

**First Investors Life Series Total Return Fund  
Summary Prospectus**

**Ticker Symbol**  
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**May 1, 2018**

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund’s prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find this and other information about the Fund, including the statement of additional information (“SAI”) and most recent reports to shareholders, at [www.foresters.com/lifeprospectuses](http://www.foresters.com/lifeprospectuses). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1 (800) 423-4026 or by emailing [investorservices@foresters.com](mailto:investorservices@foresters.com). The Fund’s prospectus and SAI, dated May 1, 2018, as each may be amended or supplemented, and the financial statements in the annual report to shareholders, dated December 31, 2017, are incorporated herein by reference.

**Investment Objective:** The Fund seeks high, long-term total investment return consistent with moderate investment risk.

**Fees and Expenses of the Fund:** This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. Investments in the Fund can only be made through a variable annuity contract or life insurance policy offered by a participating insurance company. This table does not reflect the fees and expenses that are or may be imposed by a variable annuity contract or life insurance policy for which the Fund is an investment option. For information regarding those fees and expenses, please refer to the applicable variable annuity contract or life insurance policy prospectus. If those fees and expenses were included, the overall fees and expenses shown in the table would be higher.

<b>Shareholder Fees</b> <i>(fees paid directly from your investment)</i>	
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	N/A
Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of the lower of purchase price or redemption price)	N/A

<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> <i>(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)</i>	
Management Fees	0.75%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	None
Other Expenses	0.11%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0.86%</b>

**Example**

The Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund’s operating expenses remain the same. The table below does not include the fees or expenses that are or may be imposed by a variable annuity contract or life insurance policy for which the Fund is an investment option. If they were included, the expenses shown in the table below would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, whether you do or do not redeem your shares, your costs would be:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>5 years</b>	<b>10 years</b>
Total Return Fund	\$88	\$274	\$477	\$1,061

**Portfolio Turnover:** The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 48% of the average value of its portfolio.

**Principal Investment Strategies:** The Fund allocates its assets among stocks, bonds and money market instruments. While the percentage of assets allocated to each asset class is flexible rather than fixed, the Fund normally invests at least 50% of its net assets in stocks and at least 30% in bonds, cash and money market instruments. The percentages may change due to, among other things, market fluctuations or reallocation decisions by the Fund’s portfolio managers.

In connection with the determination of the Fund’s allocation ranges, the Adviser considers various factors, including existing and projected market conditions for equity and fixed income securities. Once the asset allocation for bonds, stocks and money market instruments has been set, the Adviser uses fundamental research and analysis to determine which particular investments to purchase or sell. The percentage allocations within the above ranges may change due to, among other things, market fluctuations or reallocation decisions by Foresters Investment Management Company, Inc. (“Adviser”). Reallocations are expected to occur infrequently and only when the Fund’s investments in bonds, stocks and money market instruments fall outside of the above ranges.

The Fund’s investments in stocks are normally diversified among common stocks of large-, mid- and small-size companies that offer the potential for capital growth, current income, or both. In selecting stocks, the Adviser considers, among other things, the issuer’s financial strength, management, earnings growth potential and history (if any) of paying dividends.

The Fund’s investments in bonds are primarily diversified among different types of bonds and other debt securities, including corporate bonds, U.S. Government securities and mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities. The Adviser selects bonds by first considering the outlook for the economy and

interest rates, and thereafter, a particular security’s characteristics. The Adviser may sell a security if it becomes fully valued, its fundamentals have deteriorated, alternative investments become more attractive or if it is necessary to rebalance the portfolio.

To a lesser extent, the Fund also invests in high yield, below investment grade corporate bonds (commonly known as “high yield” or “junk bonds”). The Adviser has retained Muzinich & Co, Inc. (“Muzinich”) as a subadviser to manage this portion of the Fund. High yield bonds include bonds that are rated below Baa3 by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. or below BBB- by S&P Global Ratings as well as unrated bonds that are determined by Muzinich to be of equivalent quality. Muzinich will consider ratings assigned by ratings agencies in selecting high yield bonds, but relies principally on its own research and investment analysis. In managing its portion of the Fund, Muzinich focuses on investments it believes can generate attractive and consistent income. Muzinich may sell a bond when it shows deteriorating fundamentals or it falls short of the portfolio manager’s expectations.

