Glimpse of Grace

As Presbyterians, we believe that God calls particular people to particular services within the church, and it is because of this calling that we ordain and install officers to serve on behalf of the whole congregation. On January 26, we ordained two new deacons and installed ten elders and deacons to a new term of service to the church. On February 16, I will be officially installed as the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church at a special worship service in the afternoon. These special services are a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate and learn more about our understanding of calling and how the church invites leaders into faithful service.

One of the key parts of any ordination or installation service is the constitutional questions that each candidate for office is asked to affirm. These include questions about faith in Jesus and in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament. The questions include reference to the core document of the denomination including the confessions of the church and the Book of Order, but some of my favorite questions are more about the way we lead than simply what we believe.

One question begins by asking leaders to abide by our rules but then continues saying, “Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?” What an amazing question to ask leaders. It is not enough to lead, but it is a requirement that we lead together, as a team.

Another one of the questions asks, “Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” It is not enough to say yes, but then we need to live out our yes in discipleship. We must give our energy; we must share our intelligence and wisdom; we must dream and imagine what is not already present, and through it all, we must love.

Christ has promised to work through his church, and we have been called to be Christ’s body in this world. I find such depth of meaning and purpose within the questions that I have asked others and that have been asked of me. On February 16, as I stand before this congregation and share my affirmation to the constitutional questions again, I hope you will see the marks of God’s grace within the words and within my own joy in saying, “I do and I will.”

The Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann
An Altar in the World

Lenten Study

During the season of Lent, the adult Sunday school class will be studying the book An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor.

The study will be led by Pastor Hofmann, and it will begin on Sunday, March 1, and continue for six weeks. We will meet from 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall before worship. Each Sunday, we will examine two chapters of the book and share in open conversation around the Spiritual Practices that the author discusses within those chapters.

Please sign up for this study by February 16 so that we can have books available to be picked up on Sunday, February 23.

You can sign up on Sundays at the welcome desk or email the office and let us know you will be participating.

Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann

On Sunday, February 16, at 3:30 p.m., we will have a service of installation for Pastor Hofmann.

This service is a formal time for the congregation and the presbytery of Whitewater Valley to confirm the calling of Daren to be our pastor and for him to confirm his calling to ordained ministry in the service of this congregation. This special service will include music from our choir, guest pastors and elders from sister congregations, and a light reception to follow.

Please come and be a part of this important service and help celebrate and support Pastor Hofmann as our new pastor.

Adult/Youth Spiritual Growth Class in Fellowship Hall

starting promptly at 8:45 a.m. Class wraps up at 9:45 am
Coffee and donuts served!

We hope that you join us!

Feb 9, “Talk About” Missional Outreach with Julia Wadsworth, John Foster and Jan McCune
Feb 16 & 23, The History of Lent with Dr. Joel Shrock and Dr. Warren Vander Hill

Attention College Students!

College Challenge: Anything Goes!

College can be a challenge to your beliefs. You meet people of different faiths, different ethics, different convictions. Many of your own beliefs may be challenged. If you have questions that confuse or bother you, here is your chance to fix that. Starting Sunday, Feb 9, we’ll have a 3 week course called “Anything Goes.” You can ask anything anonymously and we’ll consider all of your questions. This course will meet from 11-noon with pizza and drinks provided in the Youth Hall. Bring your friends.

See Chuck Horvath for more details.
Ministry Guild will meet on February 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm in the church Lounge. Please plan on attending this important meeting as we will discuss this year’s activities and schedules.

Winter-Spring Bible Study Opportunity

We are excited to be exploring, starting in February, a 9-week winter-spring bible study on The Letters of John. A brief summary of the themes in these letters is as follows: First John includes the following themes such as the incarnation, love, and Christian certainties. Warning against false teaching, truth, and love are the themes found in Second John. Third John includes the following themes of hospitality, and truth. This bible study opportunity is open to all who have an interest in learning more about the Letters of John. Ball State students are certainly welcome to participate. We welcome all newcomers whether you are a member of First Presbyterian Church or not. This nine-week study, using a 64-page bible study guide by N. T. Wright, will help us to explore The Letters of John in its context as we apply its truths to our lives today.

We will meet every Wednesday for nine weeks, starting on February 12 - ending on April 8, from 4:30-5:30 PM, in the Bride’s Room.

