



The Servants' Light

July 26, 2017

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

805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

815.727.9259
FAX 815.727.9348
office@firstpresjoliet.org
firstpresjoliet.org

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.

TO OPEN
WORSHIP
THE CENTER
BAND

Faith Night

Details are still being worked out...
We are looking forward to a night
of baseball and worship and music!!

26TH
August
6:05 PM

FEATURING:
MILTON CALVIN

First Pres is one of the sponsors of this event to help the youth in our community know the presence of the Church and, more importantly, the love possible in Jesus Christ. We are working in conjunction with The Center (previously known as The Christian Youth Center) to make this event a reality. More information will be forthcoming.

**church
picnic**

Sunday, August 27th
12:00 – 2:00 P.M.
Inwood Park
Following Church

**Grilled Chicken Sandwiches
Pasta Salad, Corn on the Cob,
Watermelon and Ice Cream
with Chocolate Sauce
Jumpies for the Kids / Games**

Remember...

**There will only be one church service at
10:30 a.m. so come dressed and ready to
head to Inwood Park**

Bo Mircea & Dale Ambler, Associate Pastors



This Sunday we are starting a new sermon series: Faith Beyond the Creed. As we explored the Apostles' Creed we talked about what we believe, about some of the foundational truths and doctrines of the Christian faith. The new series centers on the lives of some of the Bible's characters

that we do not talk about as often—simple people that were changed by faith, people used by God to proclaim his love for humankind; people like you and me that somehow through faith made it all the way in the scriptures. During the next few weeks we will explore the lives of Rahab, Joshua, Hannah, and so on.

On Sunday I am preaching on Joshua 2:8-15—the Story of Rahab. I will encourage you to read the whole chapter, and ask yourself the following question: What am I willing to do because of my faith?

See you Sunday,
Pastor Bo

This Sunday the Stay Tuned String Band will join us during the first service, and help us enter into worship. The Worship Band sings and plays at the second service.



Knowing why we do some things is really important, and because there are a great many moving parts in a church of our size, sometimes we have to talk about the “why’s” more often. Like the following: By now, most people know about the First Pres. Garage Sale and the details about how to participate if de-

sired. But, do you know WHY we are doing the garage sale? If one of your friends asked you why we are having this sale, would you be able to tell them the reason? Here's the reason: the kids at Farragut Grade School are in need of school supplies and First Pres. wants to help them get what they need to be productive students.

A similar question comes up with Stephen Ministry training. It's easy to get lost in the amount of time needed to be trained—don't get me wrong, training is important, but we often get hung up on this side of the coin. When was the last time you were in need of talking with someone about an issue or crisis in your life? Do you know someone who could benefit from a caring and compassionate listening ear? Here's the reason: Imagine being the one...a trained Stephen Minister...you, easing the pain of crisis or grief or the difficulty. The same is true for the importance of the Summer Lunch Program.... Here's the reason: you are building relationships with children and their families—making a difference in their lives that could forever change them!

There are so many things that happen...next time, familiarize yourself with the reasons why we are doing something in addition to how it gets done!! Pastor Dale

July 23, 2017

Worship Attendance — 154

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$195,245
Year to Date Expenses	\$199,421

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$138,592.47

We offer several convenient options for electronic giving.
Please visit our website or call Tracy Norris
for more information.



Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Just Born:

Henry James Ward (June 23)
Son of Jimmy & Mandy (Lundeen) Ward

United in Marriage:

Jennifer Doll & Michael Smith (July 8)
Kim Smietanski & Justin Dilikanich (July 11)

Passed Into Life Eternal:

Lois Jensen (July 16)

Sympathies are extended to Patti and Doug Kelly and family on the passing of Patti's mother, Kay Nero, on July 25.

