

FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
serve. love. grow.

FROM PASTOR BOB

A New Year offers a new beginning and new opportunities, or it can be the start of another year of the same old way of life. Which will you choose?

Here are a few quotes about the New Year:

- Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. (Bill Vaughan)
- An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. (Bill Vaughn)
- Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right. (Oprah Winfrey)
- May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions! (Joey Adams)
- We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives ... not looking for flaws, but for potential. (Ellen Goodman)
- The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul (G.K. Chesterton)

Have you made any New Year's Resolutions?

According to surveys, the most frequent resolutions made by Americans include:

- Get out of debt
- Exercise more & lose weight
- Quit smoking
- Get organized
- Learn a new language
- Find love
- Spend more time with family and friends

What are your resolutions?

As you put the final touches on your 2019 list, I want to suggest one addition. In 2019, resolve to remember your baptism. Every day, remember your baptism.

Does that sound odd? After all, some of us were baptized as infants and have no real recollection of being doused "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." To others, it is an event that happened so long ago that it is no longer significant.

What does your baptism mean? Martin Luther and John Calvin, the initial Protestant reformers, frequently encouraged their congregants to "remember their baptisms." In doing this, they were asking people to think about their identity.

What we believe about ourselves impacts what we do and how we feel. Calvin, Luther and other Christians answer questions about what baptism



(continued on page 4)



Messy Church is back in 2019, starting with a Messy Music event on **Wednesday, January 9!** As always, we'll start at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The kids will hear a brief story about music in the Bible; then they'll make many different types of musical instruments, followed by the talented Lyndsay Moy leading the children in songs where they can sing and use the instruments they've made! Of course we'll also be sharing a free-will offering meal!

We need your help! Please bring in any empty coffee or oatmeal canisters, as we need these items for one of our crafts. You can leave these items in the church office.

If you have questions, please contact Ginger Lippert at (317) 439-6868 or ginger6111@yahoo.com. We look forward to getting messy with you at FMHPC!

An Evening for Autism

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, "Hats for Hope," on **Saturday, March 16, 2019**. We will have ten spots at our table. If you would like to attend and represent First Meridian Heights 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.

For additional information on the event, visit the following page:
<https://one.bidpal.net/independenceacademy/welcome>

Food Pantry Needs for January/February

- peanut butter (16 oz. jars)
- laundry soap (no giant containers)

Photo Directories

Your 2019 photo directories are ready! Starting **Sunday, January 6**, they will be available for pickup outside the Sanctuary before worship. Each family unit will get one, and they must be signed out. Contact the church office with questions.

Puppy Pillows

Anyone interested in cutting out pieces for puppy pillows can do so in the Community Room on **January 17**, from 9 until 11:15. Thank you!

Save the Date for Women's Retreat

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

The graphic below represents giving as of December 15, 2018.



Epiphany Celebration for Kids!

We have planned a special educational Sunday morning event for kids on **Epiphany Sunday, January 6!** Epiphany is the time after Christmas when we officially focus on the story of the Three Kings who followed the star and came to visit Jesus. We will start at 9 a.m. and finish with the end of the worship service. ALL kids are welcome!

What you need to do: Kids should be in the Community Room by 9:00 a.m. They should bring a canned or boxed food pantry item as their gift. (We'll take it from there!)

What will happen: Our friendly leaders will tell the story of the three kings and teach the kids a song. The kids will have time for crafts (including making crowns and stars!). Older and younger kids will split up for an education time. Then the young kings and queens will go on an excursion (within the church) to visit King Herod and then find Mary and Jesus! Kids will join in worship for the offertory, where they will present their (food pantry) gifts and participate in communion with their parents/family in the worship service. (Then a sweet treat for all after worship!)

Parents: You can join us and watch the fun or help with crafts. You can join the weekly adult discussion group that meets at 9 a.m. We'll also have some adult-focused "edutainment" material for you to consider the themes of Epiphany on your own, if you wish! Questions? Please contact Eric Moy, (317) 341-0085.



REPORT FROM YOUR PNC

Your PNC is getting so close to discerning your new pastor. In December we toured the church with our candidates and got more insight to their energy and passion. Over the holidays while Emily Padgett is out of school and able to fully participate, we will hear one more candidate preach in a neutral pulpit and conduct our extended interviews. We will then meet to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our final selection.

