



The Servants' Light

August 30, 2017

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***“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.

**Fall Start-Up — September 10
“Bring Your Guest” as we start the
Fall Season**

New Sermon Series

Worship at 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship at 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Hunters at 10:30 a.m.

New Look for Midweek Family Night — see below

Chancel Choir & Glory Ringers Rehearsals

Monthly Circle Meetings

and more—look inside!



**Midweek Family Night — a New Look!
Beginning September 20**

5:30 p.m. — Dinner for All

6:15 p.m. — Fun Family Time

Mommy & Me Class (for kids

4 years old and under and their moms)

6:30 p.m. — Small Groups/Music for Kids

Adult Discussion Groups

Men's Discussion Group

Best Willow Creek Leadership

Summit Speakers

7:30 p.m. — Chancel Choir



Sunday, September 3. Our hearts go out to all those in the path of Hurricane Harvey for all the destruction and loss of life they have experienced. We can pray that the God of all comfort will comfort them and bring others to comfort, help, and rebuild. As Paul writes, “Praise be

to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (II Corinthians 1:3-4). Please know that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is helping and receiving donations from Presbyterians across the country. You can see what they are doing by going to their site on pda.pcusa.org.

We worship a God who cares deeply about the suffering of people, for God has reached out to all the world through the ministry, suffering, dying, and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. Come and worship with us this Sunday. We will celebrate the sacrament of Communion at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. We will also celebrate the sacrament of Baptism at the 9:00 a.m. service. Ken Myers is singing at the 9:00 a.m. service and the Worship Band is playing and singing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sermon. This Sunday Bo Mircea is preaching on “Hannah—Because I Believe, I Pray” as we conclude our “Faith Beyond the Creed” Series. Bo writes....“This week we will take another look at 1 Samuel 1, Hannah's story and the prayer she made before God. It is a daring

story, a story of courage and commitment that stems from the understanding of who God is. As we approach the scripture on Sunday, I would like to invite you to ponder the question: What does my prayer say about my faith in God? I pray that we all will be challenged by the Scriptures and that as we gather on Sunday as a congregation we all can say in one voice: ‘My heart rejoices in the Lord.’”

We Have A New Director of Youth Ministry!

Karissa Fleming has been interviewing with our Advisor Team and just let us know today that she is coming to be our new Youth Group Director. She is going to be starting her ministry here at the church on Thursday, September 14. She was in worship this past Sunday and enjoyed meeting some of our youth and hearing the stories about their recent Summer Mission Trip to Leech Lake, MN, which the youth shared in worship.

New Shift Times For Feed My Starving Children On

Nov. 3 & 4. Come join us and bring your guest(s) to help feed 101,000 children in a day. You can be a part of this by giving just two hours of your time. We will feed 101,000 children in four two-hour shifts. The New Times are:

Friday, Nov. 3 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 4 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer for one shift and bring your friends. We need 120 people at each one of the four shifts. Start inviting now and plan to come. There will be a link on our church Web Page where you can select your shift time. The Link will be available on September 1. Invite Your Guests: you can invite your sports team, dance team, school class, neighbors, friends, family, etc. to come. Together with people from all over the community we will pack 101,000 meals for hungry children. Watch for information on how to sign up to serve and get your friends and family signed up, too.

In Christ,



Prayer of Hannah

...for this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition.

August 27, 2017

Worship Attendance — 116 (one service)

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts \$294,049

Year to Date Expenses \$282,462

Farragut School Supplies—\$1,087

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.

"Faith First"

New Sermon Series beginning September 10

What if our first response in all we do was out of faith in Jesus Christ? Think about the difference that could be made if we truly responded in faith. What if we could simply trust and not be afraid? In the weeks ahead of Advent, we will look at living life in a way that can truly make a difference in our community of faith and beyond.

September 10: "Faith as Response?"

What if faith was our first response?
Ephesians 1:15-23

September 17: "Respect/Love Everyone"

Doing our part to dial down the animosity
and hatred in our society.

Matthew 7:7-12, Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm

46

September 24: "Water-Walking"

The possibilities for God's Kingdom are endless if we get out of the boat.
Matthew 14:22-33, James 2:14-18

October 1: "Moving into Ministry"

Moving from seeking and believing to serving and having a ministry.
Colossians 2:5-8, Matthew 20:20-28

October 8: "Widen Your Horizons"

On loving beyond the church walls and into the world
Acts 1:6-8

October 15: "Love Without Limits"

As followers of Jesus, we don't get the

The logo for the New Members Class features the word "new" in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font, followed by the words "MEMBERS" and "CLASS" in a bold, blue, uppercase, sans-serif font. The text is set against a light orange rectangular background.

Sunday, September 17

The New Members Class is set for Sunday, September 17, beginning with lunch at 11:45 a.m. and going until 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about the life, ministry, and mission of First Presbyterian Church, please let one of our pastors know of your interest. Childcare will be available.

