



The Servants' Light

May 31, 2017

The Servants' Light (USPS 560-720) is published monthly by
First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, IL. Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Servants' Light,
805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435-6998.

***“Servants of
Jesus Christ—
Ministering
To One Another,
To Our Community,
And To Our World.”***

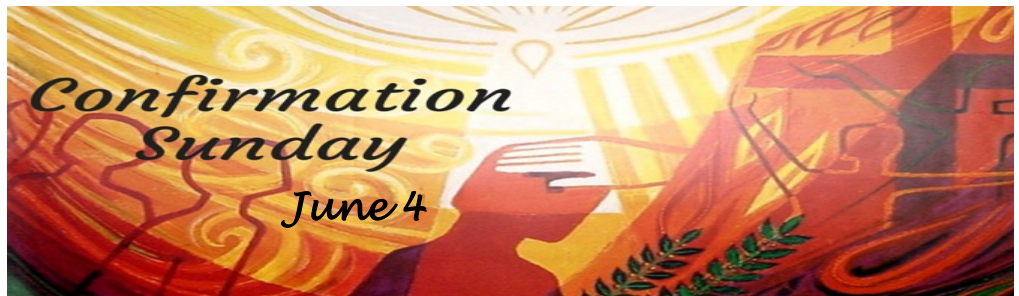
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Sunday Morning

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.



For many of us confirmation is that time in the life of a person when their beliefs are clarified, when lots of questions are being asked, and when they develop a foundation about who they are as a faith person.

This year's confirmation class was indeed a joy for me; in part because I got to walk alongside four young people who I have seen grow up in our church and was blessed to see their spiritual development over the past 7 years. It is not every day that someone in my position gets to experience this. Lilly Dunbar, Mikella Frey/Kuczek, Hunter Belfield, and Pauly Fris, over the past 8 months, have taken this journey very seriously—studying, serving the church, and participating in great conversations not only within our own faith but also when we visited St. Ray's and the Jewish Synagogue.

Sometimes I wish that all of us could experience this process over again, in part because it is a great way for us to refresh our faith, in part because it is a great way to develop new relationships with those around us and to serve alongside people in the church.

This coming Sunday, during the first service, we will come together as a congregation to receive these four-young people as members in our congregation. Come and join us, help us celebrate their journey, and rejoice in the things that God is doing in their lives.

See you Sunday, Bo M.



Sunday, June 4. Come and worship, come and pray, serve, share your faith, and enjoy the community of Christ's Church this Sunday at First Pres. Our Confirmation Students are joining the church at the 9:00 a.m. service this Sunday. There will be a reception to celebrate in Hoffman Hall between services, starting at 10 a.m. We will celebrate the sacraments of Baptism (9:00 a.m. only) and the Lord's Supper at both services. Kari and Bryan Endres are providing music at the 9 a.m. service and the Worship Band at the 10:30 a.m. service. Come worship and celebrate what God is doing.

"Creed: What Christians Believe and Why" Sermon Series starting June 11th. Using Adam Hamilton's book "Creed," we will take a journey through the Apostles Creed. Just a few weeks ago our Confirmation Students shared their Statements of Faith with us. And on this Confirmation Sunday, June 4, we will hear and experience their faith expressed as we worship. Then, next week on June 11, we will devote ourselves to considering what we believe as Christ-Followers.

Sermon. I am preaching this Sunday on "Never Stop Running." The sermon texts are I Corinthians 9:24-27 and Hebrews 12:1-4. On this Sunday when our Confirmation Students join the church, we will think about the Race of Faith and what it means to keep running our own race of faith.

Try Out Serving In Our 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 e-mail craig.herr@firstpresjoliet.org or give me a call. It's a wonderful way to serve and we

have excellent volunteers who will easily provide the training you need to get on board.

Ways To Serve And Share Joy, Hope and Faith.

