



# The Servants' Light

January 25, 2017

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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.



*Finding Dory* — PG/ 1 hour 43 minutes- (Fireside Room)

*Against the Wild* — PG/ 1 hour 31 minutes (Cinema)

*Sully* — PG13/ 1 hour 36 minutes (Sanctuary)

*Genius* — PG13/ 1 hour 44 minutes (Youth Room)

*The Sea of Trees* — PG13/ 1 hour 51 minutes (Woodruff Lounge)

This has always been a fun evening of fellowship, not to mention the delicious chili and great movies. And, it's a wonderful event to invite friends to come and enjoy! Dinner and a Movie, for just the cost of the gasoline to get here — what a deal!





**Sunday, January 29.** In worship we have the opportunity to praise, honor, and glorify God and to offer ourselves to the Lord. It's so good to know that God invites us to be in relationship with him. God seeks us out

and extends his grace, love, strength, presence, and more to us. God is authentic with us and we can come as we are, and authentically offer our lives to God in worship and in life. Come and offer yourself to the Lord in worship this Sunday.

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

**Sermon.** Jim Mullins is preaching this Sunday on "The Good Stuff." The scripture passages for the sermon are Psalm 115:1-11 and John 4:19-26. Bob Goff, in *Love Does*, writes, "I used to think religion tasted horrible, but now I know I was just eating the fake stuff." Join us to think about authentic Christianity and following Jesus this Sunday.

**Let's Get Started on 150 Acts of Service.** One of the ways we plan to celebrate our 150th Anniversary is by taking part in 150 Acts of Service Beyond the Walls of our Church. Here are some local mission opportunities for us to serve in our community and make a difference and get started.

1. On Saturday, February 18, St. John Lutheran Food Pantry, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
2. Saturday, March 4, Feed My Starving Children, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will take place at Trinity

Christian School In Shorewood. We have 40 places open for volunteers.

3. Saturday, April 15, Habitat For Humanity House Build in Crest Hill, watch for more details to participate.

Call the office to sign up or sign up on Sunday morning.

**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](mailto: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.

**Angel House Mission Special Offering.** See the inside back page for more information. You can give online by going to our website: [www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org) and clicking on Give, top right side of the menu. Then you can use the Quick Give option or register to give if you wish. There's a menu of options next to the Amount you wish to give. It has General Budget, but you can click there, scroll down, and choose Angel House Mission.

I hope to see you Saturday at the Chili Cook-Off and Movie Night.

In Christ,  
Craig

**January 22, 2017**  
Worship Attendance — 168

**Stewardship Report**  
2016-2017 Budget: \$ 792,916

Year to Date Receipts	\$582,265
Year to Date Expenses	\$572,160

2016-2017 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$41,911



**Known to be in the Hospital:**  
Elizabeth Holman at Presence St. Joseph

**Passing to Life Eternal:**  
June Hendricksen (Jan. 14)

### Adult Education Opportunities

#### "Love Does" Sermon Series

Our "Love Does" Sermon Series continues. It is based on the book, *Love Does*, by Bob Goff, available in the Narthex and in Hoffman Hall @ \$11 each.

Jan. 29— "The Good Stuff" (Ch. 14)

*"I used to think religion tasted horrible, but now I know I was just eating the fake stuff."*

Feb. 5— "Succeeding at What Doesn't Matter" (Ch. 4)

*"I used to be afraid of failing at something that really mattered to me, but now I'm more afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter."*

Feb. 12— "Never Give Up...On..." (Ch. 6)

*"I used to think God guided us by opening and closing doors, but now I know sometimes God wants us to kick some doors down."*

Feb. 19— "Selective Hearing" (Ch. 21)

*"I used to think God wouldn't talk to me, but now I know I'm just selective with what I choose to hear."*

Feb. 26— "Lasting Impact" (Ch. 13)

*"I used to think that I needed to sacrifice for God, but now I know faith is like a game of Bigger and Better."*

#### "Love Does" Adult Discussion Groups Tuesdays at 12 noon & Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.

There are two more weeks of our "Love Does" Adult Discussion Groups meeting in the Fireside Room.

Jan. 31/Feb. 1: "Be Not Afraid" (Mark 6:45-52)

Feb. 7/Feb. 8: "Follow Me" (Matthew 4:18-20 / Matthew 16:24 / Luke 18:18-22)

The format for each week:

God's Word

- Discussion questions

Video

- Discussion questions

Application

#### "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?



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 call Kris Hayden, First Pres. Stephen Leader, @ 815-725-3696 or 815-258-8617 (cell).

Distinctively Christian Care, Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-on-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality.... a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Perhaps you feel God's calling to serve as a Stephen Minister. Please contact Kris Hayden, First Pres. Stephen Leader, 815-725-3696 or 815-258-8617 or call the church office, for more information and training.

