



# The Compass

September-  
October 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

## *“The unexamined life is not worth living.” —Socrates*

One aspect by which a person may view life has to do with someone’s countenance. The non-verbal expression on another’s face can convey a feeling that could elicit an emotional response in a subject’s witness. Such an exchange in interaction by just the very presence of another being affects their outlook. Life is all the more worthwhile living when another person provides proper perspective to bear witness to God’s grace in our lives lived for the glory of the Lord.

*Job 9:25-27 (NIV)*

*“My days are swifter than a runner;*

*they fly away without a glimpse of joy.*

*They skim past like boats of papyrus,*

*like eagles swooping down on their prey.*

*If I say, ‘I will forget my complaint,*

*I will change my expression, and smile,’*

The character of Job in scripture presents us with one whose relationship with God is replete with rhetoric. The dialogue depicts the height and depth of human suffering for one whose plight in life is faced with challenges that strain much of his dialogue with the very Lord of the universe.

As swiftly passing by the days of life may run their course, seemingly flying away without even as much as a glimpse of joy, skimming past like fleeting boats of papyrus as Scripture tells us, not unlike eagles swooping down upon their targeted prey below, we are presented with a choice in the wake of this season following after Pentecost. We are given occasion to choose what kind of attitude we may respond with whatever life may bring our way. Come what may, we can adapt in the midst of our situation(s) by deciding to adopt an attitude of gratitude, or give in to griping, begrudging and complaining.

Despite the potentially debilitating predicament of Job in the Bible by which he could have easily denounced with deep despair his sordid, sobering situation in utter despondency, he instead gives remarkable consideration by saying, "I will forget my complaint, I will change my expression, and smile!" 😊 While the rest of the passage provides greater context for this statement in which we find Job in further ruminations, lamenting his sorry state of late, the chapter ends with a telling turn of phrase from another translation.

*Job 9:33, 35 (NLT)*

*If only there were a mediator between us,*

*someone who could bring us together.*

*Then I could speak to him without fear,*

*but I cannot do that in my own strength.*

The Scriptures of the New Testament tell us that we have indeed been given a mediator in Jesus Christ. In the apostle Paul’s first letter to Timothy (2:5) we read, "there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus" whose ministry we seek to emulate. The book of Hebrews (9:15; 12:24) refers to Christ as "the mediator of a new covenant." Jesus himself embodies the love of God that drives out all fear as expressed so affectionately in the Johannine accounts (John 3:16) and letters (1 John 4:8,18). Because of Jesus the Christ, we can have close conversation with God in prayer without being afraid as we approach the throne of grace. But, as Job points out, we cannot do this in our own strength. Only by grace can we do so. As Paul wrote to the Philippians (4:13 CEV), "Christ gives [us] the strength to face anything."

My hope and prayer for you and yours, and for all of us in this next season of faith, is that God would gift us with renewed capacity of strength imbued upon us in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Blessed with certain temerity of resolve and determination toward the better future God has in mind for us, may we forge ahead into this year knowing that God is smiling on us with wisdom and favor from on high.

*Numbers 6:24-26 (MSG)*

*God bless you and keep you,*

*God smile on you and gift you,*

*God look you full in the face and make you prosper.*

Pastor Rex

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

This year's session of Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 9 at 10:15am following Fellowship.

The young adult and adult classes will be combined this year and will be led by Pete Vogler and Tom Dunn.

The kindergarten-5th grade class will again be led by Debbie Ford and Sarona Goodrich.

Lisa Vogler will lead the nursery class for infant-4 years old.

During worship, kindergarten-5th grade will continue to meet downstairs following the Children's Message.

Make plans now to attend Sunday School and enjoy a time

of fellowship while leaning more about God's word.



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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PLAN FALL BRUNCH

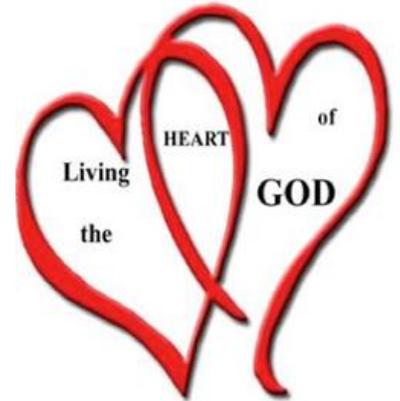
By Claire Smith

Mark your calendars now for the annual Presbyterian Women's Association Fall Brunch to be held on Saturday, September 15 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a delicious brunch, meaningful devotions, and fellowship with one another.