Growing in Christ—

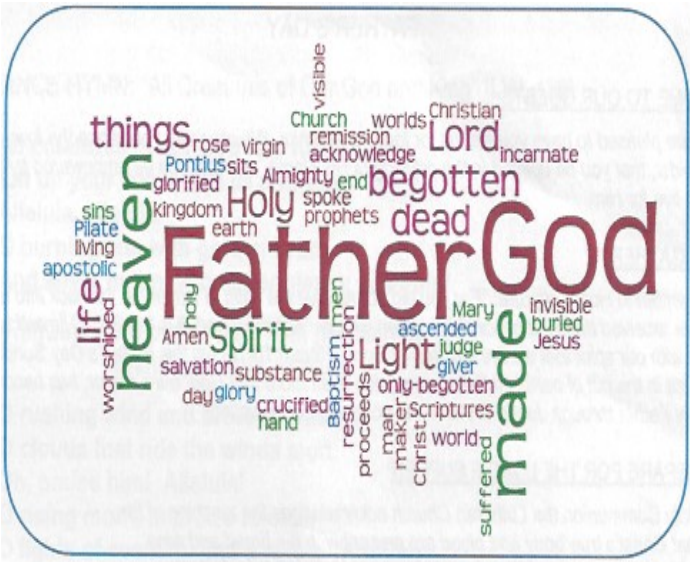
New Sermon Series—"Faith Beyond the Creed"

We just finished up the Apostles' Creed focusing on what we believe as individuals and, more importantly, the Church. Creeds are important to understand foundational truths about our faith as followers of Christ...but, how we live them out is more important.

“Faith Beyond the Creed” is meant to show some of the individuals who have been changed because of their faith—those who have been used by God to proclaim his love for others and to carry out his mission for this world. Our series will include:

July 30: “Rahab”
 August 6: “Jonah”
 August 13: “Barzillai”
 August 20: “Joshua”
 August 27: “Gideon”
 September 3: “Hannah”

Here's an overarching question to help each of us focus on our faith: "What am I willing to do because of my faith?"



Daily Devotional Blog

Our 1st Pres. Blog continues, following the lectionary passages. Join us this 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.



August is traditionally the month when singers from the Chancel Choir and singers from the congregation meet at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings to prepare an anthem to sing in the 9 a.m. worship service. Anthems that can be easily learned in this short rehearsal time are selected. All are invited to join us.

This is a great opportunity to try out singing with our Chancel Choir, and you would be most welcome to sing in the fall, also. If you'd rather try your hand at ringing handbells this fall, contact Handbell Director Paula Stimpert at 815-342-7309.



Did You Know?

There's a lot of information on our website—

- If you miss a Sunday, you can hear the sermon (Media—Sermons);
- You can read the Servants' Light and FPJ eNews newsletters (Media—Newsletters);
- You can check to see if you are helping on Sunday morning (Events—This Week) or check the calendar for future events (Events—Calendar);
- You can stay current with your pledge with On Line Giving or make a contribution to a special offering (Give).

Celebrating Wins

Sr. High Mission Trip—11 youth and 4 advisers spent a week working at Leech Lake Reservation, being the hands and feet of Jesus working with children and helping members of the community.

Matsiko Choir Concert—what a joy it was to have the Matsiko Choir kids stay with us and sing for us. We truly “Heard the Joy, Saw the Hope and Felt the Love!” Some of our church family became sponsors for International Children’s Network kids.

Jazz Concert—The Matthew Miller Group Jazz Concert was a wonderful event, well received by our church family and lots of guests; and Pink Heals Joliet Chapter, an organization supporting women and their families (not causes), benefited from the freewill offering. The offering (100%) stays in our community and gives women the feeling of love and caring as they go through some difficult times.



Mary Circle and Thursday Morning Circle are meeting for lunch on August 10, 1 p.m. at Blueberry Hill Café, 15521 S Route 59, Plainfield.



Praise Yoga is taking a summer break. We will not meet August 8, 10, 15, or 17. Praise Yoga will resume August 22 and 24.

Please Lend Your Smile as an Usher or Coffee Fellowship Server!!

A major responsibility of our church’s Night Deacons is to coordinate the weekly usher and coffee fellowship schedules. Please join in the fun of a small group by extending your hand of friendship to our church family and guests. We invite you to sign up once a month, every other month, or every few months. Several months of opportunities are available at the Night Deacons Table in Hoffman Hall between services. You can also contact the coordinator, Wayne Zoellick, at 520-400-8396 or wayzoel@hotmail.com.

