

FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FROM PASTOR BOB

It was a year ago in April that we began our transitional journey together. A year ago April we were celebrating Easter. This April we celebrate Easter again! Last Easter I reflected on how that first Easter was very confusing and unsettling for Mary and the disciples. A year ago we were trying to make sense of what was happening in the life of First Meridian Heights. The pieces of the puzzle God was asking us to put together were scattered, and it did not look like they would fit together.

In John chapter 20, the followers of Jesus begin Easter morning in the dark, not knowing what to do; the pieces of the puzzle of life did not fit together. This is true for us during times of life as well. Many people in times of profound loss and grief discover an unsuspected meaning emerges from the pieces of their lives.

I believe FMHPC as a community of faith has seen some of the pieces of the puzzle fall into place. We have worked to discover together why we as a community of faith gather together. We have looked at demographics on the community and worked to get to know our neighbors better. Our relationships with IA, Parkview, and school 70 have grown stronger. We have seen our connections with families in the neighborhood begin, when 55% of the folks who attended Messy Church were not previously connected to the church. Leadership has stepped forward and used their talents to bring the puzzle pieces together.

We are still working hard in discerning where God is calling us into the future by using our future story and strategic planning. In Matthew's resurrection story (Matthew 28:1-10) an angel says to the women, "He is not here ... indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." The Lord is alive, but he's off to Galilee, so we need to believe, to follow, and find where Jesus is and join Him in a new life of hope, love, joy, service, grace, peace, and welcome.

Some of the pieces of the puzzle are indeed falling into place. And Easter reminds us we are to follow Jesus who is going ahead of us so we can put more pieces of the puzzle together. Our work reflecting on the future story has brought



many wonderful ideas about how we can continue to grow in faith and understanding, how we serve the community, how we can become more diverse and welcoming of all kinds of people, how we can join with other churches in the neighborhood to worship and serve, and how the congregation can be full of energy and joy.

Although she sees bright angels in the tomb, Mary is too distraught to let them clarify the puzzle for her. A man comes up to her. She turns around. The picture has not yet emerged, for she sees him as a gardener. But it is Jesus. He calls her name, "Mary!" She knows his voice as a sheep knows the voice of the shepherd. She runs to tell the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" and all that he has said to her. Out of the pieces, transformative meaning has emerged for Mary. She goes to others to share the joy of resurrection.

(continued on page 3)

*Easter Sunday
at First Meridian Heights
April 1, 2018*

✠ Coffee and Conversation with Scripture,
9 a.m., Community Room

✠ Communion Worship,
10 a.m., Sanctuary

We will have fabulous music for our Easter worship service. In addition to our awesome band and singers, Wolff von Roos, organist, will join us again to fill the sanctuary with organ music. Our own brass quartet will be playing as well! It should all make for a festive celebration. Be sure to join us!



Wolff von Roos

✠ Easter Egg Hunt and Church Brunch Following Worship

Don't forget to pick up your Easter lily after worship if you purchased one for a dedication. Lilies that remain will be delivered to shut-ins.

Eskenazi Baby Shower

It time for our annual Eskenazi BABY SHOWER! Be part of this wonderful day on **April 19**. Lydia Ellis is returning with her assistant to give us the scoop on what is new and what is being maintained to help mothers and babies at Eskenazi Health.

We're accepting baby clothes, toys, and anything else you may think mothers and babies need. If you are unable to attend the shower, please drop off your donations to the church office or to Carol Hosford. Carol has worked hard putting this day together, and she would be happy to accept your gifts. We will also present Lydia with close to 300 puppy pillows! Thanks to all the women and men who made these puppy pillows. As has been said before, "it takes a village."

The program is at 11:00 a.m., with lunch at 12:00 p.m. RSVP to Carol Rader (crwestfield@comcast.net) by April 15. Lunch is \$5. Sponsored by Presbyterian Women.

Northwood Food Pantry

Needs: canned pasta with meat (e.g. spaghetti O's, mini-raviolis) • bath soap (bars) • For a list of all food pantry needs, visit fmhpc.org/serve.

