FIRST MERCHANTS CORP Form 8-K January 26, 2017

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DATE OF REPORT (Date of earliest event reported): January 26, 2017

Commission File Number 0-17071

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

INDIANA 35-1544218 (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

200 East Jackson Street P.O. Box 792 Muncie, IN 47305-2814 (Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(765) 747-1500 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

x Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425) o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12) o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b)) o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

ITEM 2.02 RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

On Thursday, January 26, 2017, First Merchants Corporation will conduct a fourth quarter earnings conference call and web cast at 2:30 p.m. (ET). A copy of the slide presentation utilized on the conference call is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit Slide presentation, utilized January 26, 2017, during conference call and web cast by First Merchants99.1 Corporation

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

First Merchants Corporation (Registrant)

By: /s/ Mark K. Hardwick Mark K. Hardwick Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer

Dated: January 26, 2017

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Slide presentation, utilized January 26, 2017, during conference call and web cast by First Merchants Corporation