Small Groups & Special Events

Coming This Fall

Mommy & Me Class — See the Kids’ Page

deeplove Simulcast — Sept. 29; Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, experienced marriage seminar leaders, will help couples grow their love and support of each other.

Feed My Starving Children — Nov. 4, here at First Pres. We’ll pack 101,000 meals for hungry children in 3 shifts: 9 to 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Start inviting people to come and help! We need 160 people for each shift.

150th Anniversary Celebration — Dec. 3; mark your calendars! We’ll have one worship service here at 10:30 a.m. and then gather at the Victorian Ballroom (Jacob Henry Mansion) for our celebration.



Men’s Breakfast—August 4, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—August 15, 6 p.m. at Chef Klaus Bier Stube, 20827 S. LaGrange Rd. (Rt. 45), Frankfort. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men’s Dinner Group—August 25, 6 p.m., at Wild Horse Restaurant, 2314 W. Jefferson, Joliet. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

This Sunday, July 30



Meet in Hoffman Hall after the 9 a.m. worship service or after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, divide into groups, decide where to brunch or lunch, and enjoy getting to know other folks over a meal.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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



A new Stephen Ministry Training Class will begin August 29. If you sense that God is calling you to serve through Stephen Ministry, please contact Kris Hayden at 815-727-9259, ext. 209. You can be an ongoing caring presence for those in need by becoming part of the Stephen Ministry team, providing “Help, Hope, and Healing” for those experiencing a difficult time in life.



The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, August 5, 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.



Since the inception of this ministry in October 2005, about 3,400 meals have been provided to members of our church family through your assistance. In the past year alone, over 280 meals have been provided. Helping Hands would like to thank the following people who have provided meals, rides, and other services to members of our congregation over the past six months. We can always use additional people to help provide assistance. If you would like to be a part of this vibrant ministry, know someone who can use some temporary help, or would like more information about Helping Hands, please contact Betty Jones at 815-729-0349, Dave Steinberg at 779-234-6413, or the church office at 815-727-9259.

Dale & Tari Ambler
Jean Bailey
Marvin Balsley
Don & Raelene Barnes
Bob & Colin Becker
Al & Pat Benson
Allen & Jackie Brooks
Don & Mary Caisley
Pat Costion
Caroline Gheorghiu

Bob & Mary Haas
Kris Hayden
Rich & Mary Jane Johnson
Regina Kleckauskas-Bonomo
Dan & Carol Kline
Nick & Marsha Maggio
Donna Nelson
Carolyn Schaeffer
Jodi Steinberg
Emma Sticklen

Mobile Food Pantry

This past Tuesday, a group of us gathered to observe and be a welcoming presence for those who were going to benefit from the Northern Illinois Foodbank Mobile Food Pantry. The Mobile Food Pantry provided about 10,000 pounds of food: frozen meat, cereal, juice, potatoes, cucumbers, carrots, etc., to about 100 people in need. I was proud of all those from First Pres. who stepped up in a big way when the volunteers from outside our church, who were originally scheduled to participate, were not present. We learned a lot... if we want to do this on our own, we need about 20-25 individuals to pass out the food. More importantly, we need about 5-10 individuals with strong backs and young hearts to do some of the heavy lifting needed when unloading the truck and passing out some of the heavier food items. In addition, we found out that there are some who walk a fair distance with the 40 or so pounds they have to carry...it can be quite a burden. We will be getting as many of those who really worked hard from First Pres., along with our partner at St. John Lutheran, to do a really detailed critique prior to any decision, for or against, doing another Mobile Food Pantry on our own.