Our food pantry also needs volunteers! First Meridian Heights serves the Northwood Food Pantry on the second, fourth, and fifth (if there is one) Saturday of each month. Please click [here](#) to sign up for a shift, or contact the church office at (317) 283-1305. (And serving the food pantry is a great way for teenagers to get in their service hours!) THANK YOU!

College Care Packages

The second semester college care packages will be sent at the end of April! Please let the [church office](#) know by **April 8** if your child has a new address or if you'd like to add a child.



Hope Partnership Congregational Assessment

Members, if you are interested in reading the full congregational assessment from Hope Partnership, you can find it under the members section of our website, or you can click [here](#). The document is 80 pages and 11 megs. You will need your username and password to access this section.

And while the document says “draft” on it, it is the final version.

(“From Pastor Bob,” continued from page 1)

What new puzzle pieces will come together this next year as we share the joy of the resurrection? Will it be growth in faith and understanding through small group studies? Will it be in trusting God to guide us in our stewardship so we can repair and maintain the old building we call home? Will it be in expanded spiritual growth classes for the youngest to the oldest? Will it be helping to address the health needs of the community? Will it be making an adult mission trip a reality? Will it be gaining awareness of God in our midst and confidently proclaiming as Mary did, “I have seen the Lord!”

Think about it – Pray about it – Live it

Bob

Please help a Boy Scout go to summer camp.

The Boy Scouts are currently selling camp cards to help pay for summer camp fees. The discount cards cost only \$10, and each card has 18 discounts on it. The camp card sale will run thru April 10. If you are interested in purchasing a camp card, please contact Ivan or Sandra Holder at (317) 217-0226.



Prepared. For Life.®

Can you help with Sunday offertory collection?

Any church member can serve (those church members under 12 can serve with a parent or guardian). Please click [here](#) to sign up, or contact the church office at (317) 283-1305. **Thank you!**

Our official Messy Church launch in March was a rousing success! We had over 100 adults and kids join in this first event. But don't worry if you missed out—our next Messy Church event is just around the corner, on April 11, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Join us!



[Messy Church](#) is an international organization that started in the UK. It is no cost, no guilt, no cleanup—with lots of activities, food, fun, and most importantly, Christ's love. We'll host our Messy Church on the second Wednesday of each month in the Community Room, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Please spread the word about Messy Church. It's perfect for people of all ages and life stages.

If you know people who attended church as a child but haven't found a way to reconnect with their Christian faith as an adult, then Messy Church is right for them.

If you have friends or neighbors who are busy with kids' activities on the weekends, and Sunday mornings aren't an option to attend church, then invite them to Messy Church.

If your children are grown and have left the house, and you're looking for a way to connect with your local community or share your faith, then Messy Church is right for you!

See what Messy Church is all about on April 11! If you have questions or would like to assist with the events, please contact Ginger Lippert at (317) 439-6868 or Ginger6111@yahoo.com. We look forward to getting messy with you at FMHPC!

garden time

You're invited! Join us for our Neighborhood Breakfast in the Garden on Saturday, April 14, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet the men and women of our local police and fire department! We've invited everyone living in the neighborhood, Northwood Food Pantry guests, students/parents of Parkview Preschool Co-op, Independence Academy, and CFI #70 to join us.

Would you like to plant your own garden plot and water, weed and harvest it?

Would you like to join others in caring for the plants that go to the food pantry?

Join in the pleasure and work of gardening at First Meridian Heights. Each summer we grow vegetables for the food pantry at *Northwood Christian Church*.

Our garden season kick-off is April 14 after the Neighborhood Breakfast!

Please contact [Mark Zwoyer](#) if you have questions or to get started gardening!

First Meridian Heights is working with Lifetouch Photography to create a new church directory!



We encourage all church members to have their photo taken in the sanctuary between 1 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, OR Wednesday, May 16.

