

MAY 2026

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THE COLUMNS

## Celebrating Graduation

The college year is coming to an end, and Ball State will be celebrating their commencement this weekend. The beginning of May is a good time to reflect on the college ministries we have and the impact that college students have on the life of our church. This year, we have been blessed with more than 50 students who were active in various ministries of our congregation. In worship, we have been blessed with 9 students who sing in our choir and another 10 who worship in our pews. There have been more than 6 students engaged in our international congregation as well. Our Pre-K does not function without the volunteers and classroom helpers, around 20 college students, who assist our teachers all year long.

Among those students, there are four that will be graduating this weekend. They include two in our Pre-K: Morgan Erwin who has worked with us for two years and is majoring in Property Management and Katelyn Solesky who has worked with us for four years and is majoring in Elementary Education. We also had two wonderful choir members who will be graduating: Grant Overmeyer who has been with our choir for four years and is majoring in Music Education and Noah Halterman who has sung with us for five years and is also majoring in Music Education. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us over the years, and we celebrate this milestone with you.

We are blessed with each of these students who choose to be a part of the life of this congregation. Like all of those who enter into our doors, we hope that we are making a positive impact on the lives of these students, and we know that they are making a positive impact on this church. For some of our students, this is the first church they have ever spent a significant amount of time in. For others, they had left the church in the past, and this is their first time back. Still others have been in a church their whole life, but we are their second church (their first away from home). This truth is both a gift and a weight that we carry within the work of our congregational life.

Grace and Peace,  
Daren Hofmann



# First Presbyterian Church

**Sunday Garden Worship**  
**June 7 – August 30**  
*Bring a chair and enjoy  
 Sunday Worship in the garden!*

**Wednesday in the Garden**  
**June 3 – 26**  
*Bring a chair, a snack, or light  
 meal, and join the conversation!*

*In case of inclement weather, we will worship in Sanctuary on Sundays and in Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays.*



Ball State University

May 2



First Presbyterian Pre-K

May 7-9

## LOCAL LEGENDS

A Documentary by Jack Burton

Please join us for the private premiere showing. Jack has spent the last year interviewing local veterans from our area. These veterans include

**First Pres Members:**

- John Foster
- Chuck Horvath
- John RAZOR (Amy Yakos's Grandfather)
- John Worthen
- Tony Yakos

Please join us to celebrate Jack and his project, but more importantly these individuals who served.

May 3rd

2:00

Burris Laboratory School Auditorium  
2201 W. University Ave.

Parking available at the corner of Gilbert St. & Nichols Ave. or on University Ave.

Entrance doors will be clearly marked.



*Berry Winkle Saturday May 2*

*12 pm to 10 pm*

*Help support First Pres Pre-K students!  
Show this flyer at checkout for a portion  
to be donated to our renovation fund!  
(May present cashier digital or paper  
copy of flyer)*



During the month of June, we will be joining with St. Andrew Presbyterian Church for "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God." This VBS adventure will be held Sunday evenings, June 7-28 from 4:00-6:00pm at St. Andrew. Children ages 3 through completion of 5th grade are invited to attend one or all - whatever fits your schedule! Adult/teen helpers are also needed in all areas and are welcome to invest even if it's only for one of these evenings. For more information, contact Laura Smith at 317-873-2678 or [knappkin76@gmail.com](mailto:knappkin76@gmail.com).



*May 3rd*

*First Sunday Fellowship*

*8:30 a.m.*  
*Conference Room*



**Stitcher's Group**

*Crochet, cross-stitch, knit, needlepoint, sew, quilt, etc. If you don't know how, we will teach you!*

**Thursday May 7**  
**9:30 AM-11:30 AM Lounge**

**Church DEACONS**

*Zoom Meeting!*

TUESDAY  
MAY 5TH 7:00 PM  
YOUTH HALL



**Ministry Guild**

*Many hands make for quick work and more fun!*

**Monday May 4**  
**4:00 PM Lounge**


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

**May 1 & 15, 10:00 AM**  
**First Pres Church Lounge**  
Fellowship & book study

*If you have questions, please contact Barb Ottinger, 765.289.4080*  
**[lkbaott59@comcast.net](mailto:lkbaott59@comcast.net)**

