



e-News

February 8, 2017

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

*****We Are Helping 9,000 Children!** Just today, I received an e-mail from Feed My Starving Children, as we plan for 40 people to go and serve making meals for children who need food in our world. Here's the message: "We truly appreciate your financial contribution. Your \$2,000 donation will fund meals for over 9,000 children who desperately need help. That's amazing!!!" Isn't it amazing what God can do in and through us as we give ourselves over to his will and way. See my "Pastor's Corner" further down for the details of how you can come and help serve.

*****Sunday Worship, February 12.** Throughout the Bible we read that God never gives up on his people. God is for us in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in Psalm 46, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." "Be still, and know that I am God." Come and worship the God who is for us this Sunday with God's people.

*****Sunday Sermon.** I am preaching on "Never Give Up...On..." The scripture passages for this Sunday are Romans 5:1-8 and Psalm 46:1-11. I hope you will read them as you prepare to worship this Sunday with your church family. Bob Goff, in Love Does, writes, "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." There are some things in life we never, ever give up on. Come to worship thinking about what God wants us to persevere in and never give up. — Craig Herr

*****Music This Sunday:**

9:00 a.m.--Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers

10:30 a.m.--Worship Band

*****Classes This Sunday:**

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School--10 a.m. in Room 206 with Will Ward

Bible Perspectives--10:15 a.m. in Room 201 with Jim Mullins

*****Council/Committee Meetings:**

Church Growth Council--Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Parish Council--Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee--Feb. 9, 6 p.m.

Session--Feb. 9, p.m.

Night Deacons--Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Human Resources Council--Feb. 15, 8 a.m.

*****Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:**

Thursday AM Circle--Feb. 9, 9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Mary Circle--Feb. 9, 12 noon in the Fireside Room

Quilt Group--Feb. 16, 7 p.m. in Room 210

Praise Yoga--on winter break; next meeting Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Centering Prayer--Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 210

Mindfulness Practice--Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study--Saturdays at 7 a.m. in the Fireside Room

*** **Adult Discussion Groups:**

"Love Does" --Tonight, 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room (last one)

Our Tuesday lunchtime discussion group continues on February 14 with "A Journey to Easter: Romans and the Reformation" - a nine week look at the importance of Paul's letter to the Romans and the Protestant Reformation. So, bring your lunch at 12:00 noon and join us in the Fireside Room as we discuss this important part of our Church history.

*****Mission:**

New or gently used sweaters and sweatshirts needed for the kids at Farragut School; ages Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Look for the bright yellow box in Hoffman Hall for donations.

*****From the Pastor.....Craig Herr, Senior Pastor**

A Drummer Added to our Worship Band. At the beginning of January, Ray Nicholas began to attend college at the University of St. Francis. Ray also came to worship at First Pres. and sing in our Worship Band. Ray is an accomplished musician.. Last Sunday he started playing drums with our Worship Band at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. It's exciting to add new instruments and people to our worship band; we had been hoping that God would bring us a drummer. Ray is a wonderful person and I hope you get to meet him.

150 Acts of Service Are Off And Taking Place! As we go through our 150th Year as a Congregation we are celebrating by doing 150 Acts of Loving Service Beyond the Walls of our Church. Individual members and visitors are serving people in their neighborhoods, which is wonderful.

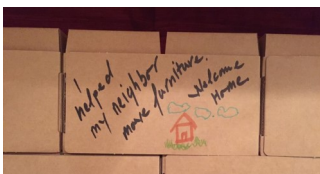
Here are two local mission opportunities for us serve in our community and make a difference and get started. We need commitments right now on these two.

1. On Saturday, February 18, St. John Lutheran Food Pantry, from 10 a.m. to Noon. There are 10 spots left and we must let them know by this Friday who the First Pres. volunteers are.
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. We need your name, phone number and e-mail address for making our commitment to Feed My Starving Children. We have given \$2,000 to support the packing of food for malnourished children all over the world. Think about the 9,000 children who will have food. Call the office to sign up or sign up on Sunday morning.

Angel House Mission Funding. Thank you for your financial support of Bhoki, Rhobi, and Lucia for this coming year in school and at Angel House Orphanage. If you haven't given yet and wish to give, you can still do so--by check or going online at 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. We provide food, clothing, lodging, and education for these middle school age young women. It's an exciting mission we have the privilege to support.

Our All Officer Retreat is Thursday, February 23, from 6-9 p.m. with Dinner at 5:30 p.m. I am looking forward to what the Lord will do amongst us. This time is for our Day Deacons, Night Deacons and Elders to work together.

An Opportunity to Serve. St. Pat's Church is in need of help at their food pantry on Monday mornings from 9-11:30 a.m. Just call the church and talk with Pastor Pete Jankowski at 815-727-4746. In Christ, Craig



First Pres. 150th Anniversary -- 150 Loving Acts of Service and Mission

To celebrate our 150th anniversary this year, we are committed to doing 150 loving acts of service outside the walls of our church--block by block. Over the years we have always been outwardly focused, serving those in our community. Let's continue that tradition. How do we build our blocks? If you are part of a church-sponsored project, the church creates 1 block; if you serve as an individual, you create 1 block. Blocks are available in Hoffman Hall--we already have a couple rows set up. Come take a look this Sunday, then go and create your blocks and let's build together!

*****Our Church Family.** Please add the following to your daily prayers:
Prayers of Healing for George Dehn (Suzanne Watson's father) at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center.

February 5, 2017

Worship Attendance — 218

Stewardship Report

2016-2017 Budget: \$ 786,000

Year to Date Receipts \$605,402
Year to Date Expenses \$598,556

2016-2017 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$41,911
Angel House Mission—\$2,381

Volunteers this Sunday, February 12, 2017

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship:

Laura Pritz

Sarah Lundeen

Holy Hunters:

Bo Mircea

Greeters: Karen Luebbe

Acolytes:

Riley Corcoran

Klara Wilson

Ushers:

Barb Rodgers, Capt.

Aubrey Herr Capt.

Mark Dykema

Don Barnes

Jill Strimel

Raelene Barnes

Coffee Fellowship: Wayne Zoellick, Capt.; Emma Sticklen,
Xander Sticklen

Sound Room: Cliff Stepina

Video Screens: Todd Hayden