There is no charge for having your photo taken. And for simply participating, you'll receive a complimentary 8x10 photo of your directory picture and a free directory. You will have the option to purchase additional photos during your session, but there is no obligation to buy. For those who do purchase, you'll receive \$5 off your order if you bring in any canned good for Northwood Church.

Please click on the link below to schedule your session. Sessions are ten minutes each.

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yc7kvz5c/>

And, to make the process run smoothly, we will need church volunteers to staff the following shifts:

Tuesday, May 15:

Noon to 4:30 p.m. (2 volunteers needed)
5 to 9 p.m. (2 volunteers needed)

Wednesday, May 16:

Noon to 4:30 p.m. (2 volunteers needed)
5 to 9 p.m. (2 volunteers needed)

Volunteers will check members in, confirm member address and phone information, and escort them to the photographer at their scheduled session time. Please contact the church office to sign up for a shift. Thank you!

FROM SESSION

Session highlights from the March 4 special meeting and the March 19 stated meeting:

The elders voted to approve the proposal for exterior building work to be completed by Heritage Masonry. The work will take place between April and November this year.

The session approved renewing the contract of Rev. McAulay as our interim pastor for another year as we progress through the process of calling an installed pastor.

Our congregation enters the next phase in the process of calling an installed pastor with the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). At the Sunday, March 25, congregational meeting, the congregation's Nominating Committee recommended Katie Marlowe, Dave Hughey, Emily Hancock, Bruce White, Cynn timer Halsmer, John Fox, and Emily Padgett to serve as the PNC. The congregation voted and approved.

BTNA FAITH COMMUNITY PRESENTS: 2018 MEAL AND SPEAKER SERIES

During the first half of 2018, the congregations of Butler Tarkington will be hosting free meals and speakers. The goal is to build community, create new relationships, and have meaningful conversations around race and reconciliation.

Every Sunday, our program will begin with a meal at 5 p.m. provided by the host congregation, with our speaker presentation and discussion beginning around 5:45 p.m. To inquire further or register for the series, please contact Matt Landry, mlandry@meridianstreet.org.

Sunday, February 25, Meridian Street United Methodist, 5500 N. Meridian St
Dr. Frank Thomas, Christian Theological Seminary; Black History Month
Author of *American Dream 2.0: A Christian Way Out of the Great Recession* and *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*

Sunday, March 25, North United Methodist, 3808 N. Meridian Street
Rev. Charles Harrison, Barnes United Methodist Church; Ten Point Coalitio

Sunday, April 29, Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4609 N. Capitol Avenue
Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, Christian Theological Seminary
Author of *Ferguson and Faith* (books will be available for purchase)

Sunday, May 20, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6050 N. Meridian Street
Speaker TBA

Sunday, June 17, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 4625 N. Kenwood Avenue
Clergy Panel Discussion - Fr. Michael Hoyt, St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church;
Rev. Steve Conger, Meridian Street United Methodist; Rev. Ronnie Bell, North United
Methodist Church; Rev. Matt Landry, Meridian Street United Methodist Church



FMHPC on Social Media

Have you checked us out on social media lately? You'll find upcoming events, photos, thoughts from Pastor Bob, and more. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to keep up to date on the vibrant life of our church. If you'd like to post content to FMHPC social media, please submit it to Muuka Muyumba at badlands75@gmail.com.



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(@fmhpc)



instagram.com/fmhpcchurch
(FirstMeridianHeightsPC)

An Evening for Autism

The Roaring 20s
 April 27, 2018 at 7 p.m.
 Renaissance Hotel
 11925 N Meridian St,
 Carmel, IN

As part of our mission to *serve, love and grow in the ever-widening circles of Christ's grace*, our church is supporting Independence Academy by having a table at the school's *An Evening for Autism* event on April 27, 2018. We will have ten spots at our table. If you would like to attend and represent First Meridian Heights at this event and form a deeper relationship with the Independence Academy community with whom we share our building, we would ask you to pay \$50 towards the purchase of your ticket. The church will pay the remaining portion of your ticket cost.

If you are interested in one of our ten spots at the \$50 price, please email Ginger Lippert at Ginger6111@yahoo.com.

