October 2026

First Presbyterian Church
The Columns

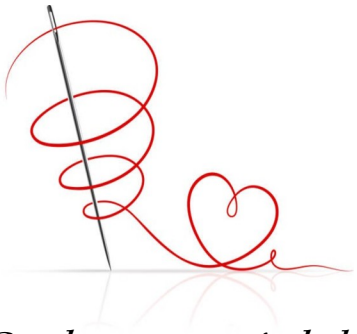
Columns, October 2026

Signs

Fall officially showed up on September 22 at 8:04 p.m.; that was the moment of the autumn equinox. But you didn't need a calendar to know that fall has arrived; there are signs all around us. Fall is in the crisp morning sunrise and the chill that comes just after sunset, both of which are getting closer together. I saw the first tree with leaves changing to red and orange the other day on the north side of the county. There are signs of fall with the Friday night lights, the Saturday tailgate, and the Sunday football games that dominate our afternoons and evenings. Baseball has begun its post season, and hockey begins a new season as well. There are signs of fall that we can taste and smell: a bonfire in the backyard, soups and stews on the stove and in the crockpot, apple-spiced everything available once more. There are even signs of fall in the clothing people wear: shades of red and orange and brown, jackets and light sweaters, jeans and hoodies. There is no doubt that fall has arrived.

Just as there are signs all around us that indicate that fall has arrived, I believe there are signs all around us that Christ is doing a new thing (in our life and in our world). Christ is present in the friends or colleagues who notice us and check in. They listen to our story, not with judgment or trying to fix us, but with genuine care. Christ is present in the opportunities that allow us to make a difference in someone's day, someone's life, even when it feels like so much of the world is falling down around us. Christ is present in that moment of inspiration or glimmer of hope that comes from a good book, sermon, or news story. Christ is even present in the uncomfortable: the moments we realize something needs to change but we don't know where to begin, the moments when a door opens but we need courage and support to walk through it. How do I know that Christ is present in my life and in the world? There are signs all around us.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Daren Hofmann



Stitcher's Group

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

Thursday October 1st

9:30 AM-11:30 AM Lounge

Hit the Trails!

Please join Daren on a hike at Summit Lake State Park. Pack a lunch and bring water and join us for a fun day in nature!

Friday October 2nd

11:00 AM

Summit Lake State Park

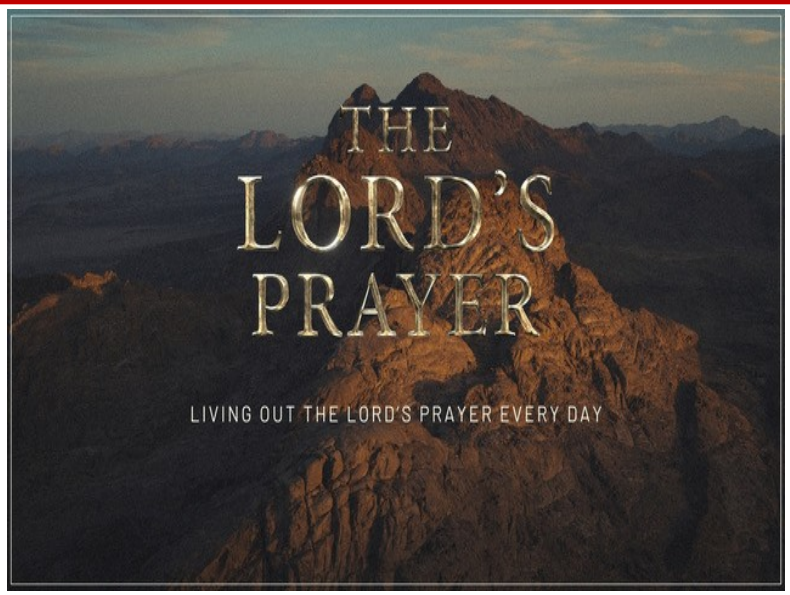
Sign up at the Welcome Desk to attend!

Inquirer's Class for New Members

If you have been visiting with First Presbyterian Church and would like to explore membership in the church, you are invited to our next Inquirer's Class. We will be meeting October 4th at 11:15 AM

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to discuss what membership means, to learn about one another and about the history and ministry of the church. Please let the office know if you are interested in the Inquirer's Class and we will reach out with additional information as we get closer.

office@firstpresmuncie.org



The Lord's Prayer

In this study we step back into the world of the Bible-the land, language, and the lived reality behind the text. This prayer wasn't just something Jesus taught-it was something he lived, and something he now calls us to live as well.

Dinner Reservations are requested. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or call/email the church office (765) 289-4431 office@firstpresmuncie.org

Wednesdays, October 7 - October 28
Dinner served from 6-6:30 pm
Cost: $10/person, BSU students: Free
Video 6:45-7:30 pm
Small Group Discussion 7:30-8 pm

Dee Dah Day
Women's Book Study & Prayer Group

October 9 and 23,
10:00 AM
Church Lounge

For more info please
contact Barb Ottinger, 765.289.4080
lkbaott59@comcast.net

Women's Book Study Prayer Group

New Series: Signs

October 4
Hidden Abundance
John 6:5-14

October 11
TBA

October 18
Blinded by Sin
John 9:1-41

October 25
Glory in Tears
John 11:1-44

FPC MEN'S GROUP

All the men of the church are invited to join this new fellowship group starting this month. You can read the pastor's article to learn more about this group and its purpose.

Third Thursday,
October 15th at 2:30
in Fellowship Hall.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you are planning to attend!

