



The Servants' Light

September 28, 2016

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

805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

815.727.9259
FAX 815.727.9348
office@firstpresjoliet.org
firstpresjoliet.org

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.

Mid-Week Family Night ***It's for Everyone!***

Wednesdays @ 5:00 pm

Music—Learning—Dinner—Worship—Fun

- 5:00 p.m. Music/Class for kids 4 years old through 5th grade (Zoom)
- 5:15 p.m. “Is That In The Bible” Adult Discussion Group
with Dale Ambler
- 6:05 p.m. Family Dinner for Everyone
- 6:45 p.m. Worship
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

(on nights when Zoom meets off-site,
we will not have dinner, worship or classes at church)

Confirmation Class Starts October 12

It's for youth in 8th grade and older. We'll meet on Wednesday nights beginning October 12. Those in the Confirmation Class are encouraged to come at 5:00 p.m., help with our family night, have dinner, and participate in worship, with confirmation class beginning right after worship. We will not meet on the nights when Zoom is off-site. Confirmation Sunday is June 5, 2017. Please contact Bo Mircea at 815-725-9259 if you have a child interested in attending the Confirmation Class.

The Pastor's Corner—



Sunday, October 2. All around the world followers of Christ Jesus are worshipping, serving, praying, living out their faith and allowing Jesus to be present in and through their lives. This Sunday is World Communion Sunday when we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ coming to the Table Jesus sets for all those who love him.

The Chancel Choir 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. This Sunday I am preaching on “Cry Mercy, God Hears.” The sermon texts are Mark 10:46-52, Genesis 17:1-11, 17-28, and Micah 6:6-8. Over and over throughout the Bible we are reminded of the mercy of the Lord. God hears our prayers and cares for us and is for us in Jesus Christ.

Help, Hope, Healing! Stephen Ministry. We have trained Stephen Ministers who are eager to walk alongside anyone who needs someone to provide caring listening and supportive conversation. Perhaps you need someone to talk to during a difficult time or a time of change or a time when you are recovering from one of life's challenges. Just give one of our leaders a call: Cyndi Schwartz at 815-325-9711 or Kris Hayden at 815-725-3696.



September 25, 2016

Worship Attendance — 200

Stewardship Report

2016-2017 Budget: \$792,916

Year to Date Receipts	\$315,025
Year to Date Expenses	\$321,081

2016-2017 Bequest/Gift Income Received— \$2,000
Farragut School Supply Project \$2,203

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Full Midweek Family Night, we call ZooM meets at the Church on Wednesday Evenings. We are going to finish each night with Worship, from 6:45-7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary/Worship Center. There is an adult study before dinner at 5:15 with Dale Ambler leading. There's dinner for everyone at 6:00 p.m. It will be a great night for all of our church family. Come join us.

Pancake Breakfast This Saturday, October 1. Come brighten the life of someone in need. It may be that they are hungry for food or just for conversation and a great place to talk with others. Come help serve those who are hungry and welcome our guests. The Night Deacons will be leading this ministry and assist you in serving others.

Youth Group This Sunday Night. Youth Group Meets Sunday Evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All the youth grades 6 to 12 are invited and welcome to join in on the fun, connecting with each other, and the study time. This Fall the study focuses on “Thrive,” a study that seeks to move us from struggling or existing to Thriving in our lives. There's great food, fun games, and a wonderful team of advisers.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature of Craig Herr in blue ink.



Known to be in the Hospital:

Bob Moore & Bob Fraser at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center

Joined in Marriage:

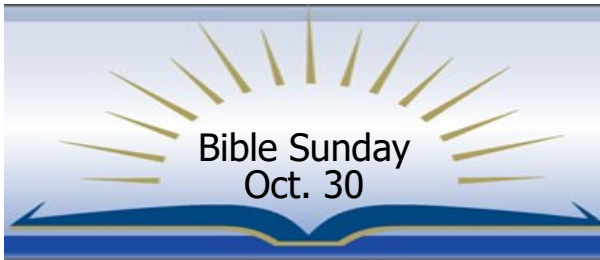
Megan Bauer & Nicholas Warren (Sept. 10)

Passing to Life Eternal:

Harry Hill (Sept. 20)

Judy Turner wishes to thank First Pres. friends for their prayers and cards of sympathy on the recent passing of her brother.

Adult Education Opportunities



October 30th is a very important Sunday! Our 4 year olds, third graders and sixth graders will receive age-appropriate Bibles. If you have a child in one of these age groups who would like to receive a Bible, please call the church office at 815-727-9259 by October 20.

Coming Soon— "Kingdom Woman: Empowering Your Purpose, Power, Possibilities"

This 6-week study encourages women to see themselves as God sees them—a priceless treasure, a diamond that the Master Jeweler wants to display. Written and presented by Pastor Tony Evans and his daughter, Chrystal Evans Hurst, the interactive sessions will encourage us to embrace the purpose, power, and possibilities of being a Kingdom Woman. Watch for the starting date and time.



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!