In addition, the Adviser may also invest in exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) that could expose the Fund to high yield securities.

The Fund may also invest in U.S. Treasury futures and options on U.S. Treasury futures to hedge against changes in interest rates.

**Principal Risks:** You can lose money by investing in the Fund. There is no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective. Here are the principal risks of investing in the Fund:

*Allocation Risk.* The Fund may allocate assets to investment classes that underperform other classes. For example, the Fund may be overweighted in stocks when the stock market is falling and the bond market is rising.

*Credit Risk.* A debt issuer may become unable or unwilling to pay interest or principal when due. The prices of debt securities are affected by the credit quality of the issuer and, in the case of mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, the credit quality of the underlying loans. Securities issued by U.S. Government-sponsored enterprises are supported only by the credit of the issuing entity.

*Derivatives Risk.* Investments in U.S. Treasury futures and options on U.S. Treasury futures to hedge against changes in interest rates involve

risks, such as potential losses if interest rates do not move as expected and the potential for greater losses than if these techniques had not been used. Investments in derivatives can increase the volatility of the Fund's share price and may expose it to significant additional costs. Derivatives may be difficult to sell, unwind, or value.

*Exchange-Traded Funds Risk.* The risks of investing in an ETF typically reflect the risks of the types of instruments in which the ETF invests. In addition, because ETFs are investment companies, the Fund will bear its proportionate share of the fees and expenses of an investment in an ETF. As a result, the Fund's expenses may be higher and performance may be lower.

*High Yield Securities Risk.* High yield debt securities (commonly known as "junk bonds") have greater credit risk than higher quality debt securities because their issuers may not be as financially strong. High yield securities are inherently speculative due to the risk associated with the issuer's ability to make principal and interest payments. During times of economic stress, high yield securities issuers may be unable to access credit to refinance their bonds or meet their credit obligations.

*Interest Rate Risk.* In general, when interest rates rise, the market value of a debt security declines, and when interest rates decline, the market value of a debt security increases. Interest rates across the U.S. economy have recently increased and may continue to increase, thereby heightening the Fund's exposure to the risks associated with rising interest rates. Securities with longer maturities and durations are generally more sensitive to interest rate changes.

*Market Risk.* Stock prices may decline over short or even extended periods due to general economic and market conditions, adverse political or regulatory developments or interest rate fluctuations. Similarly, bond prices fluctuate in value with changes in interest rates, the economy and circumstances directly involving issuers. Adverse market events may lead to increased redemptions, which could cause the Fund to experience a loss or difficulty in selling securities to meet redemptions. Certain investments may be difficult or impossible to sell at a favorable time or price when the Fund requires liquidity to make redemptions.

*Mid-Size and Small-Size Company Risk.* The market risk associated with stocks of mid- and small-size companies is generally greater than that associated with stocks of larger, more established companies because stocks of mid- and small-size companies tend to experience sharper price fluctuations. At times, it may be difficult to sell mid- to small-size company stocks at reasonable prices.

*Prepayment and Extension Risk.* When interest rates decline, borrowers tend to refinance their loans, and the loans that back mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities suffer a higher rate of prepayment. This could cause a decrease in the Fund's income and share price. Conversely, when interest rates rise, borrowers tend to repay their loans less quickly, which will generally increase both the Fund's sensitivity to rising interest rates and its potential for price declines.

