



e-News

May 3, 2017

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

Worship This Sunday

Worship With Us, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter! We are in the Easter Season and we continue to rejoice in the Risen Christ. We will worship and celebrate in song, sermon, and sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We will also celebrate the sacrament of Baptism at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Come to Hoffman Hall between services for good conversations, refreshments and fellowship.

Sunday, May 7. Our sermon series, "The Unselfish Church: Dispelling Cultural Opinion" continues with a look into Jesus' revolutionary teaching using a most recognizable parable—a parable that often only gets a one-sided perspective. Yet, it is a parable that can help us understand how many view God. My sermon text is Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 and it is titled, "Grace Wins."

--Dale Ambler

Music This Sunday:

9:00 a.m.—Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers
10:30 a.m.—Worship Band

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you would like to know more about the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. and widen the circle of people who you know, then join us for our new members class.

If you would like to become a member of the church, you are most welcome. If you just want to learn more about the church, that's great too!

We will meet on Sunday, May 21 @ 11:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will have lunch and spend two hours together getting to know each other and talking about First Pres.

The Week Ahead

***Council/Committee Meetings:

Stewardship Council—May 3, 3 p.m.
Night Deacons—May 9, 7 p.m.
Church Growth Council—May 10, 6:30 p.m.
Parish Council—May 11, 5:30 p.m.
Executive Committee—May 11, 6 p.m.
Session—May 11, 7 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Men's Breakfast—May 5, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House, Joliet
Women's Bible Study—May 10, 10 a.m.
Thursday A.M. Circle—May 11, 9:15 a.m.
Mary Circle—May 11, 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:

Parables Discussion Group—Tuesdays at 12 noon (bring a sack lunch), through May 16
Men's Discussion Group—Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. through May 18

Confirmation Lunch Sunday, May 21, 12 noon

Come honor our Confirmands—

Hunter Belfield
Lilly Dunbar
Kayla Kuczek
Pauly Fris

—and hear their Statements of Faith. Please call the office (815-727-9259) by May 17 to make a lunch reservation, so we can order appropriately.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

A Ladies Day Retreat. A day for women to “Relax, Refresh, and Recharge” is being planned for Saturday, May 13th, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’s a great time for women to attend fun workshops, worship and learn together, and enjoy a light breakfast and great lunch from Panera Bread. Register now for a wonderful time with other women.

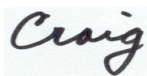
A Compassion International and Children’s Focus. We are planning a Compassion International Sunday focus for May 14. Please send me (or the office) a picture of the child you are supporting and his/her name. We’d like to share the Good News of all the children our members and friends are supporting each year. Some of our members are supporting a child from the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. If so, we’d like those children’s pictures as well.

Two Months Until VBS! It’s time to encourage children to attend our Summer VBS. Start talking up VBS with your family, friends, and neighbors. Think about volunteering and being part of one of the best weeks of the Summer.

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). It’s a wonderful way to serve and we have excellent volunteers who will easily provide the training you need to get on board.

Annual Congregational Meeting. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, May 21, at the end of both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Annual Reports will be made available on Sunday, May 14.

In Christ,



Our Church Family

Known to be in the hospital:
Cindy Foreman at Presence St. Joseph
Medical Center

Congratulations to Sam & Amy Johnson on the birth of daughter Fiona Frances on April 26. Proud grandparents are Rich & Mary Jane Johnson.

KIDS



Maker Fun Factory
Vacation Bible School

—June 19—23

Register on-line and sign up to help at

www.firstpresjoliet.org

Sports Camp

Basketball — July 17—20

Soccer — July 24—27

Brochure/registration form is
on-line on our website.



YOUTH

Graduation Board coming soon in Hoffman Hall. If you haven’t sent in your graduate’s info, please do so as soon as possible so he/she can be included.

Kayaking For Fun

If you like kayaking and would like to go with others on the Lakes and Streams close by, just let me know. Please e-mail me at craig.herr@firstpresjoliet.org.

And please let me know if you have a kayak or two and/or if you want to rent kayaks. I’ve been out now about 8-9 times and it’s been great getting on the water close by. It’s a lot of fun to be on the water enjoying the beautiful weather and seeing all of ducks, geese, birds, river otters, etc.

— Craig

Church Women United

The Joliet Unit of **Church Women United** is having its 2017 May Fellowship Day Celebration on May 5th. The Theme is “Kindling New Fires of Love.” We will focus on how we might extend loving hands and hearts to address the needs of children in our community and in the world. Please join us:

Date: Friday, May 5, 2017

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 noon, business & program
Lunch at noon (\$5)

Place: Hope United Methodist Church
2506 Caton Farm Road
Joliet, IL 60435

Call 815-436-4974 for more information.

