



# e-News

March 8, 2017

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

## Beginning the Lenten Season

"We begin the Lenten season with our face pressed hard against the reality of our sin and our death. If we did not know how the story ends, this would be a dark and depressing journey. But we do know how the story ends and therefore...we remember our faithful Savior and the Easter declaration that life is always victorious over death, always!

A season that begins with ashes pressed upon our heads ends with the fragrance, sight, and touch of flowers racing through our senses and inviting us to join the triumphant song 'Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!'

Now we know as never before that our mortality will put on immortality (I Cor. 15:53). Death and resurrection are now claimed as our own. Fear has given way to inexpressible joy, and doubt has given way to triumphant hope. Christ is risen!"

A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God  
by Rueben Job, Norman Shawchuck, John S. Mogabgab  
Upper Room Books, Nashville

## \*\*\*Worship This Sunday, March 12:

This Sunday we will look at John 6:1-14, Jesus Feeding the 5,000. Especially, we will talk about Empathy, as we continue our sermon series on the Servant Values. Empathy, caring, and service are always connected with Christ. "What Would Jesus do?" is not just a rhetoric question but a practical compass for our own lives. As we get ready for Sunday, I would encourage you to read the Gospel lesson, and to pray for us as a congregation that God will once again grow our understanding of his grace. Blessings, Bo M.

## \*\*\*Music This Sunday:

9:00 a.m.--Chancel Choir      10:30 a.m.--Worship Band

## \*\*\*Classes This Sunday:

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School--10 a.m. in Room 206  
Bible Perspectives--10:15 a.m. in Room 201

## \*\*\*Council/Committee Meetings:

Church Growth Council--March 8, 6:30 p.m.  
Parish Council--March 9, 5:30 p.m.  
Executive Committee--March 9, 6 p.m.  
Session--March 9, 7 p.m.  
Night Deacons--March 14, 7 p.m.  
Human Resources Council--March 15, 8 a.m.

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

Thursday Morning Circle--March 9, 9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room  
Mary Circle--March 9, 12 noon in the Fireside Room  
Dinner Out--March 21, 6 p.m.; change in location to At's A Nice Pizza,  
334 N. Independence Blvd., Romeoville (135th & Rt. 53)  
Praise Yoga--Tuesdays at 7 p.m. & Thursdays at 8 a.m. in the Narthex  
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

\*\*\*Our Church Family. Please add the following to your daily prayers:

Prayers of Healing for Shirley Hill at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center

Prayers of Comfort for Marilyn Bisching and family on the passing of her husband, Bernard, on Friday, March 3.

The Memorial Service for Bernard Bisching will be Saturday, March 11, 11 a.m. at Carlson Holmquist Sayles Funeral Home, with visitation from 9 a.m. to time of service.

Joyce & Don Bossen wish to thank all the generous First Pres. folks who brought them the delicious meals after Joyce's hospitalization, and for your prayers, cards and visits. They greatly appreciate it!

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

"Look To Jesus" Lenten Sermon Series. During the Season of Lent we are focusing upon the Life, Ministry, and Person of Jesus Christ. The Sermon Series for Lent is "Look to Jesus" and is based upon the Eight Servant Values: S.E.R.V.A.N.T.S. - Spirit-Filled, Empathy, Renewal, Visibly Seeking Out, All Together, Nearing God, Teaching, and Submission. These Values of Jesus found in the New Testament help us appreciate more fully who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. There are booklets in the Lobby/Narthex of the church which describe each Servant Value and provide scripture passages for each one. It's a good devotional for the Lenten Season.

Feed My Starving Children was a great experience. Last Saturday 40 of us gathered at Trinity Christian School in Shorewood to participate in packing "Manna Pack" dry food packets (13.3 oz.), which provide 6 cups of food when cooked with water. Each packet is a combination of rice, soy, vegetables, and vitamins specially designed to eliminate the effects of malnutrition. We saw our church's mission contribution of \$2,000 put to work to help malnourished children all over the world. Another 119 packers from other churches joined us for the 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. shift. Together we packed over 24,000 meals, which will support 66 children with food for an entire year. It was an awesome time, and everyone was asking about doing this again. Thanks everyone!

Online Giving Options. If you would like to give using your credit card/debit card you can go to the church website. Look at the Menu on the home page and find "Give." Click on "Give" and then you decide if you want to Register for the "First Time" or you can just "Quick Give" and not register. If you go to "Quick Give" you will see "Amount" and to the right "General Budget." Click on the arrow for more choices such as: General Budget, Building Fund, Missions Fund, Angel House Mission Offering, Love Does Book, and Leadercast. It's that easy.

"Lasting Impact" Stewardship Campaign. Make a "Lasting Impact" by completing your pledge card and bringing it to church this Sunday, March 12, or on Sunday, March 19. You can also mail your card if you can't be here either Sunday. Together, we make a "Lasting Impact" for Jesus Christ through our support and participation in the life, ministry, and mission of our church. In Christ, Craig

**\*\*\*Adult Discussion Groups During Lent:**

"Romans and the Reformation"--Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Fireside Room with Dale Ambler (bring a sack lunch)

"Creed" Men's Discussion Group (a study of the Apostles' Creed and what we believe)--Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room with Dale Ambler

"deeplove" Marriage Enrichment--Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. in Room 210 with Craig Herr using Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot's 4-week discussion-video seminar (March 8-29)

**\*\*\*Give-aways.** Andrea Warren has a matching sofa and loveseat (beige with flowers) and a beige rocker-recliner to give away. If you are interested, just give her a phone call at 815-630-4201.

And Alice Stratemeyer has 2-1/2 boxes of hearing aid batteries to give away. Call Alice at 815-729-4803 if you are interested in the batteries.

**A Celebration Tea**

hosted by Church Women United  
Sunday, March 19, 2 to 4 p.m.,  
Victorian Ballroom at the Jacob Henry Mansion

This event is free (reservations needed) and will focus on the mission of this Christian ecumenical organization of women, which includes many local churches. This group offers a way to join in fellowship with other local churches for prayer, advocacy and action for peace and justice. Wear a hat if you like, and plan to have fun with entertainment and door prizes, as well as making new friends. Call 815-726-8185 or 815-834-1041 for reservations; and call Emmie Ostrem at 815-744-1390 if you wish to carpool from church. Pick up a flyer this Sunday at church.

**March 5, 2017**

Worship Attendance — 220

**Stewardship Report**

2016-2017 Budget: \$ 786,000

**Year to Date Receipts** \$641,865

**Year to Date Expenses** \$652,678

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

**Volunteers this Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Children's Worship:**

Laura Pritz

Jacob Riebe

**Holy Hunters:**

Pam LeVasseur

**Greeters:**

Emma Sticklen

Tari Ambler

**Acolytes:**

Justin Corcoran

Logan McCormick

**Ushers:**

Jon Belfield, Capt.

Wayne Zoellick, Capt.

Russ Brown

Aubrey Herr

Mark Dykema

**Coffee Fellowship:** Pat Haldorson, Capt.; Emma Sticklen,  
Xander Sticklen, Jim Huey

**Sound Room:** Cliff Stepina

**Video Screens:**