An uplifting program entitled How to Live the Heart of God will be presented by Deb Johnson, Bluffton resident and dear friend of Claire Smith. Deb has 35 years of teaching experience including public education, homebound instruction, tutoring, Sunday school teaching, and Holocaust education. She received the Mandel Fellowship in 2002 to study Holocaust education at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D. C. Deb recently retired from teaching English at Bluffton High School. Although she considered her classroom her mission field, she has also been on mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Red Bird, Kentucky and a Navajo reservation.

A member of Liberty Center United Methodist Church, Deb serves as worship leader and Administrative Board Chair; she also teaches an adult Sunday school class and is actively involved in United Methodist Women. Deb has been happily married for 43 years to her husband, Dave, and they have two children and five grandchildren.

Hope to see you on September 15.



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## COAT DRIVE SCHEDULED

By Christina Myers

Happy back to school time! Now that school is back in session, we can start implementing our fall plans. First we have our annual coat giveaway. This year the coat giveaway will be on Thursday, October 25 from 9:00am-11:00am, 1:00pm-3:00pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm. With three available times slots, we are hoping to serve a lot more people. We are looking for volunteers to help with the drive during these times. Please contact me for more information.

As the mission committee reaches out to the community, we are always looking for programs to support and learn more about. One such ministry is Reins of Faith, a faith-based ministry that uses horses as a means of therapy for children. More information will be coming to you soon regarding ways you can help.

## TRICK OR TREAT

This year the Christian Education Committee will be taking part in the Portland Merchants Trick or Treat Night on Wednesday, October 31 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Committee members will distribute treats to all children that visit. A festive area to greet the children will be set up in the church parking lot, weather permitting.

You can help with this community outreach by providing individual Fun Size plain M&M packs for the committee to distribute. It is anticipated that at least 300 children will be stopping by for treats. Please bring your M&Ms to the church by Sunday, October 14.

You can also take part in this event by volunteering to assist the committee in distributing the treats. If you'd like, you can even dress in costume (no masks, please).



## IN MEMORIAM

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of James (Jim) R. McCord. Jim passed away July 2. He was a 38-year member of First Presbyterian Church.



## BREAD OF LIFE

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner that First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, October 29.

If you want to help serve or if you would like to provide some of the food, please contact Julia Schwomeyer at 726-4761 or call the church office at 726-8462.



### September

02 Alice King  
 03 Maddy Benirschke  
 06 Tonya Hyatt  
 08 Vecil Heniser  
 09 Jordan Rodden  
 Daniel Scott  
 10 Chris Ford  
 12 Maria Hiatt  
 14 Harry Scott  
 21 Claire Smith  
 27 Sue Dunn  
 29 Stan Gockel

### October

01 Adam Nixon  
 Sydney Nixon  
 02 Janice Calhoun  
 04 Carrie Byrum  
 05 Tom Dunn  
 06 Linda Frantz  
 Pam Rogers  
 14 Ivy Trinidad  
 17 Janet Barrett  
 18 Lola Joy  
 29 Lisa Vogler  
 30 Jerry Schwomeyer  
 31 Lorna Snyder



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Our Vision Statement

“To provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God’s love.”



**CALENDAR**



September

- 02 Communion-Food Pantry Sunday
- 03 Labor Day-Office Closed
- 05 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 06 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 09 Sunday School Begins
- 11 6:30pm Deacons Meeting  
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 12 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 13 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 15 10:00am PW Fall Brunch
- 19 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 20 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 22 First Day of Autumn
- 26 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 27 5:30pm Choir Practice

October

- 03 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 04 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 07 World Communion Sunday  
Food Pantry Sunday  
Peace & Global Witness Offering
- 09 6:45pm Session Meeting
- 10 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 11 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 17 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 18 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 24 7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon
- 25 9-11am; 1-3pm; 5-7pm Coat Give-Away  
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 29 Bread of Life Dinner
- 31 5:00pm-7:00pm Merchant's Trick or Treat  
7:00pm Mending Families Nar-Anon

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:00am  
Fellowship 10:05am  
Sunday School 10:15am**

**Church Office hours:  
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-2:00pm  
Closed on Friday.**