Please contact bible study leader, Abbie VanMeter, either by email, amvanmeter3@bsu.edu, or call/text, (317) 690-2331 with questions.

To order a study guide, please contact Karen Hayden by email, misart56@aol.com, or call/text, (765) 748-8724, as soon as possible to get the book order in. (Cost per book is $9.00)

Lenten Vespers

The season of Lent calls Christians to journey together with Jesus as he turns toward Jerusalem and ultimately to his betrayal, to the cross, and to the tomb. This year, our journey includes new opportunities to gather and worship on Wednesday nights for Lenten Vespers.

The six vespers services will be held at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26, and continuing through April 1. I pray that you will make time to be a part of this important season in the life of the church.
**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

In the Fellowship Hall, doors will open at 6:00 pm
$10.00 per person

Free childcare for infants through age 10 will be provided.

**ONCE AGAIN JOHN FOSTER WILL HONOR US AS OUR EMCEE**

We will have a Silent Auction during the evening and a 50/50 raffle.
We are accepting donations for the Silent Auction: gift cards, game or events tickets, etc...
Thank you for your support!

Come join us for an evening full of fun and awesome fellowship, all while supporting our First Pres Pre-K program!
You may reserve your table anytime now! Bring a snack to share!

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**News from First Pres Pre-K!**

Well we have gotten everyone back from Christmas break and we are in full swing again! The weather has not been bad, and we are waiting patiently for Spring! Maybe Mr. Groundhog will see his shadow! Or not, whichever brings Spring faster!

Pre-K Registration is beginning soon! Registration begins online at 6:30 a.m. on February 10 for current students. Registration for new students will begin online at 6:30 am on February 17.

Trivia Night will be February 22 at 6:30p.m. The doors will open at 6:00p.m. We will have a silent auction with some nice items to bid on and a 50/50 raffle for even more fun! We will have free childcare for the evening. Bring your own snacks and drinks if you would like. We will have popcorn and water here if you want to make it simple. The cost is $10.00 per person or $60.00 per table. We will have 6 people per team. Get your team rounded up and let’s have some fun raising money for the preschool!

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**Third Thursday Luncheon**

**February 20, 2019**

Churches: The Muncie Churches and Civic Engagement Oral History Project
by James J. Connolly
Director, Center for Middletown Studies & Co-Director, Digital Scholarship Lab
George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of History Ball State University

To RSVP, please call or email the church office by Monday, February 17, 2020
at 765-289-4431 or office@firstpresmuncie.org

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Please help offset First Pres’ Per Capita expense to Presbytery for 2020 by reimbursing the church for the per capita ($41.39) of each FPC member in your family. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian, memo: “Per Capita”. Thank you!
COMMUNITY MINISTRY GRANT AT WORK

Volunteer News and Thank Yous:
• Welcome aboard to our latest volunteers: Pastor Daren Hofmann and Carol Pyle. Daren met some of the teachers and staff while assisting Bill McCune with breakfast duty in the first grade pod. Carol Pyle recently retired from her nursing career and began volunteering weekly in Judy Woodson’s third grade class with students who need reading help.

• Thank you to the Hospitality Team led by Debbie Foster and Karen Hayden who provided a lunch of baked potatoes and all the fixings, iced tea and homemade brownies on January 3, the Teachers’ Work Day. It was delicious and much appreciated!

• Thank you to Joy VanderHill, Marty Kendrick, Joyce Beck, Jan McCune, Barb & Larry Ottinger and Muggs Gooden who helped facilitate the “Smile Program” on January 28 &29. This is the program’s first time at South View. According to their literature, “the mobile dentist is an in-school dental program designed to address today’s dental crisis and keep children healthy. Our innovative model offers state of the art dental care to students in the comfortable and familiar surroundings of their school; keeping them in class and learning.”

• Thank you to Marty Kendrick, Joyce Carmichael and seamstress, Sue Whitaker for their work on the Star mascot costume. Officer David Vest asked if someone could design a costume for Jaedyn, a 2nd grade student who wanted to be the mascot at the South View basketball games. He loved it and can’t wait to shine at the games!

• The CMG team hosted the 2nd Souper Bowl volunteer luncheon consisting of 3 different soups, salad, breadsticks and cookies on Feb.2 right after church. Besides thanking them for their service, the team wanted their input, insights, and stories as part of our evaluation of the grant. One of the highlights was a Who’s Who at South View game in which we identified pictures of teachers and staff.

