

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE COLUMNS

February 2026

Friends, let love guide our steps; give us the courage to act; give us the spirit to heal; give us the hope to move forward and the rest to simply be.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. - Romans 12:9-13

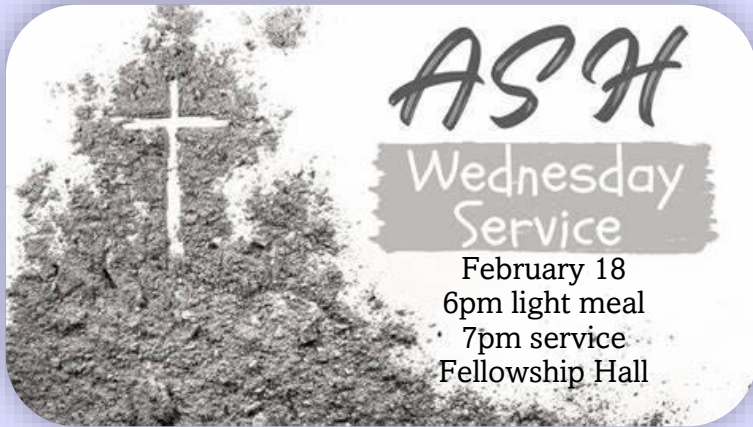
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. IN this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. - 1 John 4:7-12

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. - John 13:34-35

Grace and Peace,
Daren Hofmann

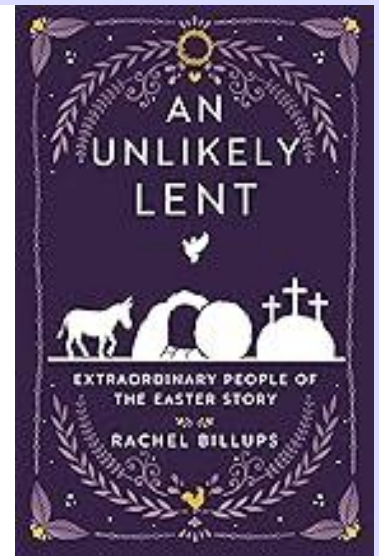
Lenten Season 2026

Feb 18	Ash Wednesday 6 pm Light Meal 7 pm Worship
Feb 22-Mar 29	Adult Sunday School 8:30 am
Feb 25-Mar 25	Midweek Ecumenical Lenten Lunch & Learn 12:30-1:30 pm
Feb 25	Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church
Mar 4	Hazelwood Christian Church
Mar 11	First Presbyterian Church
Mar 18	Community of Hope Church
Mar 25	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Mar 15	Pretzel Sunday After Worship
Mar 29	Palm Sunday 10 am Worship
April 2	Maundy Thursday 7 pm Worship
April 3	Good Friday Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church 7 pm
April 5	Easter Sunday 10 am Worship



ASH
Wednesday Service
February 18
6pm light meal
7pm service
Fellowship Hall

Midweek Ecumenical Lenten Lunch & Learn
Wednesdays 12:30-1:30
Feb 25—Mar 25
Sign up at the welcome desk!




THE SABBATH
New Adult Sunday School Series
Led by Jason Powell
Feb 22—Mar 29
Sundays 8:30 am
Location @FPC TBD
Sign up at the welcome desk!

February 8 & 15
8:30 a.m. Conference Room
Adult Sunday School Classes
Survey of Christian Denominations (and Non-Denominations)
Led by Pastor Daren



February 1st

First Sunday Fellowship

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY PREP!

8:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall



Stitcher's Group

Crochet, cross-stitch, knit, needlepoint, sew, quilt, etc.

If you don't know how, we will teach you!

Thursday Feb 5 Lounge
9:30 AM-11:30 AM

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION

ELDERS AND DEACONS

TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCH AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY
FEB 8TH
10:00 AM
WORSHIP



You're Invited!

Join us to spread love to our members at Westminster Village

Westminster Village Village Room
Sunday, February 8th
Open House 3:00-4:00

We welcome all to come enjoy fellowship in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Donate \$1 Feb 8th




You are invited to make a small special donation to help support the food ministry in our community.

We will collect donations Sunday February 8th.

Community Prayer Vigil

in support of our immigrant neighbors



Tuesday, Feb. 10
6:00 p.m.

High Street UMC
219 S. High St.
Muncie, IN

Join people of faith in a call to action and in prayer for our neighbors, for peace, and for the vulnerable.