#### 1st Pres. Blog

Our 1st Pres. Blog is about 3.5 years old. During this time we had over 50,000 views and 975 posts published. Now I know the numbers do not tell the full story, because sometimes the blog is just a conversation starter, as it should be. The story comes to life as each one of us engages with the text and the blogs, with the writers and the comments. In that we find a source of inspiration and sometimes even a sense of relief and strength. So join us as we continue our journey in the word—<https://firstpresjoliet.wordpress.com>. — Bo



## Acts of Service Through Music

This is the year we celebrate 150 years of First Presbyterian Church. For much of that time, music has been an integral part of our tradition—performed at a high level by those who have and continue to serve. I recently attended a concert at Bradley University, an exciting performance of the Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi. I spoke with the conductor, Dr. Jost, following the performance to thank him. I mentioned that I was Choirmaster here at 1st Pres. His comment was, “It is great you still have a choir. So many don’t.” Choirs require people willing to dedicate a portion of their week for 9 months of the year to make the kind of music you hear each and every Sunday. I know it is appreciated, because you tell me so. But, it does not last without new voices stepping in for those who have retired and left, those who are off to college, those who have moved. We have maintained our tradition with dwindling numbers, but it will not last forever. If you have a desire to step up and join us, you will be warmly welcomed. Not just the Choir, but Glory Ringers and the Worship Band are also opportunities to serve through music as we worship.

— Ken Myers, Choirmaster



and Thursdays at 8 a.m., in the Narthex).

Praise Yoga will be on winter break January 31—February 7, resuming February 9 (Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

## Meal Fellowship

**Men’s Breakfast**—February 3, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

**Dinner Out Group**—February 21, 6 p.m. at Barolo Ristorante, 2765 Black Rd., Joliet. Please call Sis Schmidt at 815-725-0544 or Mary Haas at 815-524-4624 by February 20 if you are planning to join us, so a reservation can be made.

**Men’s Dinner Group**—February 24, 6 p.m., at Giovan’s Restaurant & Pizzeria, 1804 N. Larkin Ave., Crest Hill. Please RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

## Small Groups & Special Events



At its regularly scheduled meeting of January 12, 2017, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- to elect Don Caisley as Clerk of Session and Chris Wise as Assistant Clerk of Session for 2017;
- to elect Tracy Norris as Treasurer and Margaret Lucas as Assistant Treasurer for 2017;
- to approve any baptisms that may be requested before the next session meeting;
- to approve the special offering to fund scholarships for Lucy, Bhoke and Rhobi, the three girls that we are supporting at Angel House Mission in Tanzania. The offerings will be collected on January 22 and 29, and February 5, 2017;
- to remove Jeff, Lisa and Jack Pierson from the membership rolls per their request.



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.

## PW Circles

### Thurs. AM Circle

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

### Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Feb. 9)  
in the Fireside Room  
Bring a sack lunch at  
12 noon; dessert &  
meeting at  
12:30 p.m.

# Servants of Jesus Christ —

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



The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, February 4, 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.

### From the Treasurer's Office:

The Per Capita charge payable in 2017 is \$36.11 per active member. The per capita pays for administrative costs at three levels of the Presbyterian Church. Each local church is assessed for the active members reported the previous year. If you would like to pay your per capita, please send it to the church treasurer's office by mail or Sunday offering plate, indicating "Per Capita" on the check.

### Angel House Special Offering

This Sunday, January 29, and the first Sunday in February, we will continue receiving a special offering for Lucy, Bhoke and Rhobi, the three girls we are supporting at Angel House Mission in Tanzania. Each year we raise \$4,680 (\$1,560 for each girl) to support their education, housing, and food for the entire year. This continues to be a wonderful and exciting mission for our church. Special offering envelopes will be in our Sunday bulletins. Or you can give online by going to our website, [www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org), clicking on "Give" at the top, then either use the "Quick Give" option or register to give. You can click on General Budget and choose Angel House Mission.



Lucy

Bhoke

Rhobi

## HELPING HANDS

Since the inception of this ministry in October 2005, over 3,200 meals have been provided to members of our church family through your assistance. In the past year alone, over 300 meals have been provided. Helping Hands would like to thank the following people who over the past six months have provided meals, rides, and other services to members of our congregation. We can always use additional people to help provide assistance. If you would like to be a part of this vibrant ministry, know someone who can use some temporary help, or would like more information about Helping Hands, please contact Betty Jones at 815-729-0349, Dave Steinberg at 779-234-6413 or the church office at 815-727-9259.

