



The Servants' Light

October 26, 2016

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

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Joliet, IL 60435

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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.



Saturday, November 5, 2016

4:30 p.m. Bring a crock-pot full of your favorite
soup and any "condiments" you may need.

5:00 p.m. Begin tasting as many of the soups
as you'd like.

~6:00 p.m. Movies begin:

Zootopia (Sanctuary)

Me Before You (2nd Floor Cinema)

Miracles From Heaven (2nd Floor Youth Room)

God's Not Dead 2 (Fireside Room)

McFarland, USA (2nd Floor Woodruff)



Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 p.m.
At Westminster Pres. Church

We'll gather with members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Hispanic Fellowship, Joliet Jewish Congregation, Central Presbyterian New Lenox, Elwood Community Church, Faith Lutheran Church and St. John Missionary Baptist Church at Westminster Pres., 1015 Winthrop Ave., Joliet. Pastor Craig Herr will be preaching and our Chancel Choir will be singing with the combined church choir. We are invited to stay afterwards for dessert and fellowship.

The Pastor's Corner—



Sunday, October 30. Regular worship, study, prayer times, and service are needed for us to sustain and grow our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Come and worship with us this Sunday and grow your faith and walk with the Lord Jesus, grow your love for God's people and deepen your relationships

with other followers of Christ. Come worship and be the church with all of us.

The Chancel Choir is singing and the Glory Ringers are playing at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The Worship Band and the Children's Choir are singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sermon. We continue the "I Vote For God" Series. Dale is preaching this Sunday on "Lord, Help My Unbelief!" Dale writes, "Faith...why is it so hard sometimes? Simply put, there are times in our lives when doubts arise and things happening in our life and around us just don't seem to make any sense...our faith appears weak. Feeling like you are in a hopeless situation is not uncommon to those who follow Christ, and we will take a look at this on Sunday using Mark 9:14-29 in my sermon titled, 'Lord, Help My Unbelief!'"

Midweek Study, Worship & Family Night. 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 p.m. 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.

We Celebrated Dale Hammond's Ministry on Sunday. Dale has retired after 17 years of serving our congregation as Pastor of Visitation. Thank you for sharing your gratitude, encouragement, prayers, and best

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

wishes this past Sunday. Pastor Bo is going to be the staff resource for Day Deacons now. All three of us Pastors, Bo, Dale, and myself, are going to be involved in visiting those who are unable to attend church. And we do some of this already. I am sure that Dale Hammond is going to stop by to visit and say hello from time to time.

We Are Looking For Volunteers In The Video Projection Ministry. If you would like to volunteer once a month in the Video Projection Room for Sunday services just give me a call or e-mail (craig@firstpresjoliet.org). It's a wonderful way to serve and we have excellent volunteers who could easily provide the training.

Help With Our Youth Group Ministry. We are looking for those who would like to lend a hand to help out with our Youth Group Ministry on Sunday evenings. You could come for the first half hour or last half hour and help chaperone or help with making the food or cleaning up. Just give me a call or e-mail if you are interested (craig@firstpresjoliet.org).

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Craig".



Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Passing to Life Eternal:

Arthur Stratemeyer (Sept. 29)

Bob Moore (Oct. 3)

Michael Miller (Oct. 13)

A gravesite service for Michael Miller will be held Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m. at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Sympathies are extended to Ken & Karen Myers, the Endres family and the Rowzee family on the passing of Ken's mother, Vivian Myers, on Oct. 20 in North Carolina.

Shirley Hill wishes to thank First Pres. friends for the phone calls, cards, food, prayers and concerns at Harry's passing; and Pastor Craig for his visits.

October 23, 2016

Worship Attendance — 175

Stewardship Report

2016-2017 Budget: \$792,916

Year to Date Receipts	\$389,213
Year to Date Expenses	\$378,058

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

The Gospel of Mark: Exploring The Life of Jesus Study

Come on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. and study the Gospel of Mark with Pastor Craig leading. We will meet in the Fireside Room starting, Wednesday, November 9. Mark is the shortest Gospel and yet Mark reveals insights and details on Jesus and his ministry that we do not find in the other three Gospels. This is a great way to get ready for Christmas by studying the Life and Ministry of Jesus.

"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**



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

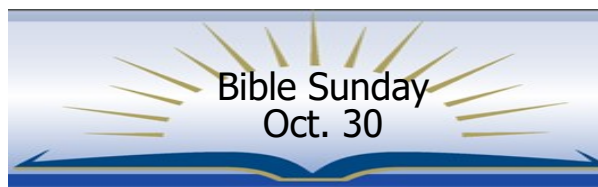
"The Light Will Shine" Adult Discussion Group

Our Tuesday Lunch-time Discussion Group will begin looking at Advent in a new light... "The Light Will Shine." See beyond the hustle and glitter of commercial Christmas to discover new light in traditional Scripture texts as we journey through Advent to Christmas. So, bring your lunch and join us every Tuesday at 12 noon beginning November 1 through December 20 (except Election Day, November 8) as we dig into the meaning of Advent.