Vacation Bible School starts on Monday, June 19, and goes through Friday, June 23. It's a great way to brighten the morning for children and their families and to share the joy and message of Jesus. Free Summer Lunch Program for children K-12 Grade takes place June 5-August 18. It's Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call the office or Barb Rogers if you would like to help in any way. The Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast is this Saturday, June 3. Come and help greet and serve our guests.

Please Say Thanks to Anna Johnson. Please thank Anna Johnson for her leadership and music ministry with our Worship Band. Anna has resigned from that position. We are grateful for her ministry and worship leadership at our contemporary service.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig".



Known to be in the Hospital: Jodi Steinberg at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center

Just Born:

Fiona Frances Johnson
Daughter of Samuel & Amy Johnson

Baptisms:

Nora Penelope Thompson (April 23)
Daughter of Sam & Megan Thompson

Emersyn Hazel Palmer (April 30)
Daughter of Aaron & Meredith Palmer

Noah David Johnson (April 30)
Son of Wayne & Amanda Johnson

Jack Kessling (May 7)
Son of Luke & Lindsey Kessling

Passed to Life Eternal:

Cindy Foreman (May 10)

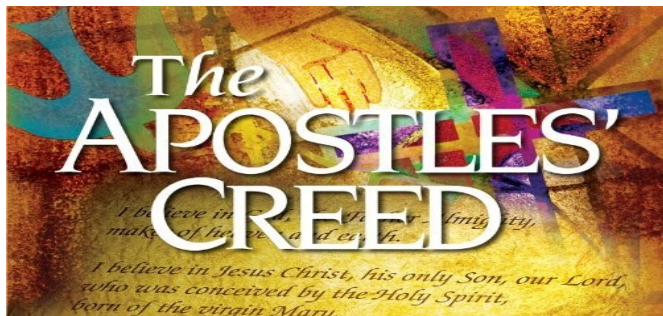
May 28, 2017
Worship Attendance — 166

Stewardship Report
2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$101,473
Year to Date Expenses	\$108,023

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

“CREED: What Christians Believe and Why” Sermon Series STARTING JUNE 11TH



Using Adam Hamilton’s book “Creed,” we will take a journey through the Apostles Creed. Just a few weeks ago our Confirmation Students shared their Statements of Faith with us. And on this Confirmation Sunday, June 4, we will hear and experience their faith expressed as we worship. Then, next week on June 11, we will devote ourselves to considering what we believe as Christ-Followers.

“Creed: What Christians Believe and Why”
Using Adam Hamilton’s book, “Creed”, we will journey through the Apostles’ Creed.
June 11 – July 23, 2017

June 11	“I Believe”
June 18	“God”
June 25	“Jesus Christ”
July 2	“The Holy Spirit”
July 9	“The Church and the Communion of Saints”
July 16	“The Forgiveness of Sins”
July 23	“The Resurrection of the



Our 1st Pres. Blog continues, following the lectionary passages. Join us this summer as we continue our journey in the word:
<https://firstpresjoliet.wordpress.com>.

Adult Education Opportunities

“Bible Perspectives”
Sundays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
Room 201 with Jim Mullins

We use the Common Lectionary Bible passages each week. Jim Mullins leads the exploration of what the words meant to past hearers and what they mean today to present hearers.

Tuesday Adult Discussion Group

We are looking at the Parables of Jesus, meeting June 6 and 13, and July 11, 18 and 25. You are invited to bring your lunch and join in on the discussions.

Men’s Discussion Group Continues

We’ve had some great discussions about how to answer tough questions others ask about what we believe as Christians. So, we’ll continue on the following Thursdays in June at 5:30 in Room 217:

Thursday, June 1
Thursday, June 15



Just go to our website — www.firstpresjoliet.org —and at the top of the home page click on “Media” — “Sermons.” It’s that easy!