"Is That In the Bible?" Adult Discussion Group

We continue our discussions using the Bible and Adam Hamilton's book, "Half-Truths." We are looking at some of the things many Christians believe deeply and repeat often. Things like... "God helps those who help themselves" or "God won't give you more than you can handle" or "Everything happens for a reason"...things many believe are captured in the Bible. While there is some truth in these "Half Truths," we'll explore our beliefs and the truths that come from reading the Bible.

Join us —

Tuesdays at noon in the Fireside Room (bring a sack lunch);

Or Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room on the nights when ZooM is in session.

"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?

**Growing
Together
in Faith**

A Unique Music Experience — and it's Right Here at First Pres.!

The fall season for Chancel Choir offers an experience this year that no other choir will have. We are performing "Advent for All," a brand new Christmas cantata by our own Jacob "Jay" Darley. A gifted jazz musician, Jay has created a seven movement work in a unique jazz choral style. This piece celebrates key events of the Advent/Christmas season. Accompanied by strings, winds, English bell ringers, and organ, this tone poem in Jay's signature style needs voices to ensure a successful performance. We invite you to join us at the beginning of our weekly rehearsals starting Wednesday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m. Thirty minute cantata rehearsals will continue at the same time each Wednesday until our performance on December 18 at the 9:00 a.m. service. If you are able, you are certainly invited

Looking Ahead —

Soup & Movie Night — Nov. 5. More details later.

The Community Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, on Larkin Ave. in Joliet. We will worship at 6:30 p.m. with other area churches and give thanks to God.

"Invite Your One" Visitors

We had 13 visitors come to church on our "Invite Your One" Sunday, September 11th! Eleven, yes 11, of the visitors were new visitors to our congregation. We may only have had more visitors on Christmas Eve or Easter. There were 42 members inviting others to come and 11 showed up. That's 26% of those invited saying "yes" and coming to church.

The learning? Inviting works! Please keep on inviting others to come worship with your church family.

PW Circles

Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday
(Oct. 13, 9:15 a.m.)
in the
Fireside Room

Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Oct. 13)
in the Fireside Room
Bring a sack lunch at
12 noon; dessert &
meeting at
12:30 p.m.

Small Groups & Special Events

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 8, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to approve any baptisms that may be requested;

—to hold a fund raising drive later in the year to fund new sanctuary pew cushions, estimated to cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000.



"House or Home: Marriage Edition"

This Chip Ingram study continues on Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Child care is provided. We are looking at what God has planned for our marriages. Contact Mandy Nolan at 317-345-5549 or mrsnolan@gmail.com for details or if interested.

Pastor of Visitation Dale Hammond Retirement

Dale Hammond is retiring after 17 years as our Pastor of Visitation. Pastor Dale has visited hundreds and hundreds of members and church friends in the hospital, nursing homes, and in their homes, as well as leading our Board of Day Deacons. On Sunday, October 23, we are going to say good-bye and express our gratitude to Dale Hammond for his caring ministry of visitation here at First Pres. We will have cake in Hoffman Hall and present a gift to Dale as we greet him and Mary and send them off with our encouragement, prayers, and best wishes.

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—October 18, 6 p.m. at Francesca's at The Promenade, 641 E. Boughton Rd., Bolingbrook. Please call Sis Schmidt at 815-725-0544 or Mary Haas at 815-524-4624 by October 17 if you are planning to join us, so a reservation can be made.

Men's Dinner Group—October 28, 6 p.m., at Karl Darley's house, 429 Buell Av., Joliet. Bring a side dish, dessert or snack and whatever you like to drink.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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

World Communion Sunday Peace & Global Witness Offering October 2, 2016

On October 2, 2016, World Communion Sunday, the 2016 Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received. This year 100% of our Peace & Global Witness Offering will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assist with the immediate needs of those in Louisiana affected by the August prolonged rainfall which resulted in catastrophic flooding that submerged thousands of houses and businesses. Please prayerfully consider your donation to this special offering.

Opportunities to Volunteer at Farragut Elementary School



If you would like to tutor or assist in helping at Farragut Elementary School, please e-mail Pastor Craig or call the church office. We have volunteer packets for Farragut available in the church office. This is a great opportunity for us to expand our involvement beyond helping with school supplies for the students.

Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast

The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, October 1, 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.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Night Deacons collect monetary donations to fund our various ministries—food for the needy, etc. Please use the special envelopes marked “Night Deacon Ministries” in the pew racks for your donation. Thank you for your on-going support!

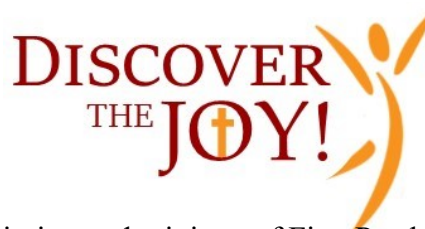
It's easy to stay current with your pledge in support of the life, mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Here are the guidelines for On-Line Giving and Text Giving. Donations to special offerings can also be made on-line and by text giving.

On-Line Giving: Go to our website—firstpresjoliet.org— and click on the On-Line Giving box on the home page. You can plug in your user e-mail address and set up a password. On-Line Giving can be used for an occasional payment when you are out of town or for automatic recurring giving or for special offerings.