Project Updates:
• Two of the Ball State students on the Indy Air Bears jump rope team will teach jump rope skills in all of Kyanne Trissel’s PE classes on Friday, Feb. 21 and Friday, March 13. The PE and all special classes rotate so there will be a different set of students on each date.

• Teachers’ Lounge: The floor tile was installed the end of January. New cabinets will be in place early February along with the new furniture, 3 microwaves, and kitchen supplies. Speech teacher Pat Kennedy has been invaluable in planning the lounge renovation. She plans to christen it, “The Paradise Café” with credit to the “angels of First Pres.”

Keep the school in your prayers. Jan McCune for the CMG team of Cathy alexander, Myron Earhart, and Marty Kendrick.
Home Savers thanks First Presbyterian Church

Thank you First Presbyterian Church members. At the end of December 2019 there were funds remaining in the local mission budget. The Mission Committee and Session voted that these could be used by Home Savers to repair furnaces during the winter. Home Savers is a nonprofit organization that repairs homes for low-income Delaware County homeowner. As of the middle of January professional contractors have repaired 2 furnaces and they will be able to do a few more. Thank you.

Michelle Kaitchuck

Dee Dah Day continues to study

The Gift of Years--Growing Older Gracefully by Joan Chittister *

On Friday, February 14 and Friday, February 28 in the Church Lounge at 9:00 a.m.

Please come and join us.

For more information, please contact Barb Ottinger at 289-4080 or lkbaott59@comcast.net.

- "This is the period of spiritual reflection, of spiritual renewal in life. Now is the time to ask ourselves what kind of person we have been becoming all these years. And do we like that person? Did we become more honest, more decent, more caring, more merciful as we went along because of all these things? And if not, what must we be doing about it now?"

Kent State Chorale

TO PERFORM AT FIRST PRES ON MARCH 20

The Kent State University Chorale, the Ohio university’s flagship choral ensemble, will give a free concert in our sanctuary on the evening of March 20 as part of their annual tour, which takes them to Chicago this year. Any church members willing and able to host two or more students overnight and provide breakfast for them in the morning should contact Kerry Glann for more information.

Kerry taught at Kent State prior to moving to Muncie, and he is excited to bring this excellent choir and its conductor, his former colleague Dr. Scott MacPherson, to sing at our church. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

We Need Liturgists

If you would like to serve as a Scripture reader for a Sunday service, at 10:00 a.m. please sign up on the bulletin board, call 765-289-4431, or email office@firstpresmuncie.org.

Readings for the week will be emailed to you by Friday prior to the scheduled Sunday, or/and a copy will be available to be picked up at the office.
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.

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**THE COLUMNS**

**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.

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**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

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

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**February Needs: Personal Hygiene Items**

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in the coat closet by the Fellowship Hall

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**SALVATION ARMY PANTRY:**

February Needs: **Personal Hygiene Items**

Please place your donation(s) in the cart in the coat closet by the Fellowship Hall

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**Giving Up Bach for Lent:**

On Friday, March 27 at 7PM, Graeme Shields will present a concert in the First Presbyterian sanctuary of contemporary organ music for the season of Lent primarily by living composers. The hour-long program will include music by S. Andrew Lloyd, Eriks Ešenvalds, Richard Feliciano, and a piece by the organist, among others. A short informal talk after the concert will give audience members the opportunity to ask questions about the music and the organ.

Graeme Shields is a Canadian-born composer-organist residing in Cincinnati, OH. He has had works performed in the United States, Canada, and Russia at events such as Florida State University’s New Music Festival (2019), Greenlight New Music Festival (2018), and Silver Sounds International Chamber Music Competition (2015).

As a performer, he is a founding member of Vital Organ Project: a composer-organist duo that has been responsible over 15 world premieres and 20 new music events featuring the abilities and distinction of the pipe organ since its inception in 2017. He holds degrees from University of Minnesota-Duluth and Western Michigan University.

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**First Presbyterian Church**

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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.
JESUS PREACHES
Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5 - 7
Feb 9: Teachings, Matthew 6:19-34
Feb 16: Ask, Seek, Knock, Matthew 7:1-12
Feb 23: Warnings, Matthew 7:13-28