once again, of how blessed we are for great music leadership and investment by so many. I cannot express deeply enough my gratitude for Dr. Kerry Glann and everything he brings to our worship and ministry life through his gifts, skills, experience and heart. Our organist, Mr. Peter Douglas, lends his gifts so well in so many different ways that I, once again, am at a loss for words of thanks for who he is and what he brings to all forms of accompaniment. Our choir and guest musicians on that Sunday brought our worship to life and gave full expression to our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Thank you all!

There are many moving parts (read here, “people”) to all of our Holy Week and Easter congregational life. Our Ministry Guild heads up our Palm Sunday breakfast and preps everything for Maundy Thursday communion, our Deacons provide other treats and coffee, make sure we get settled into the sanctuary for worship, our Elders greet us as we arrive, Worship and Religious Arts folks watch over it all and help get the cross draped with beautiful flowers as a sign of new life and our International Congregation adds to worship in wonderful ways. These servants, and all the rest of us, helped celebrate “a morning unlike any other” as mentioned in my message.

Let’s keep building on all of this! Keep the following in mind in the month of May along with all the other aspects of ministry and mission found in this issue of Columns:

• The Pastor Nominating Committee as its members invest fully in their work—please pray as they finish their work on the written materials needed to receive the go ahead to receive resumes.
• This month’s four-week preaching series “God’s Hit Parade” that highlights four very special Psalms
• The rest of our Sunday morning 9:00 class on the “7 Marks of a Vital Congregation,” that challenges and encourages us as we seek to be and do all that God asks of us
• Our hosting of presbytery on May 1st led by Joyce Beck and many other leaders and volunteers as we put our hospitality gifts on full display

In another month we will be in full summer mode, so let’s celebrate right where we are for now and look forward to what those months will bring. God is on the move!

The Rev. Dr. Pat Smith
ADULT/YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLASS IN FELlowship HALL
from 8:45 to 9:45 am every Sunday
8:45 a.m.– refreshments—starting promptly at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee and donuts served!

Sunday Adult Class through May 2019
“Vital Signs” by: Pat Smith

It’s not necessarily fun for us to undergo yearly physicals. In fact, some of us may have avoided them only to find out it would have been a good idea to have done this kind of health assessment earlier—a really good idea. There are others of us who find that this annual ritual brings really good news! Things that have not been good physically have gotten better. We might even be in the wonderful category of being consistently as healthy as a horse (whatever that means) and we love to celebrate that everything is still great!

Some physical challenges are relatively easy to address, others are not so easy. Having a “can do” attitude often makes a difference. Staying positive and making adjustments, small or large, often can lead to more positive results, even to full vitality.

The same can be said of our spiritual health as individuals and as a congregation. We’ve begun a youth/adult class on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45 called “First Pres Vital Signs.” We’ve looked at our overall health as a church and engaged in a conversation each Sunday that deals with one of the “7 Marks of Vital Congregations,” a tool put out by our denomination’s Theology, Formation and Growth staff. Topics to be considered Sunday by Sunday and used to help assess the health of First Pres are:

— lifelong discipleship formation
— intentional authentic evangelism
— outward incarnational focus
— empowered servant leadership
— Spirit-inspired worship
— caring relationships
— ecclesial health.

All of us who call First Pres our spiritual home play important roles in the health and vitality of our congregational ministry and mission. Please join us as we assess, explore and apply ourselves to a healthy and vibrant future.

Happy Mother’s Day

To all First Pres moms and grandmothers, in earth and heaven.
May your day be filled with blessings and joy!

Weekly Weeders Coming Up!

It’s time to start taking care of our grounds, bushes and flower beds again!

Join us! We are a super fun group!
We will be around church every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. starting on May 15.
Bring gloves and your favorite garden tools!
May 2019

THE COLUMNS

Third Thursday

Everyone is welcome for lunch and fellowship at our Third Thursday Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

May 16, 2019
"Tasmania -- Beneath the Land Down Under"
by Tom Schwartz

Cost for luncheon is $5.00.
Please RSVP by Monday, May 13, call the church office (765) 289-4431 or email office@firstpresmuncie.org

Best Wishes to Jeff and Tracy in Their New Endeavors!

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on Sunday, May 19 from 2-4 pm as we say farewell to Tracy and Jeff Clinger as they begin the next chapter of their lives in Ohio.

Tracy has served our preschool as a teacher and director over the past several years. We want her to know how much we appreciate and love her for all she has given to the preschool program. Jeff and Tracy have been faithful servants and members of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us for this celebration and help us spread the word. If you can not attend the Open House please feel free to send a message, a note or card to 1400 W. Riverside Ave. Muncie, IN 47304.

The Pre-K Committee

Dee Dah Day

Women's Book Study & Prayer Group

We continue to study “The Gift of Years--Growing Older Gracefully” by Joan Chittister.

Our last reunion in the church Lounge for this Spring will be on Friday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m.
If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Ottinger at 289-4080 or lkbaott59@comcast.net.

Our second gathering on Friday, May 24, will be at the Delaware Country Club at 11:30 a.m.
For reservations, please contact Sharon Stephen at 765-215-6901 or wookie-1@msn.com

* “These are the capstone years, the time in which a whole new life is in the making again. But the gift of these years is not merely being alive--it is the gift of becoming more fully alive than ever."

The 2019 Flower Calendar is up on the Information Board!

