



The Servants' Light

July 27, 2016

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***"Servants of
Jesus Christ—
Ministering
To One Another,
To Our Community,
And To Our World."***

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Sunday Morning

Schedule

Worship—

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship—

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship—

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Nursery/Preschool Care—

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.



"It's A Grand Day!!"

August 28, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the Church

Grilled Chicken Sandwiches with Assorted Sauces
Pasta Salad, Watermelon Slices
Make-Your-Own Ice Cream Sundaes
There will be a special Grandparent/Grandchild Craft
Assorted games
Parish Council invites you to join in the fun!!



Stephen Ministry Commissioning

On August 28th, our congregation will commission our Stephen Ministers, as they have completed substantial training to equip them for their tasks which lie ahead. This commissioning service will offer an opportunity to show our support for this ministry. Our Stephen Leaders and Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. We can become involved in this ministry as a congregation in many ways. Some may recognize a call to apply to be a Stephen Minister or Leader in future training sessions. As a congregation we can be ministers of referrals, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care. We all can give our enthusiastic support by keeping our Stephen Ministry always before us and by praying for and affirming those who have answered God's call to serve in this way. As we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers on August 28th, let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing Christian care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

The Pastor's Corner—



Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Sunday, July 31. Jesus said that he “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45). Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote of Jesus’ life and ministry that, “Jesus was a man for others.” Once when speak-

ing of Jesus, Peter said that, “he [Jesus] went about doing good....” (Acts 10:38). Come and worship with us this Sunday as we all seek to follow Jesus in doing the good he asks us to do in our day and time, that he might receive all the praise and honor.

Give thanks this day to God for the opportunity to serve and go about doing what is good as followers of the Lord Jesus. Brenda Schmidt is singing at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sermon. Bo is preaching this Sunday. He writes, “This Sunday we are answering the question ‘What feeds your life?’ by looking at Luke 10:25-37 (Good Samaritan). Jesus talked about a new way of looking at the world, where selfless giving and acceptance are the new way of showing your love and devotion to God. I would like to encourage you to meditate on the Story of the Good Samaritan as we get our hearts ready for Sunday. Who is your neighbor? Who is your One? See you Sunday, Blessings, Bo.”

Lots of Mission To Celebrate. Look through the newsletter and see how our church family is involved in local mission in Joliet, mission in Chicago, and mission in West Virginia. Read about our Junior Highs serving in Joliet. See what Samantha Schwartz has been doing and is doing sharing the Gospel to college students in the city of Chicago. Then read about the

impact our Senior High Youth and Advisors had as they worked on people’s homes in southern West Virginia. And then, there’s Box City of Hope coming up on September 9th. Now you can take a look at the Website and read what happened each day on the Senior High Mission Trip. It starts with Day 6 and goes backward to Day 1.

Church Picnic, Sunday, August 28th. Check out the details on our August 28th Church Picnic right at the church following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. It’s front page news! There’s great food; make your own Ice Cream Sundaes and more!

Commissioning New Stephen Ministers. On Sunday, August 28, we will commission new Stephen Ministers during our 10:30 a.m. service. We will worship all together at one service that Sunday; at 10:30 a.m. with our Church Picnic to follow.

Men, You Are Invited, C4 Frisbee Golf! Calling all of our men to check out page 6 of the Newsletter to have a great time, great meal, and great fun together at our C4 Frisbee Golf and lunch. The details are all there on page 6. We hope to see you!

May you know and experience the grace, goodness, and guidance of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit this day and always!

In Christ,



Known to be in the Hospital:

Ray Kolmodin at Presence St. Joseph

Just Born:

Emersyn Hazel Palmer (July 8)
Daughter of Aaron and Meredith (Zang) Palmer
Caroline Kathryn Orr & Kennedy Christine Orr
(July 16)
Daughters of Jeremy & Sarah (Bornhofen) Orr

United in Marriage:

Julie Battcher & Charlie Sullivan (July 9)

Baptized:

Bailey Donna Brown (July 24)
Daughter of Kayla Davies & Glenn Brown

July 24, 2016

Worship Attendance — 197

Stewardship Report

2016-2017 Budget: \$792,916

Year to Date Receipts	\$239,154
Year to Date Expenses	\$207,102

2016-2017 Bequest/Gift Income Received— \$2,000

"Invite Your One" Sermon Series

Beginning August 14

Back to Church Sunday is September 11th this year, and we will be focused on realizing the fruits of each of you inviting just one individual to come to church that day. To help us better understand the purpose of "Invite Your One," we will engage ourselves in the following series of sermons to prepare us...to pray that God speaks into our lives about his church:

August 14: "Why 'One' Is Important" (Luke 8:4-15)

August 21: "No Greater Time Than Now"
(Luke 10:1-13)

August 28: "A Greater Church" (Romans 12:1-8)

September 4: "The Great Responsibility"
(Matthew 28:16-20)



August brings another of our summer traditions—Summer Choir. Singers from the choir and the congregation meet at 8:15 a.m. on the Sundays in

August and prepare an anthem to sing in the 9:00 a.m. service. It is a perfect time to sing with the choir for those whose regular schedule does not permit this during the choir season. We select anthems that can be easily learned in a short rehearsal prior to the service (8:15 - 8:50 a.m.). We welcome anyone who wants to participate. This year Kari Endres and I will be sharing the conducting duties for Summer Choir. I know Kari would greatly appreciate your support, as would I. This is a lot of fun, and we turn out some pretty good anthems in August. Join us for a great time of fellowship. — Ken Myers



Our devotional blog will continue with "Author's Choice." If you are interested in joining our group of authors, just drop an email to dale.ambler@firstpresjoliet.org. It's really not that hard—the most important thing is committing to at least one day per week and writing devotional thoughts that are foundationally biblical. After all, the primary focus of this devotional blog is knowing our Bible better. To read the blog each day, just go to our website and click on "Blog" at the top!

Adult Education Opportunities

"Bible Perspectives"

Sundays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
Room 201 with Jim Mullins

We use the Common Lectionary Bible passages each week. The format basically follows a three question format: What do these words mean? What did these words mean to the original hearers? What do these words mean to us today?

Coming Opportunities:

House or Home - Marriage Edition: God's Blueprint for a Great Marriage. Mandy Nolan will facilitate this opportunity that explores God's design for marriage and the roles of husbands and wives, as well as offering clear and compelling help for couples longing for unity and fulfillment in their marriages. Wednesday mornings this fall (more details to follow).

Financial Peace University - coming this fall...a way to get a Godly handle on your financial life with Sandi and Dave Zang facilitating. More details to follow.

Smart Money, Smart Kids - Parents, help your children learn to make wise choices about working, spending, saving, giving and more. Cassie Lennertz will facilitate two opportunities:

Tuesdays, beginning September 20, 2016 at
7:00 p.m. for 6 weeks.

Fridays, beginning September 23 at 9:00 a.m.
for 6 weeks

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

The Craft Hut was a busy and fun place to be each day during our Surf Shack VBS.

Every day we made a craft project and we worked on our mission project.

We made scratch art crosses, colorful sand art, seashell prayer cards for those unable to come to church, a fish necklace, colorful jellyfish and a lifesaver necklace. The cross is a reminder of our Savior's great love for us and our call to follow him; the seashell reminds us that as we hear the sea in the shell, so God hears our prayers; the fish has Biblical significance (Jesus told his disciples to be "fishers of men," performed miracles involving fish, helped the disciples to catch fish, etc.); the lifesaver necklace reminds us that Jesus is our lifesaver.



Our mission project this year at VBS was making 250 "Dignity Bags" for the homeless in our community, to be distributed through MorningStar Mission. We decorated lunch bags, filled Ziploc bags with toiletry items, and made up laundry bags containing detergent and a dryer sheet. We had fun making up both the "Soapy Waters" bags and the "Dignity Bags," knowing that helping our friends right here in our own community is one way we can share God's love. All the bags were delivered to MorningStar Mission last week.



Our Thursday night, following songs and the program in the sanctuary for our families, we had a big Beach Party in our parking lot. We celebrated a wonderful week of outreach to the children in our community with Food, Games, Fellowship, and FUN. Thank you to all our volunteers—you helped 178 children experience God's amazing presence in their lives!