Text Giving: Text an amount to 815-205-3044. The first time you text a donation, you will be prompted with a one-time registration screen. This will assign your mobile number to First Pres., and allow you to select what account your text donation is withdrawn from. All subsequent donations will simply be texting the amount to First Pres. (which can be saved for easy access in your phone's contact list). You will get a text confirmation that your donation was successful.



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.



Children's Ministry October Update



When my parents visited two years ago, they had one memory that stuck with them, and every time I talk to them around this time, they keep asking about it: Are the pumpkins and the houses decorated for Fall? It is memories like that one that captures our minds and hearts time and time again, and when it comes to children, the fall season, the pumpkin patches or the treat or trick on Halloween night are the things that they will remember as they grow up.

But there is more to this season than candy, pumpkins and decorating! There is something more to it and it has to do with enjoying God's bounty while being thankful. This past Sunday, I went with a group from our church to pick apples at Jonamac Apple Orchard in Malta IL. The kids enjoyed the fresh apples and the many activities provided, while the parents had a chance to catch up, to talk and to know each other. It is for moments like those ones that I am thankful. It

is about seeing community being built right before our eyes. It is about the church coming full circle and remembering that the reason we exist is seeing God at work not only in our own lives, but even more so in the lives of those next to us.

So I want to encourage you this fall to go out with your friends, make new friends, have the kids run around enjoying the weather and the festivities, and while they are making new memories, let God's love slip through and encourage someone else. Let this season be a time when kids will have a chance to see thankfulness, love and service becoming part of who we are as families and as communities.



Konows Corn Maze, Homer Glen

Oct. 5, 5:00 pm

You should be there!

Trunk 'N' Treat

Oct. 19, 6:00 pm

Invite your friends!

**TRUNK
'n' TREAT**

October 19. It's a big day for our community! The whole neighborhood is going to come and look for candy, food, for all those decorated trunks, and so much more. After 9 years, TNT is a staple in our neighborhood; it is something that people have on their calendar before other things, but even more so, it is a date that is about a Faith Community loving on the neighborhood. It is about the kids!...as my pal Ken Pritz would say. It is about serving and it is about giving and showing a little bit of who we are; it is about who we are as a serving community and even more. It is about finding Jesus walking among the many witches, lions and ninjas that will fill the parking lot. SO....please come on out, spread the news and help us turn this one day into something wonderful for all the people that will come through during our little TNT on Western Ave.

See you around,
Bo M.



The Marshmallow Challenge was a Challenge and a lot of Fun!
 Here are some of the teams and structures that were built.
 This activity provided the youth an opportunity to think about working together
 as a team, as a church, and building their lives and their faith.



This fall the Youth Bible Study and Learning Times are based upon
 Mark Hall's (Lead Singer and Pastor—Casting Crowns) Youth Study Book
 "Thrive: Digging Deep, Reaching Out."

Hall writes, "You were meant to do more than just survive.
 You were meant to thrive... You were meant to have life
 and have it more abundantly.
 That's the promise of the eternal God."

Bible passages and insights from Mark Hall are at the center of the study time
 for this fall season with our youth.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

October 2 Youth Group Meeting at the Church—6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 October 9 Youth Group Meeting at the Church—6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 October 16 Offsite Laser Tag Night; Invite All Your Friends and watch for more details.

Parents Meeting is coming up in October; date to be announced.

WINTER EXTREME CAMPS AT TIMBER-LEE

Watch for the dates in January and February; there's one weekend for
 Junior High Youth and one weekend for Senior High Youth.
 It's great when there's a lot of snow!

MISSION TRIP PLANNING

Plans are being made for the Senior High Mission Trip to go to an Indian Reservation to serve and learn and grow.
 Watch for Details for the Junior Mission Experience.

Join us each week for Youth Group at the Church from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 It's a great time with your friends.

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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805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the October 26 *Servants' Light* is **October 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:



The men of C4 continue to work to grow this men's ministry based on a foundation of Scripture, prayer and relationships. We had 12 guys come out on a Saturday in June to stain the parking lot fence but, more importantly, getting to know each other better. In July we had about 20 guys show up at Shorewood Park for some Sunday afternoon fun of grilling and games. Today, the men of C4 are looking to engage more men of First Pres. and their friends through a new ministry idea—a CAR CARE MINISTRY that will be focused on those who find it really tough to get their cars checked out... single moms, widows, etc., both inside and outside of First Pres. We

don't know all the details yet, but we are inviting any guy who loves cars to join us this coming Sunday, October 2, after 2nd service in the Fireside Room as we think about what this ministry could look like. We'll even provide lunch!

Ask anyone on the C4 Leadership Team about the details:
Wayne Zoellick, Jeff Kasper, Adam Halatek, Mike House,
Matt Blaser, Bob Becker, Ed Schultz, Pastor Bo or Pastor Dale.

REMINDER

Car Care Ministry Planning
Sunday, October 2, 2016 @ 12:00 in Fireside Room