

# FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*serve. love. grow.*

## FROM PASTOR BOB

When you have to say goodbye, what do you say? Saying goodbye involves grief. There is loss, denial, bargaining, anger, and acceptance. Part of how we say goodbye represents how we choose to live in the future. Who we were in the relationship that is now changed, or how ready we are to let go, impacts our goodbye. When a congregation says goodbye and allows all the feelings, good and difficult, to be expressed, it prepares itself well for the future with a new pastor. My prayer and desire for us this month is we say goodbye well.



Jesus gives us an example of saying goodbye in what is called His "Farewell Discourse" in the gospel of John. Jesus tells his disciples to believe and trust in God—He is going to prepare a place for them and promises not to leave them alone because the Holy Spirit will be with them. The disciples respond with questions: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" and "Lord, show us God, and we will be satisfied." Questions are a good response to transition in life.

Goodbyes call to mind the past so that a future is possible. I think that's one thing that Jesus emphasizes in these parting words to his disciples. You have done good work over the last 23 months and have much to celebrate. There is good energy in the congregation; a new class for 8 to 12 year-olds has begun; Messy church has added vitality to the worship and ministry of the church for a full year; Coffee and Conversations has given a new opportunity for adult bible study; there is more transparency about money and stewardship; the office staff is working well together to support the ministry of the church; the connections between Independence Academy, Parkview, and School 70 are as strong as they have ever been; and your future story is guiding your next steps. The future looks bright.

I have seen and experienced this congregation as the Body of Christ. There has been suffering and there has been healing. We have shared hurt, anger, and pain. We have laughed together, grown together, and learned together. It has not been easy, but it has been good to spend time together learning to trust God at all times and in all things. Because we are the Body of Christ, we can grow in faith together as we experience the dying and rising of Christ in our own lives. The Easter promise of New Life in Christ is ours to claim and live.

I want to give thanks for the life we have shared in Christ. Our time together has been full of sharing, trying new ministries, laughing, praising, and serving God. For all you have shared with me and taught me, I thank you. The good memories are many. You have been very kind and supportive of me and Ondrea. I encourage you to build on your strengths of reaching out into the community and caring for one another. I encourage you to build on your strength of commitment of service to God and your neighbor by *Serving, loving and growing in the ever-widening circle of Christ's grace.*

This month, our time of shared ministry will come to an end. But our time of service to God will not end. You will begin a new chapter in the life of FMHPC, and I will discern a new calling and my future ministry will carry with it the positive impact you have made on my life.

(continued on page 2)

**Messy Church**

We *love* Messy Church, and we hope you'll join in celebrating Christ's *love* on **Wednesday, February 13** at 5:30 p.m.! As always, we'll be in the Community Room.



The kids will hear a brief story demonstrating Christ's *love*. Then they'll participate in *love*-themed crafts. Finally, we'll be asking the kids to share their *love* by recording brief video clips of why they *love* God, Jesus, or Messy Church! Of course, we wouldn't forget the free-will offering meal, as we know everyone *loves* food!

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!

***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](mailto:Ginger6111@yahoo.com).

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

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

I hope the same is true for the future ministry of First Meridian Heights Presbyterian. I know God is with both of us. I know you have many wonderful opportunities for ministry ahead of you.

The future is full of a mixture of anticipation and fear of the unknown. A time to learn to trust and let God be in control. The transition from saying goodbye to one pastor and welcoming a new pastor is a great opportunity to grow in faith and service. I believe Faithfulness has sustained FMHPC and faithfulness will nourish and support your ministry for many more years. You are a blessed and faithful people. You are the body of Christ. God will continue to bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you and give you peace for ever and ever!

My saying goodbye does not change the ministry we have done together. That's the thing about goodbyes. Saying goodbye opens a door to new opportunities, and how you live into the future has been impacted by our time together. I charge you to live differently because of our time together. Trust in God and Jesus, abiding in the Spirit, and Listening to God's word with the ear of your heart.

Think about it – Pray about it – Live it

*Bob*

**The graphic below represents giving as of December 31, 2018.**



## REPORT FROM YOUR PNC

Your PNC is pleased to announce that we have been inspired by the Holy Spirit and selected a pastoral candidate for our church!