If you wish to dedicate flowers to a loved one or for a special occasion on a Sunday worship service, please sign up on the Flower Calendar posted behind the information desk. You will be contacted by the church office in advance of the date you request, to gather information for the Sunday bulletin.
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 765-289-4431.
A reminder email with the schedule will be sent out weekly.

Hold the Date!
First Pres Habitat is Saturday, June 15!

Sign Up sheets and more detailed information coming soon!
UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY MINISTRY GRANT TEAM

OUR SOUTH VIEW MINISTRY

Grant Project News:

Last April, our church was chosen to participate in the Community Grant Ministry Program of the Center for Congregations. After a year of listening, discerning where God was leading us, forming relationships with the teachers and staff of South View Elementary, we are ready to write our grant proposal. The elements in it are based on the teacher survey and discussions with the teachers and staff.

On April 9, Myron, Bill (McCune), and I presented the survey findings to a faculty meeting having first sent them to Jim Williams, President of the school board and Kate White, our case manager from the Center for Congregations for their approval. We did not want the teachers to count on something and then find out it would not be approved. Below are the teachers’ current top priority items which are subject to change by them as deemed necessary.

The grant money should be used on a classroom budget (stipend) that teachers could use to buy whatever they need for their classroom. After consultation with the funding agency, Kate wrote, “Unfortunately, the teacher stipends will not qualify for the grant. Our funder believes there are more creative ways to provide these funds in a sustainable way. I’m happy to brainstorm this further. It could look like fundraisers or rallying a PTO. The rest of the top items you proposed are grant eligible.”

- the completion and opening of the sensory room. (It will contain a variety of items that use one or more senses and have proved helpful with students with autism, special needs, and/or behavioral issues. The room will be used under the guidance of the counselor, occupational therapist, or other qualified persons. The Mission Committee already gave the school $2,000 which they used to order some materials.)
- the purchase of new machines for the teacher workroom such as a laminator, die cut letter machine, plug in computer carts etc.
- a collection of guided reading books for levels A to Z.
- a larger bookroom to store the items above

It is now up to the teachers to research the items above, find sources and prices and get them to the grant team by mid-May so we can meet the June 1 first draft deadline. Through their research, price comparisons, and discussion, teachers may reorder their priorities and choose items that were originally lower on their list.

Volunteer News:

May 19: South View volunteer recognition during Sunday worship. We would like to honor all those who have logged in any hours on behalf of the school/teachers.

May 24: Teacher Work Day. Help a teacher close their classroom for the year. No background check needed since children will not be present. 9-3 or any hours within that time frame. It would be terrific if all 30 teachers had a helper. If you are interested, contact Laura Smith.

A great idea from Debbie Foster and Karen Hayden: a group of volunteers who would be willing to work at home during the summer on teaching materials. We are working with a group at South View to make a list of tasks and send out a survey to the teachers early May. If you are interested, contact Laura Smith.

July: Volunteer orientation and filling in of background check forms. That way we will be ready to go when school starts in early August. More details later.

August 1: Teacher Work Day: Getting classrooms ready for the new year. Background checks necessary because students may be present. If you are interested, contact Laura Smith.

Jan McCune for the Community Ministry Grant team of Cathy Alexander, Myron Earhart, and Marty Kendrick
Thank you to all of you that came and worked hard making our church grounds look groomed and beautiful:

Grounds Committee and FPC members, Students from Monroe Central Jr. Sr. High School Varsity Basketball team, Students from Taylor University, members of our International Congregation and Ball State Students, members of PCM.
Liturgists for the 10:00 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 Gabby in the office (office@firstpresmuncie.org; 765-289-4431).

Readings for the week will be emailed to you or a copy can be picked up in the office. Thank you!

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.

The Bearinger Fruit Harvesters Group is collecting donations of 4-pack toilet paper rolls 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!

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

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
10:00 am One Unified Service
11:30 am International Congregation Service
4:00 pm University/Young Adult Worship

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

Travis Graves, Building Superintendent
tog0311@gmail.com

2019 Summer Garden Services Coming Soon!
Be ready!
We start on Sunday, June 2!
Songs have always been a way of expressing questions, feelings, convictions and insights or even just for thinking out loud. Every one of us is free to make of someone’s lyrics or melody what we want. We like it or not. It’s all our choice.

Taylor Swift indicates that the first song she wrote was when she was in third grade. Think of life at age eight. Can you guess the theme of her first song? Yes, it was about a boy and a crush on said boy. History’s first song lyrics are traced to about thirty-four hundred years old in Sumer, the first urban area located in southern Mesopotamia. Some have estimated that the first song music was likely in evidence fifty-five thousand years ago in a pre-historic clan. You and I likely heard our first song in early childhood via a record, CD, radio or a parent’s voice.

God songs, those of faith, have been around likely from the beginning of human history. When we think of God songs, some of us automatically think of modern praise songs or Twentieth Century hymns or classical composers and their lyrics. Though our worship now leans more toward traditional music settings and sounds, we’ve enjoyed a wider range in the past and might once again in the future. We might even hear things we’ve never heard before. No matter the style, the intent in worship music is to help us honor God and to sense the presence of God.

There is a very well-known collection of songs about God that is often forgotten in our day and time. We use them most often as words to be read more than sung. Written and compiled over a period of almost a thousand years, it is a hymnbook called The Psalms in the Bible. Penned by a variety of authors at various stages of life, they became the song book for the Jewish people.

Between now and summer, we’re going to do a countdown of the four most popular songs of this ultimate collection according to recent polls. As we look into the lyrics of each one, we will see God and ourselves more clearly.

Join us as we count down to the number one hit of the Psalms.