



e-News

April 5, 2017

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

Worship This Sunday

We are focusing on the life, ministry, and person of Jesus each Sunday in our “Look to Jesus” Sermon series. We are using our S.E.R.V.A.N.T.(S.) values as we “Look to Jesus,” that is Spirit-Filled, Empathy, Visibly Seeking Out, All Together, Nearing God, Teaching, and Submission.

Fifteen years ago, seven individuals from First Pres. (only 2 of us remain) read through and prayed over the entire New Testament to develop a set of core values that would capture and foster our passion and conviction as a community of faith that serves Jesus Christ. These values, known by the acronym S.E.R.V.A.N.T.S., adorn the walls of our sanctuary, but, the question is simple...are they just decorations or are they something we really believe? This Sunday we encounter the value of “Nearing God,” and while it is easy to understand that prayer life and study of the Bible are two ways we near God, there is a third way—through our interactions with others. The sermon text from Mark 11:1-11 provides a most appropriate Palm Sunday foundation as well as a deeper look into what it means to near God in our daily lives with others in my sermon titled, “Why are you doing this?”
--Dale Ambler

Music: Chancel Choir & Worship Band
at both services

Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. This is a Youth Group Fundraiser to fund our summer mission trips, so please be generous! The Youth Group will also have a drawing for various items: a handmade quilt, the newly released iPad 9.7, a quilted table runner, hand knit children’s hats, etc. Tickets are \$1 each.



Palm Sunday, April 9

Breakfast from 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. — Youth Fundraiser
Breakfast Casserole (Bacon, Sausage, Veggie)
Yogurt Bar
Pastries and Fruit
Water, Milk and Juice

Traditional Worship at 9 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Message: Servant Value—“Nearing God”

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Dinner at 6 p.m. —Pork Roast w/stuffing, Red Potatoes,
Green Beans, Salad w/dressing, Rolls,
Dessert & Beverages
Freewill Offering
Worship/Communion at 7 p.m.

Message: Servant Value—“Teaching”

Good Friday, April 14

Meditative Service at 6 p.m.
Message: Servant Value—“Submission”

Easter “Resurrection” Sunday, April 16

Traditional Worship at 9 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Message: “Overcoming Fear”

April 2, 2017
Worship Attendance — 232

Stewardship Report
2016-2017 Budget: \$786,000

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|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Fiscal Year End Receipts | \$706,484 |
| Fiscal Year End Expenses | \$728,114 |

2016-2017 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$41,911
Angel House Mission—\$3,569

Visit firstpresjoliet.org or call Tracy Norris,
815-727-9259, to learn of several
convenient options for electronic giving.

| Volunteers this Sunday, April 9, 2017 | |
|---|---|
| 9:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Children’s Worship: Laura Pritz | Jacob Riebe |
| Holy Hunters: | Kyla Fris |
| Greeters: Emma Sticklen | Sue & Reed Mott |
| Acolytes: Cameron Paul | Tait Wilson |
| Ushers: Barb Rodgers, Capt. Mark Dykema | Ed Schultz, Capt. Lisa Kasper Nick Kasper |
| Coffee Fellowship: , Capt.; Emma Sticklen, Xander Sticklen | |
| Sound Room: Cliff Stepina | |
| Video Screens: Matt Blaser | |

The Week Ahead

***Class This Sunday:

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

***Council/Committee Meetings:

Education Council—April 7, 6 p.m.
Night Deacons—April 11, 7 p.m.
Church Growth Council—April 12, 6:30 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Women's Bible Study—April 12, 10 a.m.
Men's Breakfast—April 7, 7:30 a.m. at The Old
Fashioned Pancake House
Thursday Morning Circle—April 13, 9:15 a.m.
Mary Circle—April 13, 12 noon
Praise Yoga—Tuesdays at 7 p.m. & Thursdays
at 8 a.m.
Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 210
Mindfulness Practice—Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study—Saturdays
at 7 a.m. in the Fireside Room

***Adult Discussion Groups During Lent:

"Romans and the Reformation"—Tuesday at 12 noon
"Creed" Men's Discussion Group—Wednesday at
5:15 p.m.