Kayaking For Fun

Seven of us went kayaking on the Fox River, starting below the Yorkville Dam, last Saturday. It was an extraordinarily beautiful day and run down the river. The Fox River was up and the paddling was easy and fun; we went 7 miles in under two hours, and ate lunch together. We also loved the ice cream from the shop right on the water near the launch area. Just ask Jean Bailey, Kim and Phil Glavan, Allison Herr, Anna Johnson and Mark McKeen, or me. That's Phil you first see in the picture.

Watch for information on the next trip! 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.

— Craig

Guide Book & Directory

It's time for us to update our database with changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in your family over the past year.

Please let us know now of any changes—new phone number, new address, children who are now on their own, etc., so that the information in the new Guide Book & Directory is correct.

If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our Guide Book, please call the church office.

Save the Date:

July 12

Watch for
more info.



Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of May 11, 2017, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- to approve any baptisms that may be requested before the next meeting;
- to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after both church services on Sunday, May 21, 2017;
- to hold the Annual Report Review Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.;
- to accept the resignation of Anna Johnson as Contemporary Worship Leader; to hire a replacement for Anna; and to consult with St. Francis University to find possible candidates amongst their music program students;
- to accept the transfer of John Savage from his Lutheran Church in Michigan to membership in First Presbyterian Church of Joliet.

PW Circles

Thursday Morning Circle and Mary Circle will have a joint PW Potluck Picnic on June 15, 12:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Paul. Come enjoy great fellowship and Joan's beautiful garden!



Men's Breakfast—June 2, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—June 20, 6 p.m. at Tom Kelly's Restaurant, 495 Degroate Rd., New Lenox. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—June 23, 6 p.m., at Thayer's Restaurant, 753 Ruby, Joliet (cash only). RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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

Mobile Food Pantry — Here at First Pres.!

For those of you who remember going and helping in a variety of ways to help St. John Lutheran and their Mobile Food Pantry, this is to let you know that we are in the planning stages with a local supporter and the Northern Illinois Food Bank to be the site of a Mobile Food Pantry here at First Pres.

The day and times are yet to be established, but we wanted to let you know of what is in the works. If you are interested, give Pastor Dale a call and let him know. As soon as we have more information, we will be sure to let you know the details!!

Getting to Know Others a.k.a. "Selfie Challenge"

Time and again, you've heard that relationships are important. Nearly everyone here knows, in general, how relationships begin...they begin, typically, between you and someone you either don't know or, don't know very well. You may know someone's name but you really don't know anything about them — like, where they live, what they like to do...you get the idea. The whole purpose of the "Selfie Challenge" was to take something that nearly every one of us carries around with us — a smart phone...and taking a picture of you and someone else that you have made a point of getting to know in some way, shape or form. As simple as this sounds, it can be difficult to do, especially if you have trouble talking with someone you don't know...the key is simply making an effort to want to get to know someone new. Go ahead! Give it a try! And, along the way use your smartphone to take a picture and send it to the office (office@firstpresjoliet.org) like these folks did.



The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, June 3, 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.

Coming This Summer—
Free Summer Lunch
Program
June 5 to August 18
Monday through Friday,
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Children Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. Transportation to and from First Pres. is NOT provided. This program is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The meals come boxed; volunteers are needed to help distribute the lunches and read to the children. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to offer your help.



You can still share your musical talents at a worship service this summer. Soloists, small vocal groups and instrumentalists are all welcome. Just call the office to schedule a date. Share your talents and help enhance our worship with the gift of music this summer!

Children's Ministry Update

If you are like me, you might find yourself reading the news or exploring a blog and kind of get lost in it. This happened to me again recently; I got lost in following a series of articles about church and participation, especially young families' church participation.

And I have to share with you—the authors I was reading shared their concerns once again about the things that we are facing as churches these days. Many of these concerns were, as you guys might guess, centered on the busyness of our lives and the way this impacts attendance. But even more so the question of why is the church through its presence in the life of the believers so important. A few years back I wrote something about why it is important to be part of a church family and participate in a meaningful way, and I think it is still relevant today:

It supports godly parenting. The church was never meant to be the exclusive faith teacher of children. Instead, God's plan was for the church and family to form a partnership.