Mission

Night Deacons' Free Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, May 6, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome our guests. We can expect anywhere from 50 to 100 folks in our community who are spiritually or physically hungry.

Free Summer Lunch Program here at First Pres., Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June 5 to August 18. Children Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. The meals come boxed, but volunteers are needed to help greet our guests, distribute the lunches, and help the children open them. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to offer your help.

150 Loving Acts of Service Beyond the Walls of Our Church. Watch for coming opportunities to sign up to help with a **Habitat for Humanity** house this spring and summer. 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.

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 two of you with your cell phone...really simple. If you have an Instagram account, tag the picture with #firstpresjoliet, #firstpresjolietsundayselfie (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!!



Ladies' Day Retreat
May 13, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ladies, this is a special day set aside just for you to unwind and relax, to meet some new friends, and to take time to grow stronger in God's Word.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes a light breakfast, lunch from Panera, workshops, a special gift, worship, and a spiritual message from Mary Lynn Keir.

Register online at www.firstpresjoliet.org. There will be 3 workshop sessions—see the next page.

April 30, 2017

Worship Attendance — 204

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$45,831
Year to Date Expenses	\$53,821

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$0

If you wish to make a gift in addition to your regular contribution, to help defray the cost of boxed envelopes, please use the white Initial Offering envelope included in your box. If you did not receive a box of contribution envelopes, and would like one, please contact Tracy Norris.

Volunteers this Sunday, May 7, 2017

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship:

Laura Pritz

Jacob Riebe

Holy Hunters:

Bo Mircea

Greeters:

Bob & Mary Haas

Wayne Zoellick

Acolyte:

Stewart Paul

Emily Riebe

Ushers:

Russ Brown

Ed Schultz, Capt.

Mark Dykema

Jan Gehrig

Coffee Fellowship: , Capt.; Pat Haldorson

Sound Room: Keith LeVasseur

Video Screens: Matt Blaser

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There will be 3 break-out sessions; please pick up to 3 that are of interest to you:

* ***Healthy Weight Management***—

5 Proven Strategies from Registered Dietitian Heather Smith, MS, RD, CDE. Whether you're trying to maintain or lose weight, or just learning to make better food choices, walk away with 5 tips for becoming a healthier YOU!

* ***Perk Up Your Wardrobe***—

Can you accessorize your Spring and Summer wardrobe responsibly—and on a budget? Yes! Join Anna Johnson to get stylish tips and ideas using the Fair Trade products of Trades of Hope. From beachy-casual to formal bling, Trades of Hope will help you customize your look affordably while empowering women out of poverty around the world.

* ***Recharging Smoothies and Salads***—

Koren Finnestad from Drover's Trail Natural Farms, will discuss how to incorporate healthy probiotic rich foods such as yogurt, kefir and kombucha into delicious smoothies. She'll also demonstrate a few easy homemade salad dressing recipes. Samples and recipes will be provided. A table of Drover's produce for purchase will be in Hoffman Hall.

* ***"You Can Do It" Creative Floral Arrangement***—

Floral Arrangement techniques for Amateurs with Sue Lee. Simple techniques will be demonstrated for silk and fresh floral arrangements. Handout provided.

* ***Introduction to Handbells***—

Members of the First Pres. Glory Ringers will teach you the basics of handbell and handchime ringing. No experience is needed. Discover the joy of making music as part of a group in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

* ***Meditation/Chair Yoga with Emma Sticklen***—

Yoga/Meditation is prayer in heart, mind, and body. Through deep breathing and gentle movements and poses we find a quiet place within. In this quiet place we experience "...hope in the Lord, who will renew our strength." (Isaiah 40:13)

* ***"Best Face Forward" Skin Care Q & A***—

Our own Leslie Clapp, Licensed Esthetician, will present tips on better skin care. Please bring any jars and bottles from home and she will suggest the best use.

* ***"Goodbye Stress" Creative Coloring***—

One of the highly recommended ways to decompress. Create your own beautiful bookmark.

* ***Chair Massage***—

Led by Cheryl Close, LMT, and Ashley Moore, student LMT, demonstrating techniques to adjust shoulder and neck tension. We will practice on a partner, with their supervision, learning a new skill.

Register online at www.firstpresjoliet.org or on Sunday mornings at church, or mail your registration form to the church office.