One last thought...the grace and joy extended and received that day was truly a blessing to all who were involved!! —Pastor Dale

NOT JUST THE KIDS NEWS

Looking towards September 13th

I know that I had said it before, but it never hurts to say it again: For me ministry is not just about the children, it is about families, about seeing young and old coming together and learning from each other. Time and time again here at 1st Pres I have seen that in action: Grandparents coming out and serving during VBS, Trunk and Treat and so much more. I have seen kids and youth with their parents going and serving older folks in our congregation, or going to Feed my Starving Children and so on. There is a lot to be said about the church of all ages being at one place at the same time. In recent years I realize that one of the biggest stumbling blocks in churches today is the fragmentation of ministries based on age. I long for moments when I see a grandpa sitting down with a younger kid telling the stories of his life, or a grandma talking to a younger mom encouraging her to be strong and see all that she is doing for her children. For me that is the picture of church. People so different yet together, because they found the church a place they belong, a place where relationships are built around the love that Christ has for us with the mission to make disciples. But I need to ask the question: how can we be that church if we do not really know people that are not in the same "walk of life" like we are?

New this Fall: Mommy and Me

A time available for our children 4 years and

under. Allowing time for Moms to unwind and socialize with other Moms while experiencing



As we were talking as staff, we felt that is really important for us as a church to recapture that value



that was so evident in the church in the early years and part of the faith journey all the way from the beginning - Generations coming together and learning about faith. As we look at September 13th, we would like to invite all, small and tall, young and old, families or single parents, anyone that needs a friend, to be part of this vision: Faith growing faith. In the fall we will start our Wednesdays at 5:30 pm with dinner for all, so busy parents, and hungry people can make it on time. At 6:15 we will spend some time as a family all together having some fun, learning a new song, or telling or listening to a story followed at 6:30 with things for kids to do and different groups for the adults.

More information will follow in the coming month so please mark your calendars and get excited for what this can mean for us as a church family.

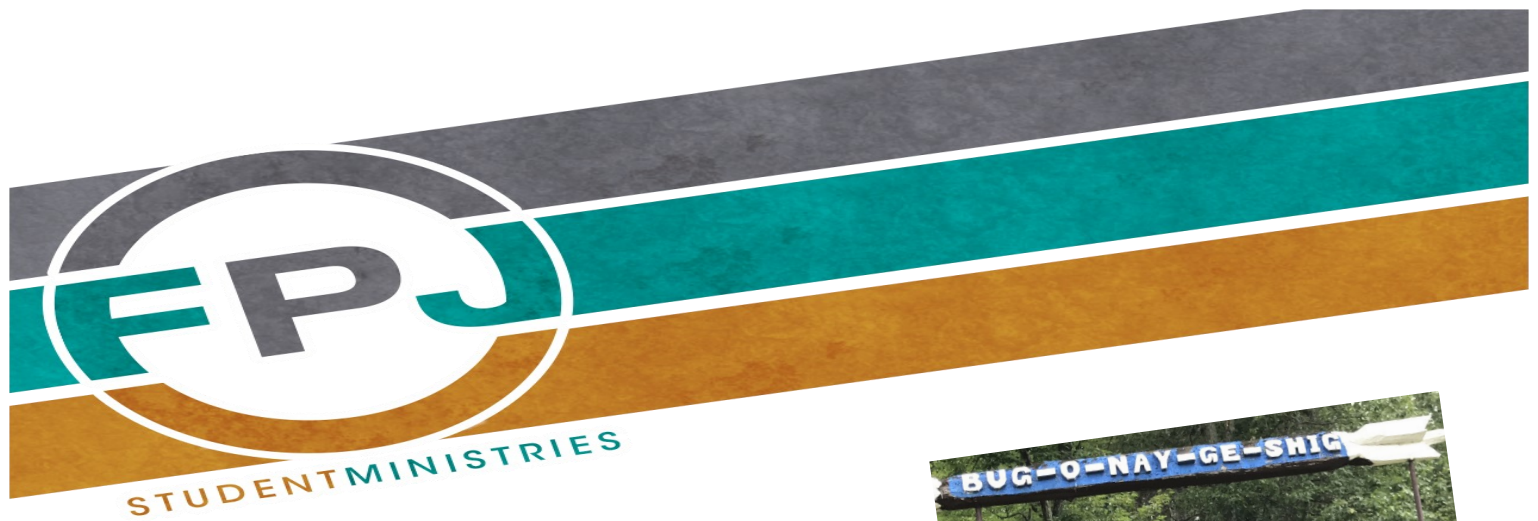
Be blessed,

Bo M.

music, dancing, and singing with their little ones. Moms come and join in on some fun by creating experiences for their child to work towards developmental milestones, and build new relationships.