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Men of First Pres.—an hour just for you!

When life is filled with many demands...you need a time to be with other guys in the same boat as you are...a time to refresh and re-center who you really are. This men's discussion group has one focus—that all men would be Godly men. You're invited to join others just like you on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Room 217 beginning September 20th. As an added bonus, there will be a time of meal fellowship with others here that night with dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. We will begin our time together with a look at the first man, Adam, as we look at how God used ordinary men and women to accomplish extraordinary things!

Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Discussion Group

After a short break, it's time to start up again, so put Tuesday, September 12th, at 12:00 noon on your calendar. Bring your lunch and join us in Room 210 as we "Discover the Bible." Based on your feedback, we will be doing a survey of the Bible - a way of seeing the inter-connectedness of the Bible as a whole...how the Bible speaks to us of God and faith and people. So, remember your lunch...bring your Bible, and join us for a time of Spirit-ed discussion!

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

This class follows the Common Lectionary of Scripture passages. The Bible itself, along with history, psychology, and spirituality are woven together to allow participants to gain personal realizations of God's working today. Join Jim Mullins starting Sunday, September 10, at 10:15 a.m. in Room 201.

Daily Devotional Blog

Our 1st Pres. Blog continues, following the lectionary passages. Join us as we continue our journey in the word:

<https://firstpresjoliet.wordpress.com>.

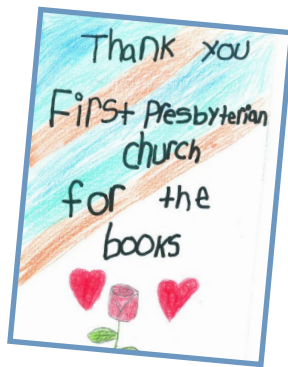
Celebrating Wins!

Every day we can choose to be consumed by all the negativity and complaining that goes on around us and in our world in general, or we can choose to fix our eyes on something better. So, here are a few recent rays of hope to consider...

Summer Lunch Program: Last summer we served kids 3 days per week and averaged about 10 children each week. This year Barb Rodgers advanced her dream and went to 5 days. The average was 15 children per day with one day reaching 29. Additionally, for each child who participated for 5 days, they received a free book—we gave out 93 books!! But this isn't about numbers...it's about relationships developed between the kids, their families and those of you who helped make this a reality!!

First Mobile Food Pantry (MFP): The first ever MFP at First Pres. could have been a complete disaster if we had buckled under the realization that those sponsoring the event were not going to be present. Those of us who were here to "observe" were called to duty and it was an amazing day!! 104 families received about 10,000 pounds of food—361 individuals in those families, and 169 of them were children.

Farragut School Supplies: It's easy to take things for granted, especially when abundance is our norm. First Pres. has long been in relationship with Farragut School, sharing our abundance with the 500+ kids. This year PW led the way in raising money through a parking lot garage sale earlier in the month. If you were here, you saw the success! Because of your generosity, First Pres., the kids at Farragut will have an easier time in their education process by not having to worry about school supplies!! **Check out the Thank You cards from the Farragut students displayed in Hoffman Hall.**



PW Circles

Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday
(Sept. 14, 9:15 a.m.)
in the
Fireside Room

Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Sept. 14)
in the Fireside Room
Bring a sack lunch at
12 noon; dessert &
meeting at
12:30 p.m.

Small Groups & Special Events

Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 17, 2017, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 for donations in recognition of those organizations that participate in the Church's 150th Anniversary celebration, and for compensation of professional music entertainment;
- to authorize a special offering in honor of our 150th Anniversary, to be split equally between a mission project to be determined and a Church facility improvement project to be determined, unless otherwise specifically stipulated for one purpose or the other by the donor;
- to authorize the holding of one service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 3, 2017, and a brunch at the Jacob Henry Victorian Ballroom, with an expenditure for the event in an amount to be determined;
- to remove Jim and Thea Boness and their children Alexandria and Camden Boness from membership per their request, as they have moved to Oregon.

Thank You

Parish Council would like to thank everyone for coming out to our annual church picnic. We hope you had a great afternoon and that no one went home hungry. We are grateful that the weather cooperated and appreciate everyone who helped make it a great day!....Until Next Year!!!



Men's Breakfast—September 1, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—September 19, 6 p.m. at White Fence Farm, 1376 Joliet Rd., Romeoville. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—September 22, 6 p.m., at Anthony's Restaurant & Pub, 3151 Voyager Lane, Joliet. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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

Night Deacons Food Ministry

On the first Sunday of each month, the Night Deacons collect monetary donations to fund our various ministries. We are particularly interested in hunger in our community and we donate funds and our time to the following:

Shepherd's Table, St. John's Lutheran Mobile Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels (delivering meals to seniors), our own Free Pancake Breakfast the first Saturday of each month, etc.

