

# FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## FROM PASTOR BOB

Tim Shapiro from the Center for Congregations shares the following story:

*"When I was young, I went to worship with my parents and six siblings. My stepfather prepared our offering envelopes the evening before worship. He placed a dollar in each envelope.*

*At the beginning of worship, he passed the envelopes to each of us. When I received my envelope, I experienced a weekly moment of truth, just as my brothers and sisters did. My stepfather had left each envelope unsealed. It was our choice to add to the offering or to seal the envelope with no additional gift."*

Tim makes the point that in many different ways, every member of our congregation wrestles with a similar moment of truth whether we are conscious of it or not. How much shall I give to the congregation?

He says there are many dynamics that influence any single person's response to the question, including income, expenses, connection to the ministry of the church, a sense of gratitude. But he goes on to say a primary influence is the way a congregation talks about faith and money. Is money a taboo subject? Or is money talked about openly and honestly?

Congregations that promote a culture of giving have intentionally chosen to be a primary place where generosity is taught rather than being simply one place among many that asks for money.

Tim asks the question, "Does your congregation support a way of life that celebrates generosity?" And then he gives some signs that show a congregation is just such a community:

- Stories of generosity are frequently shared as part of community life. There are testimonies to generous giving.
- Giving is lifted up as a virtue all year around, not just during stewardship season or the time of the annual fund drive.
- Clergy leaders give generously.

- Patterns of giving are not secrets. The specifics will differ from congregation to congregation, but generally speaking, the more transparency at all levels the better.
- Money is discussed in relationship to faith, and such conversations are integrated into the business matters of the congregation.
- People are invited to be generous. You are asked to give more to the congregation and to other important charities.

In this month of Thanksgiving, my prayer is we learn together to become a congregation that teaches and learns generosity. I am thankful for your generosity. The last two weeks Session has worked to be more transparent with facts and numbers about the finances of FMHPC. I am thankful for your generosity of time and talent in volunteering during Day of Caring, Messy Church, in the

(continued on page 4)





Where kids grow up and adults don't have to.



**Join us for Messy Church**  
Second Wednesday every month  
5:30 - 7 PM




FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
47th & Central Ave.

 Connect/RSVP with us  
@FMHPC

**[FMHPC.org/Messy-Church](http://FMHPC.org/Messy-Church)**

Our next Messy Church is  
Wednesday, **November 14**, at 5:30 p.m.

We hope you'll be there and invite friends  
to experience activities, food, fun, and  
Christ's love!

If you have questions, please contact  
Ginger Lippert at (317) 439-6868 or  
[ginger6111@yahoo.com](mailto:ginger6111@yahoo.com).

We look forward to getting messy with you  
at FMHPC!

## **November Happenings**

### **Thank Offering**

Thank offering is **November 4!** This year's Thank Offering will reach many wonderful organizations, including Dining with Dignity (Lexington, KY), Safe Haven at Sea Island (Beaufort, SC), and Shower the People (Arroyo Grande, CA). Will you help support these missions? You can drop your gift in the offering plate on the 4th. You can also pay by credit card in the church office anytime or mail your gift to the church office. Thank you!

### **It's Puppy Pillow Time**

Come men and women on Thursday, **November 8**, at 11:00 a.m., to fellowship and work on our lovely puppy pillows for Eskenazi Health. You remember how much fun you had on our Day of Caring? Well, come and experience that joy again. After your hard work, Karen will prepare a fabulous lunch. Please R.S.V.P. to Karen (check directory for number) for lunch by **November 7**. Cost of lunch is \$5, which includes dessert! It takes a village!

### **Christmas Giving Tree**

FMHPC will have the Christmas Giving Tree up and ready on **November 11**. Gift cards and hats and gloves for the Northwood Food Pantry clients are to be returned to the Church by **December 2**.

### **Thanksgiving Meal**

The FMH congregational Thanksgiving meal in the Community Room will follow the **November 11** worship service. We'll enjoy fellowship and traditional Thanksgiving foods. As you are able to help, there will be a freewill donation basket to help defray the cost of the food. We hope you can join us!

### **Care Packages for College Students**

FMHPC Deacons will be preparing packages for college students starting Sunday, **November 25**. Please plan to write the students a note of encouragement. If you have a college student, please make sure the church office has his or her name and current mailing address.

### **Save the Date for Women's Retreat**

*Mark your calendars! The 2019 Women's Retreat is **February 8-10** at Geneva Center.*

**Food Pantry Needs**

Needs for November/December are spaghetti (1 lb. box/bag) AND men’s razors (disposable) and women’s hygiene supplies.

**Birthdays Are (Almost) Back!**

Starting in January 2019, look for birthdays to appear in the monthly newsletters. (Just name, month and date will be shared.) This is a work in progress, so if you don’t see your birthday listed, please let the office know and we’ll add it to the rolls. This an opt-out only; if you *do not* want your birthday listed, please email the church at [fmhpc@live.com](mailto:fmhpc@live.com), or call Trish at (317) 283-1307.

**New CareNotes!**

A new selection of CareNotes has been added to the information shelf outside the church office.  
Thank you to the Deacons for funding these!

