



e-News

May 17, 2017

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

Worship This Sunday



Prepare for Worship this Sunday. How can I prepare for worship, you may ask or be thinking? First I would encourage you to pray for our Worship Services. We can pray for God to work in all of our lives and for us all to be receptive to the Lord's presence. Then we can read the sermon scripture text and supporting passages as we prepare. I encourage you to read: Matthew 18:21-35 and Psalm 49: 1-9, 15 and Luke 17:4-5.

Sunday, May 21. I am preaching on "Transform Your Pain" this Sunday. The sermon text is Matthew 18:21-35. This is Jesus' Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. We will think about the healing power of forgiveness. This is part of the sermon series, "The Unselfish Church: Dispelling Cultural Opinion." Each week we seek to find possibilities for life in the Parables and teaching of Jesus.

--Craig Herr

Music This Sunday:

9:00 a.m.—Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers
10:30 a.m.—Worship Band

Volunteers this Sunday, May 21, 2017

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship:

Megan Pritz

Val Koehne

Holy Hunters:

Karen Luebbe

Kyla Fris

Greeters:

Betsy O'Mara

Jan Gehrig

Acolytes:

Cameron Paul

Madison Riebe

Ushers:

, Capt.;

Wayne Zoellick, Capt.;

Beth Maurer

Mike House

Mark Dykema

Pat Costion

Coffee Fellowship:

Barb Rodgers, Capt., Lisa Kasper,

Nick Kasper, Duke Barnes

Sound Room:

Cliff Stepina

Video Screens:

Dale Endres

The Week Ahead

Annual Report Working Meeting—May 17, 7 p.m.,
in Hoffman Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting—May 21, following
both the 9 & 10:30 a.m. worship services

Confirmands Read Statements of Faith—May 21,
between services in the Fireside Room

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Quilt Group—May 18, 7 p.m.

Men's Dinner—May 26, 6 p.m. at Katie O'Connor's
Pint House & Pub, 13717 S. Route 30, Plainfield

Praise Yoga—Tuesdays at 7 p.m. & Thursdays
at 8 a.m.
Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 210
Mindfulness Practice—Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study—Saturdays
at 7 a.m. in the Fireside Room

***Adult Discussion Groups:

Parables Discussion Group—Tuesdays at 12 noon
(bring a sack lunch), May 30-June 13,
July 11-25

Men's Discussion Group—Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
May 18, June 1 and other dates in June and
July to be decided.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

The date has been changed—to Sunday, June 4!
If you would like to know more about the life,
ministry, and mission of First Pres. and widen the
circle of people who you know, then please join us
for the New Members Class.

If you would like to become a member of the
church, you are most welcome. If you just want to
learn more about the church, that's great too!

We will meet on Sunday, June 4 @ 11:45 a.m. in
the Fireside Room. We will have lunch and spend
two hours together getting to know each other
and talking about First Pres.

Please let one of our pastors know if you would
like to come to the class.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Come and Hear and Celebrate Confirmation Statements of Faith. Join the Confirmation Class this Sunday, May 21, between services in the Fireside Room as they present their Statements of Faith. Come to support our young people as they share their faith and how God is working in their life. See you at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room!

Change of Date: New Members Class to Meet on June 4th. If you would like to know more about the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. and widen the circle of people who you know, then join us for our New Members Class. If you would like to become a member of the church, you are most welcome. If you just want to learn more about the church, that's great too! We will meet on Sunday, June 4 @ 11:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will have lunch and spend two hours together getting to know each other and talking about First Pres.

Kayaking Just For Fun. I was hoping we could go kayaking for the first time this Saturday, but the weather forecast is not good—60% chance of thunderstorms. Thunderstorms, rain and lightning are not great the first time you go out or any time really when you are kayaking. So watch for news about going. I will see if a week-night could work for us. If you like kayaking and would like to go with others on the lakes and streams close by, just let me know. Please e-mail me at craig.herr@firstpresjoliet.org

Annual Report Review Meeting and Annual Congregational Meeting. The session has called for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, May 21, at the end of both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. There is an Annual Report Review meeting tonight, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. in Hoffman Hall.

Don't wait for someone else to volunteer. Try out the Video Projection Ministry. We need some more volunteers in the video projection room for Sunday Worship. The Hymns, Songs, Sermon Slides and Video Clips add an essential visual element to our worship of God. If you would like to volunteer once a month in the Video Room for Sunday services just give me a call or e-mail (craig.herr@firstpresjoliet.org). It's a wonderful way to serve and we have excellent volunteers who will easily provide the training you need to get on board.

In Christ,



KIDS

Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School

June 19—23

Kids will discover not only that God made them the way they are, but also made them for a purpose. Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences. Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just some of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. It's all FREE! Register your kids on-line and register yourself to help out at www.firstpresjoliet.org.