Selfie Challenge

"Who is that?" — "What's their name?"...the list of 'I don't know who that is' questions is long and it's time to turn it around. Just because you don't know someone as well as your best friend or family member shouldn't stop you from getting to know those you don't know at church. Parish Council wants to make it easy for you to get to know someone new and it is as simple as asking really easy ice breaker questions like: Cubs or Sox? What's your favorite holiday? Favorite season? Favorite movie? You get the idea...so here are 3 easy steps:

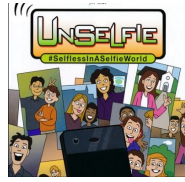
- 1) Find someone new...seek them out—Introduce yourself and be intentional and admit you don't know who they are but really would like to get to know something about them.
- 2) Parish Council has provided laminated question cards to help you break the ice; so, ask a question.
- 3) Walk over to the photo booth in the Narthex and take a "selfie"—you know, a picture you take of the 2 of you with your cell phone...really simple. If you have an Instagram account, tag the picture with #firstpresjoliet, #firstpresjolietssundayselfie (ask someone to help you if you don't know how) or you can email it to the church office.

That's it! It's really simple and you will have met someone new and now know something about them!!

Children, Youth & Families

KIDS

Easter Egg-stravaganza—April 8, 9 to 11 a.m.
(Breakfast, Telling of the Easter Story, Arts & Crafts,
Pictures with the Easter Bunny, Easter
Egg Hunt)



Children's Musical—April 23,
9 & 10:30 a.m.
"Unselfie"—the importance of being unselfish
in today's selfie world by sharing the
transforming love of Jesus

Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School—June 19—23

Sports Camp

Basketball — July 17—20
Soccer — July 24—27

YOUTH

Palm Sunday Breakfast—Our big fundraiser!
Meet at church Sat., Apr. 8, 2 to 5 p.m.
to prepare food, set-up, etc.

Be at church Sun., Apr. 9, at 7:15 a.m.

Graduation—if you or someone in your immediate family is graduating this spring from Jr. High, Sr. High, or college, send us the info, along with a picture of your graduate. Pick up a form at church this Sunday!

Mission

Thank you for your financial support of Lucy, Bhoki and Rhobi, the three young women we support at Angel House Orphanage in Tanzania. If you haven't given yet and wish to give, you can still do so—by check or online at www.firstpresjoliet.org. Just click on Give, then use the Quick Give option or register. There's a menu of options; click on General Budget, scroll down and choose Angel House Mission.

In honor of our 150th Anniversary this year, we are committing to 150 Loving Acts of Service Beyond the Walls of our Church. If you do yard work for an elderly neighbor, take a meal to a sick co-worker, etc., fill out a block with the details and add it to our collection. Remember, if you are part of a church-sponsored project, the CHURCH creates one block; if you serve as an individual, YOU create one block.

From The Pastor

New Look for our E-News. You can see the new look for our eNews this week. You can click on the buttons to read about a specific area of our life, ministry, and mission. That way, if you wish to print anything from the electronic newsletter you can just print the section you want. We think this will be more user friendly as you can click on any area of ministry that you choose each week. Of course you can read the whole newsletter if you wish as well.

Easter Egg-stravaganza is this Saturday, April 8 from 9-11 a.m. Invite your friends, neighbors and family; everybody to come. It's an indoor event so rain or shine we will be having a great Easter Egg-stravaganza. It's a great time of greeting people and helping the children play games, hunt Easter eggs and learn about Jesus.

Palm Sunday Breakfast and Worship. Worship with us this Sunday and enjoy a great breakfast any time from 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. in Hoffman Hall. The proceeds from the breakfast go to fund our junior high and senior high summer mission trips. You will see the youth, advisors, and Will Ward, our Youth Director, making the breakfast happen on Sunday morning! Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

It's Time To Invite. That's right, it's time to invite your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues, and anyone you know to come and worship with us on Easter at either the 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. worship service. We have attractive business card size-church cards you can pick up any Sunday in the Narthex/Lobby Area to use when you invite someone, if that helps. Best invites are in person by word of mouth and an offer to meet the person(s) at church to worship with them and show them around.

Stephen Ministry Training Class. We would like to add more Stephen Ministers to our team. 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. We currently have 5 Stephen Ministers, 4 who are serving and caring for a person in need. We are looking to move forward and grow our Ministry Team. This would call for a training class to begin in the fall. We are looking for both men and women who feel God's calling to give distinctively Christian care through this ministry.

Ordering Easter Flowers. Now is the time to order your flowers. You can still order flowers online if you wish to do that. Right on the front page of our Website you will find an "Order Easter Flowers" Button (box). Just click on it and make your order. Or you can order them by calling the church office.

In Christ,
Craig