When: Wednesday nights with Dinner beginning at 5:30

Mommy and Me class beginning at 6:15-7:00



Leech Lake Sr. High Mission Trip Highlights

Continuing the Mission Trip Blog.....

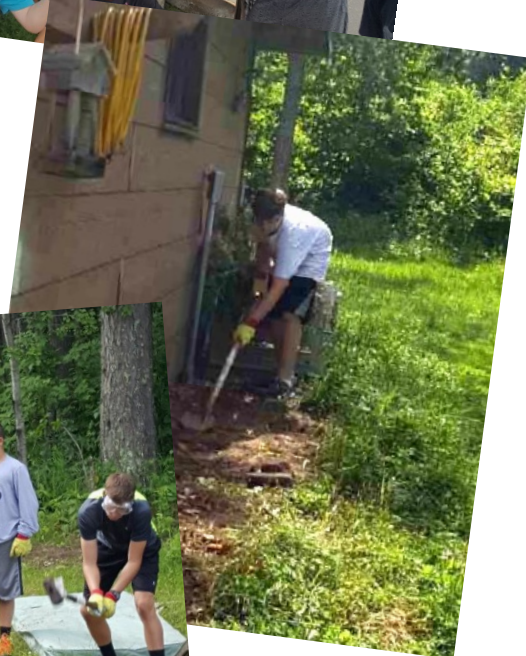
Day 4 (Weds.)—Today was a rainy day, so the people from outdoor worksites stayed at the school the youth are being housed at and cleaned the inside. Many of those who were apprehensive about kids club today wound up enjoying it. The night ended with a cook out or a cook in, considering the weather, which the community was invited to come and partake in.

This has truly been an amazing trip! I've met so many great people, and have acquired a greater understanding of what it means to live the good life through the help of Jesus Christ. Today we had a community cookout, and many people from the reservation came out. It made me happy to see the smiles on all of their faces. It gives me joy that they can come to a place where they can forget all about the problems and truly have a great time. Helping people even when it is out of your comfort zone is one of many parts of the good life.

—John

j
Day 5 (Thurs.)—Today was the last day of work for the youth. Those working at the kids camp said a final tearful goodbye to the kids, and those on worksites wrapped up any lingering projects. The night ended with a photo scavenger hunt in a nearby town.

Throughout the week I accomplished many things from going to this mission trip. I got to know other youths on the trip better, make children happy, and clear a family's garage. The mission trip was a success. —Peter



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

Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the August 30 *Servants' Light* is **August 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

PERIODICALS
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AT JOLIET IL
USPS 560-720

Address Service

First Presbyterian Church
805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

TO:

Parking Lot Garage Sale,
Saturday, August 5, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thanks for gathering those no longer wanted items for the PW Garage Sale on August 5th. You may drop off your priced items for the PW tables the day of the sale between 7 and 8 a.m.

Also, in surveying your garden, you might want to divide some of your plants and donate them for the sale. Have those Cone Flowers gotten out of control? It's a good time to shape things up and maybe even add some new variations. Drop off your donations the day of the sale between 7 and 8 a.m.

Better yet — buy a space for \$20 and set up your own tables. The profits are yours to keep. Just call the church office to reserve your spot.



Relationships deserve the very best, and this simulcast event will help couples find what they need to achieve the very best in their marriages.

Couples will learn the three essentials for romantic love, how to crack the code of their personal talk styles, discover their personal "fight types," and so much more. Whether newlyweds or seasoned veterans to marriage, the Parrotts will help begin the conversation of how to move from a good marriage to a great one!

Newlyweds, engaged couples, and those who have been married a while, will all appreciate the Parrotts' great sense of humor and thoughtful insights on marriage.