### Here are our final steps:

We presented our candidate to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry on January 30 and ask for their approval. *(Please watch your email on January 31 or February 1 for an announcement on the results of this meeting.)*

In early February, we will send out a short biography of our candidate to the congregation.

On **Saturday, February 16**, the PNC will host a reception for our candidate in the Community Room. We hope many of you will welcome this chance to meet our candidate in person.

On **Sunday, February 17**, our candidate will preach for the congregation. The session has called for a congregational meeting after the service, and our PNC will present to the congregation why we were so inspired by this candidate and why, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we discerned this candidate was the right pastor for our church. The moderator will call for a vote on the new pastor and the terms of call, and we hope you vote to support this candidate to be our new pastor!

After the service, we will celebrate together in the Community Room. Praise God for our new pastor!

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

## REPORT FROM YOUR SESSION

At the January 21, 2019, stated meeting of the session, the elders voted to call a congregational meeting for **February 17, 2019**, and approved the 2019 budget.

We are completing the annual statistical report for our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Zirnheld  
Clerk of Session



February 1, Sarah Fox  
February 1, Karen Swarts  
February 5, Donna Unversaw  
February 11, Andy Emerson  
February 13, Max McQuiston  
February 20, Bob Audler  
February 20, Sandra Mitchell-Holder  
February 21, Mara Hoberty  
February 24, Gieselle Leone  
February 26, Terry Bateman

*If we've missed your birthday, please let the church office know at [fmhpc@live.com](mailto:fmhpc@live.com).*

## 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)

### Teacher's Breakfast

FMH hosted teachers from the Independence Academy, Parkview, and CFI 70 at a breakfast in the Community Room on January 23. They were served a delicious meal AND were given gifts made/assembled by the families who attended the January 9 Messy Church! A wonderful morning was had by all!



### New Leadership on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at the Northwood Food Pantry!

FMH is pleased to share that Tom and Susie Hacker are now the leads at the Northwood Food Pantry on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday! They're taking over for Ruth and Greg Padgett who have faithfully held this leadership role for the past few years. The Padgetts will be greatly missed by the volunteers and the Pantry clients, and we thank them for their wonderful service!

Muuka and Allyson Muyumba will continue to serve as the leaders on the 2nd Saturday, and Muuka will remain as the liaison between FMHPC and Northwood and as the coordinator of our pantry volunteers at FMHPC.

For those of you who have volunteered at the pantry, thank you! We would love to have your continued support. And for those who haven't yet served this vital ministry, would you prayerfully consider doing so?

Please contact Muuka at (317) 610-1809, Susie at (317) 432-3928, or Tom at (317) 439-1918 to sign up. Again, thanks to those who have already signed up for upcoming Saturdays, to those who have been so faithful in the past, and to those of you who may decide to come on out for the first time or encourage others to volunteer with us!

### Food Pantry Needs for January/February

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Communion Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary •Karen Licht 30-Year Recognition During Worship	4 •Mission and Outreach Team Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	5	6 •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	7	8 •Women's Retreat	9 •Women's Retreat •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg. 10am to noon, Community Room
10 Women's Retreat •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Deacons Mtg., 9am, Parlor •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	11 •Communications/Marketing Team Mtg., 5:30pm, Parlor •Finance Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	12	13 •B&G, 3:30pm, Parlor •Messy Church, 5:30 to 7pm, Community Room	14 •PWO Puppy Pillows, 10am to 1pm, Community Room	15	16 •Open House to Meet New Pastoral Candidate, 3 to 5pm, Community Room
17 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary •New Pastoral Candidate Preaches Today/Reception Immediately Following Worship	18 •Session Mtg., 7 to 9pm, Library	19	20 •Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	21	22 •Content Due for March Newsletter	23 •Food Pantry, 8:45am •Boy Scouts Troop Mtg. 10am to noon, Community Room
24 •Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary	25	26 •Indianapolis Council of Women, 10 to noon, Parlor	27	28		

**First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church**  
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 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](mailto:fmhpc@live.com)

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

**Submission deadline for MARCH newsletter is Friday, February 22. Please submit content to the church office at [fmhpc@live.com](mailto: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)
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