Please use the special envelopes marked "Night Deacon Ministries" in the pew racks for your donation. Thank you for your on-going support!

Our next Night Deacons' Free Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, September 2, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.

Garage Sale/Farragut School Supplies Update

Many grateful thanks from PW to all the volunteers and support for the recent Parking Lot Garage Sale on August 5th. We made over \$700 for Farragut School supplies. We all agreed that the location in the south parking lot and combining the garage sale with the CAPA neighborhood garage sale increased traffic and visibility.



Singing in Chancel Choir is open to anyone willing to try. We have all levels of musicians and each has

found a way to contribute to the music we make. We will be performing several anthems from our extensive library collection during the Fall. We will add 2 new anthems to enjoy some of the great music being published for church choirs. And, a new cantata will be prepared and performed both in a Saturday night concert during Advent (tentatively December 16th) and select pieces from that cantata during Sundays and at our Christmas Eve service during Advent. We also have a new exciting work by the great Mark Hayes that will be sung on the Sunday we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Joliet 1st Presbyterian Church. Finally, we will be performing and recording a set of "the old hymns" on CD over the Fall and Winter. You will benefit greatly by sharing these experiences with us. See Ken Myers or simply join us at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights starting September 6th.

— Ken Myers, Choirmaster

Feed My Starving Children Update

Beginning September 1, you will be able to sign up for one of our 4 shifts:

Friday, Nov. 3 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4—9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

3 to 5 p.m.

Just go to our website and follow the link.

The first 2 weeks church members only can sign up; after that registration will be opened to the community. You might ask your neighbors, your clubs, your extended family, etc. to all sign up for the same shift. We will pack 101,000 meals for hungry children in these 4 shifts!



The new Stephen Minister Training Class will begin September 5 at Plainfield United Church of Christ and will meet Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. through December 12. There is also a 4-hour Refresher Course in the works for those already trained and commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Contact Kris Hayden, Stephen Leader, at 815-727-9259, Ext. 209 if you have questions.

HANDBELL RINGERS WANTED Glory Ringers Handbell Choir



Entry level. No experience necessary. Expert on the job training. You'll have the basics down in one easy lesson! Apply within yourself. If you find a desire to share the gift of inspirational music during worship, then you are an ideal candidate. Don't allow inhibitions to stop you from checking out this wonderful ministry.

Shift requirements: Monday evenings 7:00 p.m.; two Sundays each month, some holidays.

Compensation: Fun, fellowship, and the joy that comes from sharing God's gift of music with our congregation.

Contact: Paula Stimpert (815) 342-7309
pkmom@comcast.net

Children's Page

Fall 2017

This summer I had a chance to visit with my parents in Romania, and during my visit I visited the church I helped plant before moving to the US in 2002. Almost 20 years had passed from the day we first opened that church, and it still seems like yesterday. Of course things had changed over the years, people had come and gone, kids grew up, but one thing that stayed the same was that feeling of togetherness, of closeness, that feeling of family. And why should it be any different? Hebrew 2:11 speaks about the church in terms of it: Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

I am a strong believer in the fact that as Christians we are meant to live in community, to be part of something bigger than us, something where we find our place to grow, to learn, to serve.

Especially in today's world, we need community. I look at the kids around me, and I love to see their potential, the energy and the positivity they carry with them. And then I hear parents talking about their own childhood, the youth groups they went to as kids, the summer church experiences, and so on. And somewhere between the two there is a sense of loss, a sense of something is missing. And as I think of it, I can say that the Church as a Family is missing from that mix. You see there was a time, not so long ago, when the church was the place to connect, to make friends, to spend time with your family. But today it seems that all of us are on the run—school, work, kids games, extra curricular activities, and the list is long. Nothing wrong with all that, except this one little thing: We began to miss our family time as a family of God. We begin to miss those times when we fellowship at the table with other Christians, when kids play with their church friends, when all of us have a chance to learn and grow in God's word.

At the end, that is why the church is here for us: to proclaim God's promises and to bring God's people together.

That is what I pray and envision for us as a church as we head into the fall season: a time when we gather as a family, young and old, kids, parents and grandparents; all of the family gathered in one place.