Ice Cream Social  
In the Garden

May 31, 3:00 pm



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

(Fellowship Hall if weather is an issue)

May, 2026: This is an unusual month as we have two Spotlights highlighting an older and a new ministry of Urban Light Community Development, one on The Lighthouse Recovery Home, and the other on the Muncie Youth Alliance. Bill and I interviewed Joy Rediger, the Executive Director of Urban Light Community Development for the past 9 years and Dori Holzapfel, the Director of the Lighthouse Recovery Home.



Joy Rediger



The Lighthouse Recovery Home for Women is a small (houses 6), residential program, designed to promote sustainable, long-term recovery. This **faith-based**, 3-phase program is designed around a 12-step program that restores dignity and develops healthy boundaries with self and others. On average, graduates are able to complete the program in 10 months, but the program timeline is flexible to every resident's needs. It is located in the South Central Neighborhood and run by Director Dori Holzapfel, who has battled addiction herself and can "walk in the shoes" of the residents. Besides Ms. Holzapfel, there are 5 part-time weekend staff, 4 of whom graduated from the program.



**Phase 1: Primary Recovery** (90-120 days) During this time period, the women concentrate on recovery, so they are not allowed to work. However, they acquire the proper identification so they can get a job during Phase 2. The residents complete steps 1-5 of the "Walking with Jesus" Program, rotate through various book studies, and connect with a local therapist that they will use even after they graduate from the program. In this phase, the home provides much structure: the women stick to a daily schedule, have a curfew, sign in and out of the home, and attend Sunday

worship at the church of their choice.

**Phase 2: Maintenance** (3-10 months) During Phase 2, the residents have a three-month period to find a full-time job. Once working, they contribute \$75 per week or \$325 per month to support the Lighthouse. The idea is to prepare them for the realities of paying rent when they are out on their own plus giving them some "skin in the game." They are also taught to budget their money and save for their future housing and personal needs. The Lighthouse is a safe, supportive place to act out what they learned in Phase 1. The women are given more freedom but still have a daily schedule, curfew, and attend Sunday Service. Besides completing steps 6-12 of the "Walking with Jesus" Program, the residents are also required to attend AA, NA, or Christian Recovery meetings.

**Phase 3: Transition** (up to 90 days) In this final phase, residents complete an exit plan as they seek transition back into the community. As part of Phase 3, they must find housing and name a community of people who will be their social/emotional/spiritual support. That may be Christian Recovery, AA, NA, or another group of 3 or 4 people who will also hold them accountable. The Lighthouse serves about 10 women per year, 4 of whom graduate. (Since the residents are all at different places in the program, they transition out of the program at different times.) If needed, the graduates are offered 3 months of aftercare.

**Meet Tanji:** (shown with Dori) Tangi sees the hand of God at work in the two big wake-up calls in her life...a massive car accident in 2022, followed by living on the streets and being jailed multiple times. That was when she began praying for God to change her life. "Then I got incarcerated for the last time. Three days into Detox, it hit me so hard that I seized until I was brain dead. My brother came to pull the plug on me, and that's when I woke up", Tangi recounted. Tears in his eyes, Joshua implored his sister, "Tanji, don't make me do this again". She wanted to make that promise, but she needed help.

That help came when the drug court released her to the Lighthouse Recovery Home for Women. During Phase 2, she got a housekeeping job at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Muncie and found a house to rent close to the Lighthouse in Phase 3. She graduated from the Lighthouse in 2024, is now employed by them part-time, and has been promoted to head of housekeeping at the Marriott. In a full turn-a-round, she now sits on the Delaware County Board of Corrections.