It helps you into more faithful attendance. Usually parents become more involved in the church when their kids become more involved in the children's ministry.

It helps new families get connected with the church. Even when a new family comes into the church, they still need help to get plugged in.

It helps dads get involved in the church. For various reasons, fathers have a difficult time getting connected with the church family. One great way to bridge this gap is to use kids' ministries as a place to connect and know some other dads.

It provides families with meaningful shared experiences. This is true especially when the whole family can participate in events like VBS or summer camp.

It helps answers those hard questions. Almost every week a child will come to me with a religious question that has stumped their parents.

With the summer ahead of us, I pray that we can all experience that feeling of being rested and refreshed that the summer brings, but I also pray that we can take time and worship together, serve and spend time with our faith family. Have a great summer and see you on Sunday.

Blessings, Bo M.



VBS !!!!!!!!

At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose, too.

Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. So mark these dates on your calendar: June 19-23. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 12:15 p.m.

Please go to jolietvbs.org to register your children and to volunteer for this life-changing adventure!



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

Brochure/Registration Form online at
www.firstpresjoliet.org



It's finally summer and that means having fun outside, spending time with friends and taking trips. Sadly, it also means that youth group has ended, so that might leave some of you wondering, "How can I remain close to what God wants to teach me without youth group for three months?" Now I'm not delusional; I know the youth of this church are not thinking that. However, summer can understandably be a hard time for youth, as many families go on trips, the kids are sent off to camp, and other things can come up that might keep kids away from church.

All that being said, regular church attendance is a key to keeping a strong faith regardless of what time of year it is. If your kids are looking for something fun to do with other Christians this summer, we do have some youth events in the coming months. The first one will take place on Tuesday, June 13, at 6 p.m.

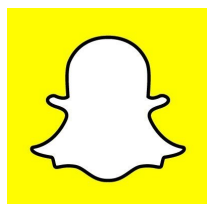
This is also a good time to announce that during the summer I will be posting a daily podcast devotional Monday through Saturday. These podcasts will cover some Christian basics that can help enrich the lives of the youth during the times they are not at school and beyond.

The podcast begins Monday, June 5. Links will be available on social media.

— Will Ward
will.ward@firstpresjoliet.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School—

Meets June 11 & 18,
not June 4 or 25.

June 13
6—8 p.m.
Youth Activity at
FPJ & Walt's

June 25-July 1
Sr. High Mission Trip
to Leech Lake Reservation

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Craig M. Herr—Senior Pastor
Dale Ambler—Associate Pastor
Bo Mircea—Associate Pastor of Children's Ministry
and Family Ministry
Will Ward—Director of Youth Ministry
Diane Uden—Administrative Ministry Assistant
Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &
Newsletter Editor

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT JOLIET IL
USPS 560-720

Address Service

First Presbyterian Church
805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the June 28 *Servants' Light* is **June 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

**Let's Have
Lunch
TOGETHER**
Sunday, June 11
After 1st or 2nd Service
Sign up today!!

"Relationships: Can I find real community here?"

People want real community today and many come looking for it in the church. I'm not talking about just being friendly. Friendly is fairly easy to do...smiling face, warm handshake, a kind hello. Book after book has been written (and continues to be written) about individuals who are looking for real relationships...deep, authentic relationships. They are looking for relationships where there is true concern, compassion and deep caring for others. We find this in the first church where, "All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47)

This, simply, is the idea behind going out to lunch after church on Sunday, June 11 – developing community through authentic relationships. Finally, since so many want rules about how to do things....

Admit that you like to eat.

Be okay with meeting new people.

Commit to going out to breakfast, brunch or lunch after your favorite worship service on Sunday, June 11.

— Dale