Once the pastor has been selected, there are still some final steps to take. We need to negotiate the terms of their call, present our candidate to the presbytery and obtain their approval, and coordinate scheduling of a congregational meeting with session. The PNC will prepare and distribute a report to help the congregation know our new pastor more intimately. A few days later, in worship, we will present the nominee to all of you and you will hear our nominee preach. Then there will be a formal congregational vote where we pray you will concur with us and welcome our new pastor to First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church! Praise God for the process and for our next pastor!

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



The "Newzees" – New Sunday School Program for Older Kids!

Beginning **Sunday, January 13**, we will offer a second Sunday school class for our kids ages 8 – 13. We're calling this group the "Newzees." Kids will leave worship for Sunday School as usual after Joys and Concerns. Younger kids will still meet with Miss Julie in the youth room. The older kids, ages 8 – 13, will meet with volunteer leaders in the Chapel for special learning time and fun activities. Please encourage any children in this age range to participate in this new experience. The more who participate the more meaningful it should be for everyone!

Call Eric Moy with questions at (317) 341-0085

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

means by saying: "I am a child of God, claimed in the waters, loved by my Creator, freed by grace, empowered to pursue sacred purposes in the world. I am one of the baptized."

What might happen if we began every day that way? What would happen if every morning while standing at the sink and looking in the mirror we splash some water on our face and say aloud, "Remember, you are baptized?" What might it mean for how we view ourselves and how we treat those around us?

Will you join me this New Year and every day in remembering you are baptized? Remember you are a child of God!

Happy New Year!

Think about it – Pray about it – Live it
Bob



January 12, Susie Stillwell
January 14, Virginia Blum
January 21, Ann Phend
January 27, Dottie Craig
January 28, Katie England

If we've missed your birthday, please let the church office know at fmhpc@live.com.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

Offering:

signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-collecting1

Greeter:

signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48a4a628a4fe3-fmhgreeters

Communion:

signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-communion1

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone for joining us on Stewardship Sunday, December 9, 2018. It was so amazing to see us form a circle so large that we filled the entire sanctuary! This is a time when we are called upon to convert our desire to be generous into our stated pledge to support the ministry of our church, and many have answered the call.

We are so grateful for the generosity of everyone in the First Meridian Heights family. Our 2018 total member giving goal is \$212,000, of which we have collected \$172,000 through December 15. If you haven't fulfilled your pledge for 2018, we encourage you to do so! Our goal for 2019 is to increase total giving by \$30,000 to fill the gap in our operating budget caused by the exterior repairs. Currently, there have been 28 pledges made for a total of \$122,000.

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your pledge, please make every effort to do so by **January 18, 2019**. By responding generously together with God's gifts to us, we can continue to build the programs that impact so many around us. If you have a completed pledge card, please drop it off in the church office or the collection plate. You can also make an online pledge [here](#); or you can send an email noting your intention to give to Business Administrator [Alexis Gonzales](#).

Thank you!

Stewardship Team

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 •Church Office Closed Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5
5 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Epiphany Celebration for Kids, 9am, Community Room •Communion Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	7 •Mission and Outreach Team Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	8	9 •B&G, 3:30pm, Parlor •Messy Church, 5:30 to 7pm, Community Room	10	11	12 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg. 10am to noon, Community Room
13 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Newzees Program for Kids Begins •Deacons Mtg., 9am, Parlor •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	14 •Communications/Marketing Team Mtg., 5:30pm, Parlor •Finance Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	15	16 •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	17 •Cutting Puppy Pillows Pieces, 9 to 11:15am, Community Room	18	19 •Conner and Samuel Wedding, 4:30pm
20 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	21 •Session Mtg., 7 to 9pm, Library	22	23 •FMH Teachers Breakfast, 7:30 to 8:45am, Community Room		24 •Content Due for February Newsletter	26 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg. 10am to noon, Community Room
27 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	28	29 •Indianapolis Council of Women, 10 to noon, Parlor	30	31		

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 ☎ bob@fmhpc.org
 Custodian: Ron Elliott (765) 524-3516
 Assistant Custodian: Natasha Nix, (317) 603-7171
 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 FEBRUARY newsletter is Friday, January 25. Please submit content to the church office at fmhpc@live.com.

 fmhpc.org	 facebook.com/fmhpc	 @fmhpc	 instagram.com/fmhpcchurch (FirstMeridianHeightsPC)
---	---	--	---