**Funding:** Since it is a faith-based program, Joy especially appreciates the donations from First Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Commonway. They also receive grants from the Ball Brothers Foundation, Psi Iota Chi, Tri Kappa, and donations from individuals. Jan and Bill McCune for the Missional Outreach Committee



## THE LIGHTHOUSE RECOVERY HOME



**The Lighthouse  
RECOVERY HOME**

*"I feel like a blessed little kid that got a second chance at life." Tangi said*

May, 2026: Muncie Youth Alliance is a new program for our local community and is an outgrowth of the Credible Messenger model. Urban Light Community Development serves as the fiscal organization for this program. Months ago, after attending a presentation about the program, Bill and I met with Neil Kring, the neighborhood pastor in the Avondale/Thomas Park Neighborhood to find out more about it. Neil lives next door to Avondale Church in the parsonage on W.10<sup>th</sup> St.



He told us about the time kids broke into their garage to steal the bikes. Rather than calling the police, he made them do sweat equity. Then he turned the garage into a bike shop and taught the kids to fix broken-down bikes that they could keep for themselves. The same kids showed up to play basketball behind the church and often rang his doorbell at night if they needed help. He was someone they could trust

and a father figure for many. For Neil, this program is something he has been working toward for years, as a way to help those kids who he sees making the wrong choices.

### A BEACON OF HOPE



The Muncie Youth Alliance, which is in its second year, provides crucial support for up to 20 young people facing adversity. This year, it has 5 females and 15 males. Most of those were referred by a probation officer and the rest by the schools. Their brochure states, "By connecting young people with mentors who have navigated similar

challenges, the program aims to bridge the gap between adversity and opportunity. The mentors provide more than advice; they provide a living testament to the possibility of positive change, resiliency, and the power of community support. The program's emphasis on education, engagement in positive social networks, and access to critical support services addresses the root cause of juvenile delinquency, offering a comprehensive approach to healing and transformation."

### PROGRAM GOALS



"The Muncie Youth Alliance program will reach disconnected youth using Mentors, trained in the Credible Messenger model, who share similar life experiences, to provide mentorship to these hard-to-reach youth, thereby

improving the following outcomes:

- Increase youth engagement with school and other programs and services
- Increase prosocial behavior
- Increase positive youth engagement with parents/caregivers
- Reduction in delinquency, law enforcement engagement, and court involvement



### FUNDERS



Major funders for the Muncie Youth Alliance are the City of Muncie, The George and Frances Ball Association, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, the 8twelve Coalition, First Presbyterian Church, and individual donors.

For more information, please contact us at: 765-749-7300 or [muncieyouthalliance@gmail.com](mailto:muncieyouthalliance@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook: Muncie Youth Alliance



# Volunteer Opportunities

Sign-up sheets for **Volunteer Opportunities** to serve as Liturgist or provide flowers for the Communion Table during Sunday Worship, are at the Welcome Desk.

## *Liturgists*

We will email the script to you on the Thursday prior to the Sunday you signed up for, and we will also print a copy for you.

## *Communion Table Flowers*

We will contact you the week prior to the Sunday you signed up for, print your message in the bulletin, and arrange for the flower delivery if you wish.

### **First Presbyterian Church**

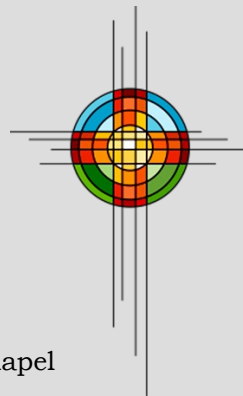
1400 W. Riverside Ave.  
Muncie IN 47303

Phone: 765.289.4431  
www.firstpresmuncie.org  
office@firstpresmuncie.org

#### **SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:**

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. International Congregation Service, Chapel

*The 10:00 a.m. Worship Service is available online via our church website, Facebook page, and First Pres Church YouTube channel.*



#### **The Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann Senior Pastor**

daren@firstpresmuncie.org

#### **The Rev. Jae Wang No Associate Pastor**

knsfc57@firstpresmuncie.org

#### **Jami Jones**

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