If you or a company you know would be interested in sponsoring a table or supporting the organization in another way, please share the information below.

An Evening for Autism


<https://www.wedoauctions.net/independenceacademy/item/736407>


To purchase tickets or buy a table, click **PURCHASE TICKETS**

To sponsor, click **SPONSOR THE EVENT**

To donate, click **DONATE NOW**

We appreciate your help in supporting this great organization!






Greetings from The Independence Academy!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Marisa Gill and, I'm the Director of School for The Independence Academy. This year will mark my fourth year in this position, and I want to sincerely thank the congregation for the wonderful support you've shown us since we've been at First Meridian Heights. Thank you for allowing us to continue to share space with you. We feel very fortunate and blessed to be able to hold our school within the walls of your building and that you have allowed us to create a place where we can help our students to become independent and successful young people.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the school, you can contact me directly at MarisaGill@iaindiana.org.

I would love the chance to meet with members of the congregation and to share with you the many wonderful learning opportunities The Independence Academy provides for our students.

Founded in 2008, The Independence Academy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), state-accredited private school, dedicated to serving families with students in grades 5 to 12 who seek a more personalized approach to education to meet the specific needs of adolescents with high-functioning autism. Students graduate with a fully accredited high school diploma.



The Independence Academy Graduating Class of 2017

WHO WE SERVE

Our students are intelligent and capable young people with high-functioning autism from around central Indiana who often come to us frustrated and struggling academically and socially. The Independence Academy provides a safe, positive environment in which students begin to feel accepted for who they are.

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

- IA is the only school in Indianapolis created solely for students with high-functioning autism
- IA offers two sensory areas to support students throughout the day
- IA incorporates methods and philosophies from experts in autism and special education
- IA is the first school in Central Indiana to introduce the PEERS curriculum, a groundbreaking, evidence-based social skills program



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. •Easter Communion Worship Service, 10am •Egg Hunt and Brunch Following Worship, Comm. Rm.	2 •Mission Outreach Team Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	3	4 •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	5	6	7
8 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. •Worship Service, 10am •Deacons Mtg., 11am, Parlor •Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Rm.	9 •Communications/Marketing Team Mtg., 5:30pm, Parlor •Buildings & Grounds Mtg., 6:30pm, Library •Finance Mtg., 7pm, Parlor	10	11 •Messy Church, 5:30 to 7pm, Comm. Rm.	12 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY •Trish out of office	13 •Trish out of office	14 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg. & STEM, 10am to noon, Comm. Rm. •Breakfast in the Garden, 8:30 to 10:30am •Garden Prep Kickoff
15 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. •Worship Service, 10am •Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Rm •Boy Scouts Committee Mtg., 11am to 1pm, Parlor	16 •Session Mtg., 7 to 9pm, Library	17	18 •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	19 •PWO Luncheon, Eskenazi Health Baby Shower, 11am to 1pm, Comm. Rm.	20	21 •Boy Scout Recruiting Event, 10am to noon, Comm. Rm.
22 EARTH DAY •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. •Worship Service, 10am •Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Rm.	23 •May newsletter content due to church office	24 •Indianapolis Council of Women Board Mtg., 10am to noon, Parlor	25	26	27 •Independence Academy Black Tie Event	28 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Spring Hike
29 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. •Worship Service, 10am •Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Rm.						

First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church
 4701 N. Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205
fmhpc@live.com ☎ (317) 283-1305 ☎ fmhpc.org
 Rev. Bob McAulay (317) 513-5148
 Custodian: Ron Elliott (765) 524-3516
 Assistant Custodian: Natasha Nix, (317) 960-2619
 Music Coordinator: Art Cantrell, theartofmusic@hotmail.com
 Business Administrator: Alexis Gonzales, alexis@fmhpc.org
 Administrative Assistant: Trish Hawkins, fmhpc@live.com

Our Mission Statement:
To serve, love and grow in the ever-widening circle of Christ's grace.

Submission deadline for May newsletter is Monday, April 23. Please submit content to the church office at fmhpc@live.com.



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