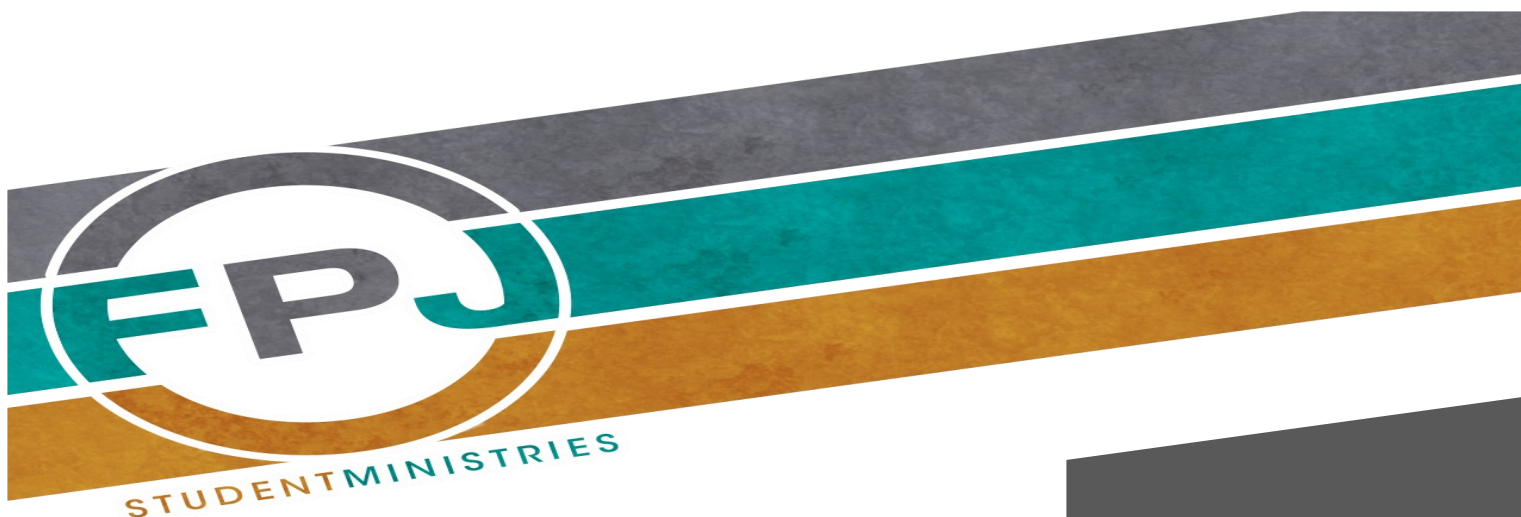
So please pray with me that we can find the time, and the drive, the desire and the need to come together as a community, a family, and just like Moses or Joshua, to be able to stand firm on the believe that: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!

Be blessed,

Bo M.

Mid-Week Family Night starts on Sept 20th at 5:30 with dinner for all, followed by a time of fun and then discussion groups.

New this year: Mommy and Me Group for all the kids 4 years old and under. You do not want to miss it!



Over the summer the Advisors have been meeting and planning for Youth Group meetings, events, and mission trip. Youth Group nights and special events are all planned out into the Christmas Season. We are anticipating great times for our youth.

Youth Group starts on Sunday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m. It's an outdoor picnic with chicken provided. Bring a dessert or appetizer or both if you wish. Parents are invited. Also bring lawn chairs for outdoor eating and meeting. (If it rains we'll be inside). You can meet the advisors and see what is planned through December.

We also have a new Director of Youth Ministry! Karissa Fleming has been interviewing with our Advisor team and just let us know today that she is coming to be our new Youth Group Director. You will have an opportunity to meet her Sunday, September 17. She was in worship last Sunday and enjoyed meeting some of our youth and hearing the stories about their recent Summer Mission Trip to Leech Lake, MN.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation for many people is a rite of passage, but in all reality, confirmation is about that time when our youth can take time to look at all the things they have learned along the way about God, the Bible and their own faith. It is an exciting time to discover their own faith and be able to engage in some conversation about their beliefs. This year we will focus on confirmation not just as a class but as a whole learning experience by incorporating fellowship time on Wednesday nights, a time to serve and different opportunities for visiting with other churches and service projects. Please mark October 4th on your calendars for the start up date. More information will follow in the coming weeks. If you have a child in 8th Grade who is interested in the Confirmation Class, please call Bo Mircea.

Youth Group starts
September 17, 6:00 p.m.

Watch for details
about Youth
Sunday School.

Confirmation begins
October 4

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Craig M. Herr—Senior Pastor
Dale Ambler—Associate Pastor
Bo Mircea—Associate Pastor of Children's Ministry
and Family 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 September 27 *Servants' Light* is **September 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:



Invest In Your Marriage

Plan to come to the DeepLove Live Simulcast, on Friday evening, September 29, at 6:30 p.m. It features *N.Y. Times* best selling authors, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott. They are experienced marital counselors and seminar leaders. They have developed a wonderful marriage assessment designed to help any couple grow their love and support of each other. Put it on your calendar and invite guests.

Invest in your marriage by coming on Friday evening, September 29, at 6:30 p.m. The Parrotts have a great sense of humor and thoughtful insights on how to deepen any marital relationship.

Try 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 give call or email Craig (craig.herr@firstpres.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.