— Dale Ambler

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 @ 815-325-9711 or Kris Hayden @ 815-725-3696.



This Sunday is Bible Sunday! Our 4 year olds, third graders and sixth graders will receive age-appropriate Bibles. Please call the church office at 815-727-9259 if your 4 year old, third grader or sixth grader will be here to receive their Bible.

Small Groups & Special Events



Tuesdays, 7 p.m. beginning November 8

Parents, help your children learn to make wise choices about working, spending, saving, giving, and more. Cassie Lennertz is facilitating this 6-week Dave Ramsey class opportunity beginning November 8. Child-care is available. We have curriculum packets at the discounted cost of \$50. Call the office at 815-727-9259 or Cassie at 815-931-2875 (cjennertz@me.com).



Advent Decorating

Plan to come out and join Worship Council to decorate our church for the Christmas Season. We are decorating on Saturday, November 26, at 9 a.m. We have a lot of fun and enjoy good fellowship. It takes about 2 hours.

PW Circles

Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday
(Nov. 10, 9:15 a.m.)
in the
Fireside Room

Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Nov. 10)
in the Fireside Room
Bring a sack lunch at
12 noon; dessert &
meeting at
12:30 p.m.

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—November 4, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—November 15, 6 p.m. at Tom Kelly's, 495 DeGroate Rd., New Lenox. Please call Sis Schmidt at 815-725-0544 or Mary Haas at 815-524-4624 by November 14 if you are planning to join us, so a reservation can be made.

Men's Dinner Group—November 18, 6 p.m., at Prairie Bluff Golf Club, 19433 Renwick Rd., Lockport. Please RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of October 13, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:



- to approve any baptisms that may be requested before the next meeting;
- to hold a mission collection this year and postpone the pew pad collection to next year;
- to approve an information campaign about the tax benefits of Qualified Charitable Distributions;
- to approve a "fair trade" fundraiser proposed by PW to be held sometime before Christmas, with proceeds to benefit a PW mission project.

Give The Gift That Keeps On Giving

You can remember the church in your will and/or provide a special year-end gift to one of First Presbyterian Church's Endowment Funds.

Endowment Fund—We have an Endowment Fund that is growing. The principal amount given is invested and preserved to provide income. Only the income is used for church ministry and mission.

Fred A. & Ruth N. Merrell Mission Endowment—We have a Mission Endowment Fund which funds mission in the community and around the world. The principal is invested and preserved and only the income is used to fund mission.

Wadsworth Family Endowment Fund—We have an Endowment Fund that can be used for capital improvements or to maintain our church facility. The principal amount given is invested and preserved to provide income. Only the income can be used.

Susan Kingsbury Morton Youth Endowment Fund—We have an Endowment Fund that can be used to help fund the Youth Ministry Program in our church, other than for salary. The principal is invested and preserved and only the income is used to help fund our Youth Ministry.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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

Special Mission Offering

We are going to receive a special mission offering in November for our Mission Causes. They include Joliet Area Mission Projects: MorningStar Mission, Groundwork, Meals on Wheels, Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, Lamb's Fold Women's Center, Salvation Army, Daybreak Center, Agape Missions Inc., Habitat for Humanity, and Emerging Needs; as well as General Assembly, Synod, Presbytery, Theological Education, Kenya Project, and Mendenhall Ministries.

Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast

The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, November 5, 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.

Stars of Hope Are Coming

Look for the Stars of Hope in early November. The Stars of Hope program provides Christmas gifts to hundreds of MorningStar Mission families. Just pick a name, shop for gifts, and return the wrapped gifts to church. If you are unable to shop, a personnel shopper will gladly shop for you (with your contribution) and wrap your gifts.

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.



During the month of November, PW will continue collecting personal items for Stepping Stones Agency. We would like to also collect cosmetic bags or small purses and fill them with toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, soaps, hair shampoo and conditioners, etc. Sometimes women have to leave their homes in a hurry. There will be a box in Hoffman Hall to collect your items.

Attention all Knitters and Crocheters:

There is a need for baby blankets and other items at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. PW groups are making these items. You do not have to be a member of PW to participate. You can go to knitting4peace.com for more information and patterns, or call Edna Droz at 815-838-6306. There are some patterns/directions on the counter in the office. This is an on-going project.

Post office regulations require us to publish our annual Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
1. Publication Title	2. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	3. Issue Frequency	
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4. Number of Issues Published Annually	5. Annual Subscription Price	6. Annual Subscription Price	
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[X] Has not changed during preceding 12 months			
[] Has changed during preceding 12 months			

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c. Total (Sum of 18b(1) and 18b(2))		35	35
d. Total (Sum of 18b(1) and 18b(2))		207	204
e. Total (Sum of 18b(1) and 18b(2))		100	100

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Children's Ministry Update



Lots of things going on!