College Connect Lunch

Sunday, October 18th following the 10:00 AM service (11:15).

All college students (undergraduates and graduates) are invited to a free lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service. We are excited to welcome you back and share with you some wonderful opportunities this Fall Semester.

First Pres Fall Bonfire
October 25th
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Hotdogs, chips, s'mores and hot (or cold- depending on the weather) apple cider provided.

Come for fellowship, yard games & food.

Bring a chair to sit around the fire, or use a straw bale provided!

Sign up at the Welcome Desk to attend!

Fall at First Presbyterian

Sept. 6-Dec. 6 @8:30 AM	First Sunday Fellowship
Sept. 13 @10:00 AM	Kickoff Sunday w/Carry-In Lunch
Sept. 16-Oct. 28 @7:00 PM	Wednesday Programming: The Lord's Prayer w/Dinner @6:00 PM
Sept. 17 @2:30 PM	FPC Men's Group Kickoff
Sept. 20, Oct. 18 @11:15 AM	College Connect w/Lunch
Sept. 27-Oct. 4 @11:15 PM	Inquirer's Class
Sept. 27 @5:00 PM	Euchre Night w/Dinner
Oct. 2 @11:00 AM	Hike at Summit Lake State Park
Oct. 4 @10:00 AM	World Communion Sunday
Oct. 25 @5:00 PM	Fall Bonfire w/Hot Dogs and S'mores
Nov. 1 @10:00 AM	All Saints Sunday
Nov. 15 @10:00 AM	Dedication Sunday w/Carry-In Lunch
Nov. 22 @4:00 PM	Hanging of the Greens
Nov. 22 @5:30 PM	Movie w/Dinner
Nov. 30-Dec. 23	Advent Study Small Groups
Dec. 5 @5:00 PM	Amahl and the Night Visitors
Dec. 9 @7:30 PM	Service of Comfort and Meditation
Dec. 12 @7:30 PM	Masterworks Chorale Holiday Concert
Dec. 13 @10:00 AM	Christmas Pageant
Dec. 24 @7:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

October, 2026: This month Bill and I interviewed Kristin Freehill, who was named CEO of Greater Muncie Indiana Habitat for Humanity on September 1. She has worked for the organization for 8 years: first as Volunteer Coordinator and later as head of Community Engagement & Neighborhood Revitalization. Their headquarters at 1420 S. Hoyt Ave. was purchased in 2021 to consolidate their administrative offices and provide 5,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space.

MISSIONAL OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT:

GREATER MUNCIE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

"A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out:" Habitat for Humanity builds and repairs houses using volunteer labor and donations. Our partner families purchase these houses through no-profit, no-interest mortgage loans, or innovative financing methods.
Mission: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.
Vision: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.
A Short History:

1976: Habitat movement starts in Georgia and spreads worldwide; Many of the early affiliates are in Indiana!
1986-88: Greater Muncie Indiana Habitat for Humanity officially recognized and first 2 homes built.
1994-96: all volunteer force until first CEO hired in 1994. 2007: ReStore opens.
2017: The 8-Twelve Coalition is established to bring residents and organizations together around this vision, and to solicit participation and advocate for improvements and investments within neighborhood.
2022:The 8-Twelve Coalition is now its own entity apart from Habitat. First Press is Habitat Church Partner of the Year.
2024:Daren Hofmann named to Habitat Board.
. 2025: Daren Hofmann is President of the Board. Habitat has served over 300 families in Delaware County. In Fall 2025, they began repairing furnaces for residents who needed it.

First Pres Builds: Builds provide a wonderful opportunity to serve your neighbor, learn new skills, and have a lot of fun with your co-workers. Often the homeowners can't believe that people who don't even know them are there to help them!
Panel Builds: In celebration of Habitat's 40th year in Muncie, they conducted a series of panel builds. These panels then are used in new Habitat Houses.

Interfaith Build: First Pres has partnered with the predominately African-American Renovation Life Church for the past 5 years. Our latest rehab projects were at 1107 E. 5th St. and 1516 S. Franklin St.
Women Build: Our earliest build dates back to 1986 with a group of women including one of our own, Marty Kendrick, under the construction supervision of our long-time and now deceased member, Brad Southwick. FPC now has its own team that builds and fundraises for the construction. This year's Women Build is scheduled for October 9 at 825 S. Wolfe St. It will utilize some of the panels from the Panel Build.

Rev. Dr. Marcia Freeman, Director of Grants and Development

Funding: Habitat's primary funding comes from grants from the Ball Brothers, George & Frances Ball, Shafer and Community Foundations and the Federal Home Loan Bank. Their annual Dream Builders Breakfast is a fundraiser which drew 600 people to the Horizon Center in 2026 and raised over $200,000. Individuals and groups also support Habitat. In November, 1986, Session approved our first contribution of $500. This year, we gave a $5,000 grant from Missional Outreach funds. Each year, profits from the ReStore are used to build a Habitat house. The ReStore is located at 4640 W. Bethel Ave. and accepts donations of new or nearly new building supplies, furniture and tools from individuals, contractors and businesses. If you call ReStore, they will schedule a free donation pickup. These materials are then sold at the ReStore to the public. It is open for shopping or donations from Tuesday through Saturday from 9-4. Please think of them before you leave it at the curb!

Bill and Jan McCune for the Missional Outreach Committee

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
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The Rev. Jae Wang No
Associate Pastor
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Jami Jones
Director of Pre-Kindergarten
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