- Coping with Holiday Stress
- Enriching Your Life Through Gratitude
- Handling Grief as a Man
- Humor—It Helps Us as We age
- Keeping Up Your Spirits in the Hospital
- Slowing Down and Finding God in Your Busy Life
- What Everyone Should Know About Hospice
- What to Say to Someone Who Is Grieving

**Especially for Kids and Teens**

- Dealing with Bullying: At School and Online
- Feeling Down: Finding a Way Out
- Sad Isn’t Bad: When Someone You Love Dies
- Self-Esteem: Becoming Your Own Best Friend

The graphic below represents giving as of September 30, 2018. Look for the next update in upcoming bulletins and in the December newsletter.



("From Pastor Bob," continued from page 1)

community garden, and the food pantry. The ministries of Worship, Faith Formation, and Mission and Outreach all need your generous support.

Each day we are figuratively handed unsealed envelopes that serve as requests for us to be generous human beings. How much shall I give to the congregation?

Think about it – Pray about it – Live it

*Bob*



## THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

### Offering:

[signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-collecting1](https://signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-collecting1)

### Greeter:

[signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48a4a628a4fe3-fmhgreeters](https://signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48a4a628a4fe3-fmhgreeters)

### Communion:

[signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-communion1](https://signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-communion1)

## REPORT FROM SESSION

During the month of October, session discussed aspects of preparing for a new called pastor. We have invited the Pastor Nominating Committee to attend the November session meeting to update us on the search.

We have continued to discuss developing our Christian education programming, including launching programming for middle school youth.

During this time of year, we invest our time and talents in a balance in administrative responsibilities and discernment of God's call for how we can lead worship and service to embody our mission statement of ever-widening circles of God's grace.

*Rebecca Zirnheld, Clerk of Session*

## REPORT FROM YOUR PNC

We are getting closer! Your PNC has been meeting regularly to narrow in on our top candidates. We had Skype interviews with our finalists in late October and owe a big thank you to Mr. Ben Moy for connecting us and making things run so smoothly! We were all a little anxious before the interviews and all felt better after about the quality and fit for our congregation of the candidates we interviewed. We will be narrowing the list even more, checking references, and be meeting our candidates in person in November and probably into December. We will meet with them in social settings, interview them more extensively, and witness their sermons in a neutral pulpit in our area. We continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we move closer to discerning who our new pastor will be. Please continue to pray with us and for us and for our new pastor!

*Katie Marlowe, Bruce White, Emily Padgett, Emily Hancock, John Fox, Dave Hughey, Cynn timer Halsmer*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3 •Daylight Saving Time Ends on November 4. Set Your Clocks BACK One Hour Before Bed Tonight
4 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Communion Worship Service (Thank Offering), 10am, Sanctuary	5 •B&G Mtg., 3:30pm, Parlor •Mission and Outreach Team Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	6 ELECTION DAY. Polling for Local Precincts in Community Room	7 •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	8 •PWO Write Thanksgiving & Christmas Cards for Shut-ins/Puppy Pillows 10am to 1pm, Community Room •	9	10 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Work Food Pantry
11 •Giving Tree Is Up •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Deacons Mtg., 9am, Parlor •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary •Turkey Dinner after Worship	12 •Communications/ Marketing Team Mtg., 5:30pm, Parlor •Finance Mtg., 7:30pm, Parlor	13 •Trish Out of Office Afternoon Only	14 •Trish Out of Office Morning Only •Messy Church, 5:30 to 7pm, Community Room	15	16	17 •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg. and Field Trip, 10 to noon, Community Room
18 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	19 •Session Mtg., 7 to 9pm, Library	20	21 •Content Due for December Newsletter •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	22 THANKSGIVING CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg., 10am to noon, Community Room
25 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	26	27 •Indianapolis Council of Women, 10am to noon, Parlor	28	29	30	

**First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church**  
 4701 N. Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205  
[fmhpc@live.com](http://fmhpc@live.com) ☎ (317) 283-1305 ☎ [fmhpc.org](http://fmhpc.org)  
 Rev. Bob McAulay (317) 513-5148 ☎ [bob@fmhpc.org](mailto:bob@fmhpc.org)  
 Custodian: Ron Elliott (765) 524-3516  
 Assistant Custodian: Natasha Nix, (317) 603-7171  
 Music Coordinator: Art Cantrell, [theartofmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:theartofmusic@hotmail.com)  
 Business Administrator: Alexis Gonzales, [alexis@fmhpc.org](mailto:alexis@fmhpc.org)  
 Administrative Assistant: Trish Hawkins, [fmhpc@live.com](http://fmhpc@live.com)

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

**Submission deadline for DECEMBER newsletter is Wednesday, November 21. Please submit content to the church office at [fmhpc@live.com](http://fmhpc@live.com).**

 <a href="http://fmhpc.org">fmhpc.org</a>	 <a href="https://facebook.com/fmhpc">facebook.com/fmhpc</a>	 <a href="https://twitter.com/fmhpc">@fmhpc</a>	 <a href="https://instagram.com/fmhpcchurch">instagram.com/fmhpcchurch</a> (FirstMeridianHeightsPC)
---	---	--	---