First off, Trunk 'N' Treat was AWESOME! This year was just a little more special than in the past years. We had a little rain, but that did not stop the crowds of people coming in. Thank you to all who came and helped serve.

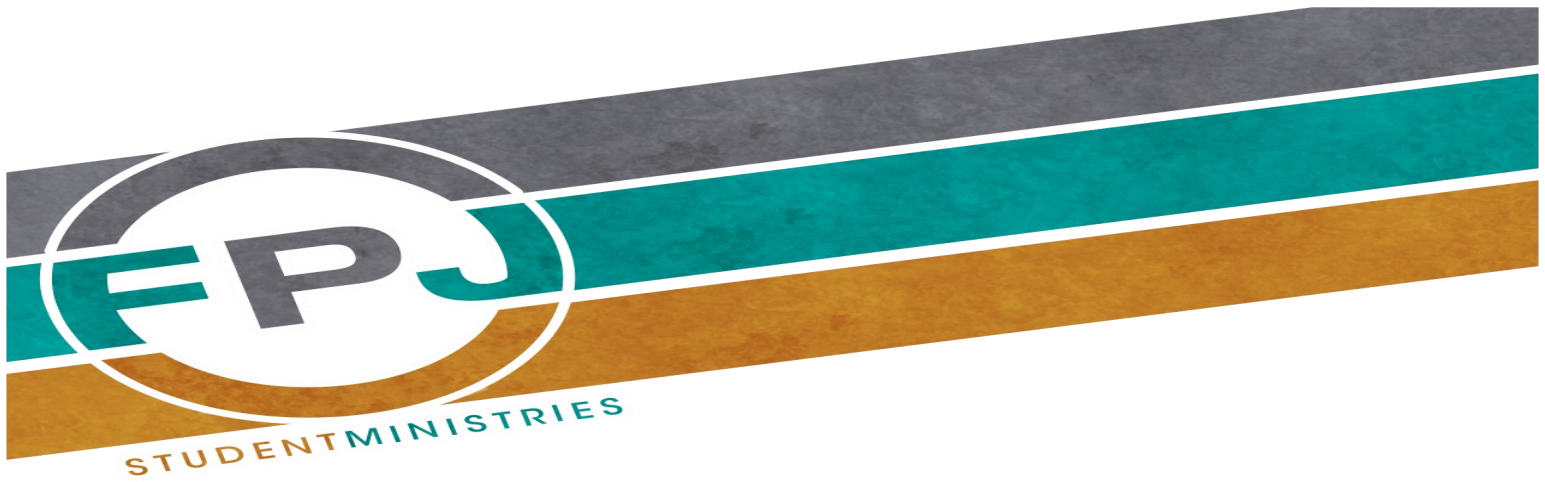
Bible Sunday is coming up. The Bible is our foundation and we want to share that with our children. Reformation Day is about remembering Martin Luther, but even more so, it is about an encouragement to search who we are and get closer to God. Please email me at bo@firstpresjoliet.org if you would like a Bible for your kids.

Wednesday Night Family Worship—Faith is something that we cherish when young and old come together and learn from each other. Come join us as we seek to see Jesus magnified in our lives through learning, worship, fun and fellowship. We meet every Wednesday at 5 pm.

Sunday Morning Deep Blue—In the past year we had engaged a new curriculum for our Children's Worship called Deep Blue, which tries to connect to the kids in a media friendly way. If you have a chance, please check out the Deep Blue app in the App Store and stay connected with what we are doing on Sunday Mornings.

Blessings,
Bo M.





THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday Night (October 30) is “Mad Science” night with Mark Rowzee coming to show and share some amazing things with the Youth Group. We will discover some incredible things about the world God has made and the order we find in our world. See you there from 6 to 9 p.m. Taco’s for dinner.

STUDY TIME

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?

Come and see each Sunday Night from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

There’s a “Murder Mystery” Activity in November.

We are going to “Feed My Starving Children” in December.

WINTER EXTREME CAMPS AT TIMBER-LEE IN 2017!

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 High 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
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 November 30 *Servants' Light* is **November 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.

September 11 was Back to Church Sunday, but inviting people didn't stop there. We will have another "Invite Your One" Sunday on December 11. So...if your "one" has not yet joined you, don't worry, here's another opportunity. If you know of someone who has not been here for awhile, don't worry, here's another opportunity...Invite Your One for December 11!!

We had 43 invitations for September 11 and 13 individuals came to church on September 11—that is an amazing number today!!

Imagine...what if each of you invited just one individual...just one. Certainly the pews would be full, new relationships would 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) — Pastor Dale