Dee Dah Day Feb 13 & 27
10:00 AM
Church Lounge

We are studying the book "Just Like Jesus-A Heart Like His", by Max Lucado.
For more info: Barb Ottinger 765.289.4080
lkbaott59@comcast.net

Women's Book Study Prayer Group



Best Wishes, Pastor Lee!

Make your appointment now for Feb 17-Feb 25!

Pastor Lee leaves First Pres at the end of February this year to start a new chapter in his life. If you would like to set up a time to meet with him to say goodbye and wish him well, please sign up at the welcome desk.

Contact Rebecca in the office with questions.



February, 2026: This month Bill and I interviewed Jason Haney, the Executive Director of ecoREHAB, which is located in the YARD at 723 S. Council Street, the site of the former McCarty Lumber Co. **MISSION:** “to advance our community through the promotion and practice of sustainable design, rehabilitation, and education.”

A LITTLE HISTORY: ecoREHAB emerged in 2009 as part of a Ball State architecture immersive learning initiative, utilizing design to transform abandoned houses following green and sustainable

building practices. ecoREHAB sells these homes to low-to-moderate income individuals for about \$100,000. Since 2009, it has transformed 18 homes which help maintain downtown’s housing stock as well as strengthen neighborhood revitalization efforts. Today, Jason’s position as Executive Director is full time as are two Construction Managers.

STEP PROGRAM: In 2021, the Skilled Trades Education Program (STEP) was inaugurated in partnership with Eastern Indiana Works and the BSU College of Architecture and Planning to introduce at-risk individuals to the construction trades. A year later Ivy Tech, Shafer Leadership, and Muncie Area Career Center joined in the STEP partnership. Together, they have received a US Department of Labor Youth Build grant to operate the program.



MORE THAN JUST CONSTRUCTION: Jason emphasizes the good paying jobs you can get once you go through his program and is proud that 100 have graduated since January, 2021. However, he and his crew care as much about building up these kids’ self-confidence and self-worth as they do about their building skills. Therefore, they were concerned that some of the at-risk 16-24-year-olds were dropping out before completing the program. Some had good excuses: being in pre-trial or post-trial detention. But some did not. They are now trying to get involved with Brothers to Brothers and other groups who could mentor individuals who need more help.

NEW INITIATIVE: READI 2.0 STATE GRANT: This 3 million dollar grant over the next three years will provide for 30 new units in the Old West End and 5-6 rehabs. BSU architecture students talked to neighbors about their dreams for their neighborhood and then designed homes to blend in with the existing ones.

NEW INITIATIVE: BALL BROTHERS GRANT: This grant provides for a rehab project in the East Central neighborhood near Muncie Central High School.

THE YARD/PANELIZATION: At nearly three acres, the Yard contains eleven buildings including office spaces, pole barns, classrooms, tool workshops, equipment storage, building prep area, etc. To make housing construction go faster, students build entire wall sections at the YARD instead of onsite. Their method also guarantees 100% square corners. They are stored at the YARD until needed.

FUNDING: State and local grants, the Muncie Land Bank, Muncie Community Development, the 8TWELVE Coalition and individual donors. The Missional Outreach Committee granted them \$5,000 in 2025.



MISSIONAL OUTREACH
SPOTLIGHT:

ecoREHAB MUNCIE

Bill and Jan McCune for the Missional Outreach Committee



Lewis Gishler Scholarship

Applications for the Lewis Gishler Scholarship will soon be available at the Welcome Desk.
High School Seniors and College Undergraduate students may apply.

Application deadline: March 1, 2026

Walk a Mile in My Shoes 2026

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
MUNCIE FIELDHOUSE
REGISTRATION 8:00 AM
OPENING CEREMONY 9:00 AM





DONATE OR REGISTER TO WALK! <https://munciemission.org/get-involved/walk/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Liturgists & Flowers

- Sign-up sheets to serve as Liturgist or provide Sunday flowers, are available on the bulletin board at the Welcome Desk.




Please note:

- NO in-person meeting in February for Ministry Guild-check email for event planning info.
- NO zoom meeting in February for Deacons.

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES
"The 4th Gospel"

Feb 1	Nic at Night John 3:1-21
Feb 8	A Samaritan Woman John 4:1-26
Feb 15	Secret Food John 4:27-42
Feb 18	Ego Eimi (Ash Wednesday) (Selected John)
Feb 22	Way John 8:12, 10:9



See you Sunday!

First Presbyterian Church
1400 W. Riverside Ave.
Muncie IN 47303
Phone: 765.289.4431
www.firstpresmuncie.org

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:00 a.m. Chapel International Congregation Worship
The 10:00 a.m. Worship Service is available online via our church website, Facebook page, and First Pres Church YouTube channel.

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