Dale & Tari Ambler  
Jean Bailey  
Marvin Balsley  
Bob Becker  
Allen & Jackie Brooks  
Russ & Sue Brown  
Don & Mary Caisley  
Pat Costion  
Julie Coughlin  
Dale Endres

Jen Gabl  
Caroline Gheorghiu  
Amy Gibson  
Rich & Mary Jane Johnson  
Chet June  
Mary Kessler  
Carol Kline  
Sue Lee  
Nick & Marsha Maggio  
Diane Milosevich

Bo Mircea  
Donna Nelson  
Mike & Mandy Nolan  
Harriet O'Malley  
Carolyn Schaeffer  
Jodi Steinberg  
Emma Sticklen  
Holly Tomashek  
Robyn Vaughn

# Children's Ministry Update

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## *For your ZooM Calendar*

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### ZooM Jan - April

Jan 25 - Gym Night

Feb 1 - Joy

Feb 8 - Peace

Feb 15 - Bowling Outing

Feb 22 - Patience

March 1 - Kindness

March 8 - Goodness  
Pinewood Cars Night 1

March 15 - Gentleness  
Pinewood Cars Night 2

March 22 - Self-Control  
Pinewood Test Run

March 29 - No ZooM  
Spring Break

April 5 - ZooM Closing  
Pinewood Derby

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### *VBS – June 19-23*

*Sports Camps  
July 10-13  
July 17 -20*

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Do you ever catch yourself counting how many days left until summer vacation? On a cold day, I sometimes let my mind drift off to those sunny days, with a nice gentle breeze. As I think about summer, I also think about all the fun stuff we do: like Vacation Bible School, Sports Camps and Lake Geneva. And every time I think of those moments we spend as a church family serving, or just enjoying each other's company, I am reminded of this Bible verse from Psalm 133: 1-3.

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

There is something special about the church, about living in community, learning from each other and serving together. There is something that gives life to each one of us as we see our friends, as we serve coffee, or teach a class for the little ones. And that something is faith. Faith that God is present in our lives, faith that God is working in our lives and will work in the days to come, faith that we pass on to the next generation believing that they too will find comfort and strength. And it is that call to faith that makes each gloomy day turn into a sunny day. So please join me as we pray for the summer activities, and all the things that are going on at church right now, that indeed we can find faith and strength. Also, please put June 19-23 on your calendar for our VBS. Blessings, Bo M.



Sometimes your life changes when you least expect it and simultaneously right when you need it. Last spring it dawned on me I really had no direction post college and I was graduating in December. A little lost on what to do, I began helping with the children's programs at my church. During this time I realized that this was something I really enjoyed doing and decided to start pursuing that as a potential career. Over the next semester I applied to many different jobs, including a lot of youth ministry positions. As the months wore on, I either heard back from no one or was turned down for jobs. Then one day I began looking at more part time jobs so I at least wasn't completely lost after I graduated. This was the same day I received the call from Craig requesting an interview, and following this call I received several other interview requests and eventually wound up at First Presbyterian Church; and I feel very blessed to be here.

God can use the bad moments in our live to change them in ways we can't see at the time. As the story shows, sometimes change can come at the exact moment you need it and makes you realize that the times of worry in your life can lead to much better things.

— Will Ward  
[will.ward@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:will.ward@firstpresjoliet.org)

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School meets at 10 a.m.  
in Room 206 every Sunday.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jr./Sr. High Youth Group—

Meets Sundays,  
Feb. 5, 12 & 26  
6 to 8 p.m.

### Feed My Starving Children Sat., Feb. 18

Meet at church at 8 a.m.  
We'll travel to Feed My  
Starving Children in Aurora  
and then have lunch together  
after the 9 to 11 a.m.  
meal packing session.

**PACK** FOOD  
**FEED** KIDS  
**GIVE** HOPE  
**1.5 MILLION**

**Save the date —**  
March 3-5  
“Winter” Retreat at  
Timber-Lee

## 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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USPS 560-720

### Address Service

First Presbyterian Church  
805 Western Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60435

**Newsletter Deadline**—The deadline for reserving space in the February 22 *Servants' Light* is **February 10**. Please e-mail to [sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org).

TO:

**Freed & RENEWED**  
**in Christ** 500 YEARS OF GOD'S  
**GRACE IN ACTION**

You have probably heard about the Protestant Reformation and Paul's Letter to the Romans, but, did you know the connection? This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation...the early 16th century and names like Zwingli, Calvin and Luther. Many know about

Martin Luther's protests about the decline and corruption in the Church, but many don't know the role one book of the Bible played in his life. Luther struggled with the understanding of "works," salvation and confession...until he prepared to lecture on Paul's Letter to the Romans and, specifically, the importance of Romans 1:17. Luther was transformed from thinking about the justice of God being God's punishment of sinners to an understanding of God's grace for those who live by faith...gifts from God and free to all sinners. In short, a God of amazing love.

So...COMING SOON, we will take a look at this wonderful Letter to the Romans as we journey to Easter this year. Look for details about when we will start in the next couple of weeks, but for an insider perspective, I am looking at Tuesday, February 14, at noon and Wednesday, February 15, in the evening.

— Pastor Dale