Sports Camp

Basketball — July 17—20

Soccer — July 24—27

This is a great opportunity for younger children to learn the basics of basketball and soccer as well as character-building and team-building skills. Cost: \$20 per child/\$15 for a second child or second camp. Brochure/registration form is on-line on our website.



YOUTH

Check out our Graduates' Board in Hoffman Hall!

Confirmation Class

Reading of Statements of Faith

Come honor our Confirmands—

Hunter Belfield
Lilly Dunbar
Kayla Kuczek
Pauly Fris

They will be reading their Statements of Faith this Sunday, May 21, between services in the Fireside Room. Confirmation is June 4th, at the 9 a.m. worship service.

KAYAKING FOR FUN

If you like kayaking and would like to go with others on the lakes and streams close by, just let me know at craig.herr@firstpresjoliet.org and also let me know if you have a kayak or two or if you want to rent kayaks. I am looking at getting on the Fox River in Yorkville where there is a good kayak and canoe rental place. It's a beautiful trip down river. — Craig



Compassion International and Supporting a Child. It's still possible to choose to support a child through Compassion International. Last Sunday we thought about the opportunity to support a Compassion International Child and shape that child's life for years to come. We also acknowledged the support of children through the Matsiko World Orphan Choir Ministry. We still have some Compassion Children who could use support. The informational packet on each child is available in the office. If you are interested, come up to the office and read about a child that could use your support.

Free Summer Lunch Program here at First Pres., Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June 5 to August 18. Children Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. The meals come boxed, but volunteers are needed to help greet our guests, distribute the lunches, and read to the children. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to offer your help—once a week, once a month, or as often as you are able. **High School Students**—you can earn community service hours by helping out at our Free Summer Lunch Program!

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is moving further north to 1395 Larkin Ave. and they need help setting up the new store. Contact Nicole Murray at 815-726-7010 or nmurray@habitatwill.org if you can help. They hope to be up and functioning by June 1st.

150 Loving Acts of Service Beyond the Walls of Our Church. We are at 121 blocks!!! Watch for coming opportunities to sign up to help with a **Habitat for Humanity** house on Cora St., Crest Hill, this summer. Remember, if you are part of a church-sponsored project, the CHURCH creates one block; if you serve as an individual, YOU create one block.

May 14, 2017

Worship Attendance — 188

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$90,309
Year to Date Expenses	\$85,316

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$0

Visit firstpresjoliet.org or call Tracy Norris, 815-727-9259, to learn of several convenient options for electronic giving.

Leadercast – May 5. A big thank you to all our volunteers who helped greet, register, and serve breakfast & lunch to the attendees. It was a “full house” in Hoffman Hall!

Free Pancake Breakfast – May 6. Our Night Deacons and volunteers served 54 folks for breakfast and fellowship!

Ladies Day Retreat – May 13. Women in their early twenties to over 90 years of age enjoyed a day to Relax, Refresh & Recharge and meet new friends. They enjoyed a variety of interesting workshops and a spiritual message from Mary Lynn Keir. Thank you to the Retreat Committee who planned this wonderful inspirational day.

Compassion International Sunday – May 14. We celebrated children throughout the world, and those in our church family who sponsor them by helping with living and educational expenses. Six more people signed up to sponsor a child and we have more children waiting for sponsors. Stop by the office to arrange for a Compassion International child. Your sponsorship of \$38 a month can transform the life of a child in need and give them the gift of hope and a future.

Baptisms. Over the past month, four families brought their babies to be baptized. Congratulations to Nora, Emersyn, Noah & Jack, our newest members of God's family, the church.

Selfie Challenge

“Who is that?” — “What's their name?”...the list of ‘I don't know who that is’ questions is long and it's time to turn it around. Just because you don't know someone as well as your best friend or family member shouldn't stop you from getting to know those you don't know at church. Parish Council wants to make it easy for you to get to know someone new and it is as simple as asking really easy ice breaker questions like: Cubs or Sox? What's your favorite holiday? Favorite season? Favorite movie? You get the idea...so here are 3 easy steps:

- 1) Find someone new...seek them out—Introduce yourself and be intentional and admit you don't know who they are but really would like to get to know something about them.
- 2) Parish Council has provided laminated question cards to help you break the ice; so, ask a question.
- 3) Walk over to the photo booth in the Narthex and take a “selfie”—you know, a picture you take of the two of you with your cell phone...really simple. If you have an Instagram account, tag the picture with #firstpresjoliet, #firstpresjolietsundayselfie (ask someone to help you if you don't know how) or you can email it to the church office.

That's it! It's really simple and you will have met someone new and now know something about them!!