Our Youth In Mission

Recently, 10 of our Junior High Youth spent 3 days serving at local agencies. They packaged food at Hands of Hope; cleaned up yards at 6 different homes for Lamb's Fold clients, packed food at Feed My Starving Children, sorted food and assisted shoppers at the Warren Sharpe Community Center Food Pantry, and sorted and organized donations at the MorningStar Treasure Chest Thrift Shop. It was a tiring few days! In between all the work, there was time for devotions, movies, a cookout, swimming, and lots of fun! A big thank you to Gina Bonomo and Mahryha Iwema for chaperoning!

Here is an excerpt from a thank you letter our Jr. Highs received from Rhonda L. Sikes, Executive Director at Lamb's Fold:

"Thank you very much for volunteering to clean the women's yards for Lamb's Fold Center for Women & Children. The yards... look great. Your donation is a great help to our families and is greatly appreciated."

Miss you a lot
Prayer + Thanks
Baby girls, + Baby Boy I am so hurt
this morning knowing I am Not going to
see you. I am sitting here trying to write and
cry at the same time. Church you are Bless
to have my Baby Girls + Boys, Lead + guide
them in their path. Parents of the Baby girl
and Baby Boy you are Bless to have so
special children Parent I love each + everyone
thank you Parent for Letting you child by God
Grace to be sent to me. Emilee, Andy,
Andrea, Mahryha, Dane, Jon
Please Pray for us.

It was so awesome of you

and appreciated more

than words can say.

Linda + Bill Sikes

Our Senior High Youth have just returned from a week-long trip to West Virginia, where they worked at various home sites, helping folks with needed repairs. They've already received a thank-you note from homeowners Linda and Bill, who were most appreciative of their help resealing gutters and digging ditches. Thank you to Krista Rowzee and Ron and Mahryha Iwema for chaperoning!

Samantha Schwartz—Summer Mission

This summer, member Samantha Schwartz, along with over 100 students, is participating in a leadership development project with Cru (formerly Campus Crusade) in the city of Chicago. The goal is to help establish ministries on different college campuses. She is working during the day; and in the evenings and on weekends is participating in leadership development and outreach—sharing her faith with students at University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago and Illinois Institute of Technology. Sam says, “The more I learn about Chicago the more I realize that most young people don’t even know someone who knows Jesus. I am excited about trusting God to use me and our team to give young people in the city an opportunity to know that a relationship with God is possible. Besides going onto campuses, I will also be mentored and challenged to grow in my walk with God and leadership potential.” Sam is working as an intern for a company in Chicago this summer. Work is a mission field for her and she is excited to be challenged in the workplace and to be outspoken in her faith and lifestyle. At the end of the 10-week program, Sam will be equipped with the leadership skills needed to lead the Cru movement at DePaul where she is starting her Sophomore year. Sam appreciates prayers for herself, the Cru program, and for the city of Chicago and its need for Christ to be realized through the many students attending colleges there.



Praise Yoga

Praise Yoga is taking a summer break. We will not meet the first 2 weeks in August. See you again August 16 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 18 at 8 a.m.

Meal Fellowship

Men’s Breakfast—August 5, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—August 16, 6 p.m. at Cookies, 103 W. Mondamin, Minooka. Please call Sis Schmidt at 815-725-0544 or Mary Haas at 815-524-4624 by August 15 if you are planning to join us, so a reservation can be made.

Men’s Dinner Group—August 26, 6 p.m., at Thayer Brothers (cash only), 753 Ruby, Joliet. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

Presbytery Meeting September 13th

Our church is part of a group of 75 churches called Blackhawk Presbytery. These 75 churches are all located in the northern third of Illinois not including the Chicago area. Our Presbytery typically meets 5 times each year to conduct the business of the broader church that includes First Pres-Joliet. We will be hosting the September 2016 meeting this year—on Tuesday, September 13th. Attendance at these meetings averages around 125 Teaching and Ruling Elders from the 75 churches so we will need a little bit of help that day: parking lot attendants, greeters, ushers, communion servers, lunch servers and many to help donate parts of the lunch that will be served...more information will be coming over the next few weeks.



Calling All Men

The men of C4 invite you to the Inaugural Frisbee Golf & BBQ Outing.