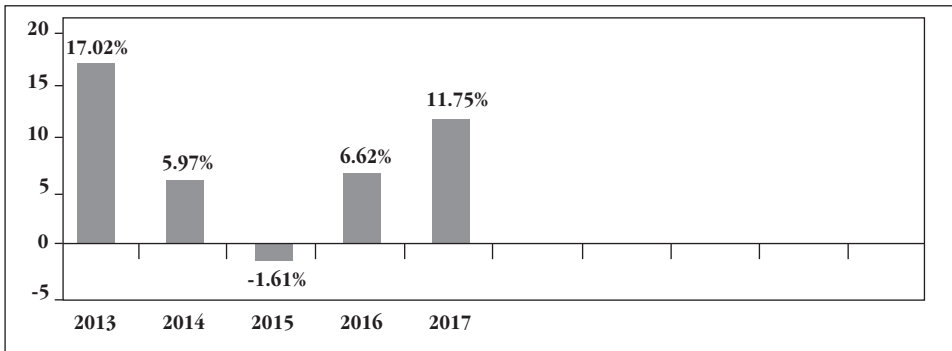
*Security Selection Risk.* Securities selected by the portfolio manager may perform differently than the overall market or may not meet expectations.

*An investment in the Fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.*

**Performance:** The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund. The bar chart shows changes in the Fund's performance from year to year. The table shows how the Fund's average annual returns for the 1-year, 5-year and Life of Fund periods compare to those of an index that is a broad measure of market performance for equity securities and an index that is a broad measure of market performance for fixed-income securities. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future. Prior to May 1, 2018, Muzinich did not serve as a subadviser to the Fund.

The bar chart and table do not reflect fees and expenses that may be deducted by the variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy through which you invest. If they were included, the returns would be less than those shown.

## Total Annual Returns For Calendar Years Ended December 31



During the periods shown, the highest quarterly return was 6.04% (for the quarter ended March 31, 2013) and the lowest quarterly return was -5.43% (for the quarter ended September 30, 2015).

## Average Annual Total Returns For Periods Ended December 31, 2017

	1 Year	5 Years	Life of Fund
Total Return Fund (Inception Date: 12/17/12)	11.75%	7.77%	7.55%
S&P 500 Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	21.83%	15.79%	15.60%
BofA Merrill Lynch U.S. Corporate, Government & Mortgage Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	3.63%	2.13%	2.16%

**Investment Adviser:** Foresters Investment Management Company, Inc. (“FIMCO”) is the Fund’s investment adviser and Muzinich serves as the subadviser to a portion of the Fund.

**Portfolio Manager:** The Fund assets managed by FIMCO are managed primarily by Sean Reidy, interim co-Director of Equities, and Rajeev Sharma, Director of Fixed Income. Mr. Reidy has served as Portfolio Manager of the Fund since March 2018 and Mr. Sharma has served as Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2017. The portion of the Fund managed by Muzinich is managed primarily by Clinton Comeaux and Bryan Petermann, Portfolio Managers of the Fund since May 2018.

### Purchase and Sale of Fund

**Shares:** Investments in the Fund can only be made through a purchase of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy for which the Fund is an investment option. You may wish to contact the issuing insurance company and/or refer to the applicable contract or policy prospectus for information on how to purchase and sell shares of the Fund.

**Tax Information:** The Fund currently sells its shares only to participating insurance companies for allocation to their separate accounts. Accordingly, you generally will not be subject to federal income tax as the result

of purchases or redemptions or exchanges of Fund shares, Fund dividends, or other distributions by the Fund. However, there may be tax consequences associated with investing in the variable annuity contracts and life insurance policies. For information concerning federal income tax consequences for accountholders of such contracts or policies, accountholders should consult with the issuing insurance company and refer to the applicable contract or policy prospectus.

**Payments To Insurance Companies and Other Financial Intermediaries:** The Fund and its related companies may make payments to an issuing insurance company, its affiliates, or other financial intermediaries for distribution and/or other services. These payments may be a factor that an insurance company considers in including the Fund as an underlying investment option for a variable annuity contract or life insurance policy. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing your financial representative or the insurance company or other financial intermediary to recommend a First Investors Fund over another investment. You may contact your financial representative or visit your insurance company’s or financial intermediary’s website for more information.

[Link to Prospectus](#)

[Link to Statement of Additional Information](#)