It’s this Sunday, July 31st, at 1 p.m. The location is Shorewood Park, 701 DuPage River Trail, Shorewood. From 52, go south on 59, the park is about 3/4 miles on the right. We’ll enjoy Frisbee Golf, BBQ, Bean Bag Toss, Ladder Golf, Journey with Christ. Please bring a dish to pass (appetizer, snack, dessert), and a beverage and one to share, frisbees, bug spray, etc. Call the church office, 815-727-9259, by July 27 to RSVP. Come and See!



If you have prayer requests, please fill out the form in the pew pad and place in the offering plate, in the box on the table in the narthex, or mail to the church office. Our Pat’s Prayer Circle prays for those in the congregation, their friends and relatives, and for those in our community and in our world.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

Ministering to One Another, to Our Community, and to Our World

Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast

The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, August 6, 8 to 10 a.m. to those in our community who are spiritually or physically hungry. Come on out and help us serve and welcome our guests.



Box City of Hope Friday, September 9

Box City of Hope is an annual, family-friendly event. By spending the night in a box or a tent, you'll help to raise awareness of the homeless in our community. The event is held in a secure, supervised area behind Galowich YMCA. Individuals, families, or groups can participate. Sponsorships are also available. Brochures/registration forms are at the entrances and in the narthex. Pledge envelopes are available at MorningStar Mission or at www.morningstarmission.org. All proceeds benefit MorningStar Mission. The agenda for the September 9th evening includes games, activities, pizza, a family-friendly movie, etc.



Campbell's recently announced that they are retiring their Labels for Education program at the end of this school year. Let's work hard to gather all we can to take advantage of this great program before it is gone!

They will remove the Labels for Education logo mid-2016 and expect there will be a limited number of products that contain these labels in stores through 2017. Please continue to send in LFE upc's as we can send them in through the end of 2017. We are currently at 12,858 points and would like to make the most of our earnings before the program ends. The LFE boxes are in the Narthex and in Hoffman Hall—just drop in your labels.

Angel House Mission

We have received a letter from Holly Heyroth Opundo of the Grassroots Tanzania Communications Team with recent news at Angel House. The elementary-aged Angel House children are now attending Sunshine Springs Academy, about 15 miles north of Tarime on the border of Kenya and Tanzania. The teachers at Sunshine have made a huge difference in the academic lives of the children. They are now learning English as early as Kindergarten. The Kenyan school year is divided into three terms, with 3 months on followed by 1 month off. During their time off, they often work in the garden in the early morning, and spend the afternoon learning how to sew. During the August break, they'll begin using Microsoft Word and have typing lessons.

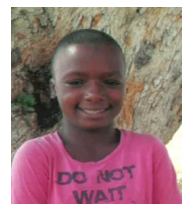
If you would like to send a note of encouragement to Lucia Joshua, Rhobi Mnanka, or Rhobi Mnanka, you can do so through the sponsorship email address, angelhousesponsors@gmail.com. Emails will be printed out, read to our sponsored girls, and they will be helped with their response.



Rhobi



Bhoke



Lucia

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Craig M. Herr—Senior Pastor
Dale Ambler—Associate Pastor
Bo Mircea—Associate Pastor of Children's Ministry
and Family Ministry
Dale Hammond—Pastor of Visitation
Diane Uden—Administrative Ministry Assistant
Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &
Newsletter Editor

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Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the August 31 *Servants' Light* is **August 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:



You've heard this many times...personal invitations work best. Whether it is to a party you are hosting, or a gala celebration—very few people just show up to a party, event and yes, even church, without some kind of invitation. Thom Rainer offers the following example (paraphrased) from the perspective of someone who might be interested in a church: I have visited many churches. It's hard though...not knowing anybody. I'd really like to know more about being a Christian. I am not in a church but I'm interested. My co-worker goes to church. I even know where he is a member. But...he's never invited me. My neighbor goes to church. My children play with her children. I see their family go to church every Sunday. But...she's never invited me.

I would go if she did.

Sunday, September 11, is Back to Church Sunday and we, First Pres-Joliet, are focusing on every individual who attends inviting just one person to join them that Sunday. Over the next several weeks you will be asked to be part of "Invite Your One."

Imagine...what if each of you invited just one individual...just one. Certainly the pews would be full, new relationships will begin, but more importantly, the grace and peace of Jesus Christ would be made known, and this is what the Church is all about!!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:19-20)