



The Servants' Light

September 27, 2017

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

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Joliet, IL 60435

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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.

Celebrating 150 Years Of Mission Ministry October 14, 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday evening, October 14th, at 6:30 p.m., we will Celebrate our Mission in the Community & World as part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration. We have invited Habitat for Humanity, Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, CAPA, and Feed My Starving Children to talk about their mission in the community and world and our history of involvement over the years. They will show pictures and share the difference they make for others.

The Matthew Miller Group will play Christian jazz music throughout the evening. Come and celebrate God at work in our world! Childcare is available.



We have 4 shifts, packing meals for 101,088 of the world's hungry children.

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.

The link is up! Just go to our website and click on the Feed My Starving Children box on the home page. You will need to create a login and password. You can register your whole family! You can also sign up to help set up on Friday or clean up at the end through the link or by calling the church office.

Registration is open to the community. You might ask your neighbors, your clubs, your extended family, etc. to all sign up for the same shift. All 4 shifts are here at First Pres. This is our gift to the world.

Feed My Starving Children tackles world hunger by sending volunteer-packed, nutritious meals to 70 countries, where they are used to operate orphanages, schools, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty.





Sunday, October 1. Worship with us this Sunday on World Communion Sunday when Christians all across the world celebrate the Lord's Supper and the one true Savior and Lord of all, Jesus Christ Risen and Reigning in our lives. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at both the

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

We will receive new members at both worship services. The Chancel Choir will sing and the Glory Ringers will play at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The Worship Band will sing and play at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sermon. I am preaching this Sunday on "Going Deeper: Moving Into Ministry." The scripture passages for this Sunday are Colossians 2:5-8 and Luke 5:1-11, 9:1-2, 10:1-2. We will explore going deeper into the ministry in which Jesus calls us to in life.

Now Is The Time To Sign Up For Feed My Starving Children—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:

Shift Times—Friday- 6:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday- 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 12:30-2:30 p.m., and 3:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteer for one shift and bring your friends.

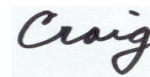
We need 120 people at each one of the four shifts. Start inviting now and plan to come. There is now a link on

our church Web Page where you can select your shift time.

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. The Website is open for you to use. Click on the box on the front page of our church website home page.

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.

In Christ,



Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Just Born:

Lorenzo David Valdivia (Sept. 6)
Son of Kyla Steinberg & Miguel Valdivia

Baptized:

Easton Paul Zettergren (Sept. 3)
Son of Eric and Emily (Antonides) Zettergren

United in Marriage:

Patrick Mau & Kristen Maher (Sept. 8)
Kaylynn Stimpert & Nolan Suste (Sept. 22)

Passed Into Life Eternal:

Frank Simmons (Sept. 4)
Mary Mathena (Sept. 12)

September 24, 2017

Worship Attendance — 182

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$350,046
Year to Date Expenses	\$325,036

150th Anniversary Offering — \$1,006
50% to Hurricane Relief
50% to Hoffman Hall Redecorating

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$138,592
(from the Marge Ganja Estate)

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

"Faith First" Sermon Series Continues

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.

- October 1: "Moving into Ministry"
Moving from seeking and believing to serving and having a ministry;
Colossians 2:5-8, Luke 5:1-11, 9:1-2, 10:102
- 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 choice of who we love; Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:9-21

"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 on Sundays 10:15 a.m. in Room 201.

Daily Devotional Blog

This month we celebrate 5 years of blogging on our 1st Pres. Devotional Blog. In 2013 we set up this blog as a resource for us to share some devotional thoughts and be a source of inspiration for anyone that stumbles on our page. We published 1,133 posts over these 5 years, and numerous interaction on a lot of Bible content. As one of the people writing on the blog, I always appreciate when someone walks up to me and comments on something they read on the blog. I love that because it is about us growing together. As we venture forward with the blog, I will ask you to comment on the blog, pray for those writing, as well as send in your questions or suggestions for things we can talk about. Happy blogging y'all, Bo M.
P.S. You can find us here: firstpresjoliet.wordpress.com

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Discussion Group

Bring your lunch and join us in Room 210 as we "Discover the Bible." During October, our journey through the Bible includes "The Exodus," "The Journey," "The Conquest" and "The Kings." The object of this study and discussion group is to better understand the inter-connectedness of the Bible and how God speaks yet today about faith and his people. So, remember your lunch, your Bible, and join us for a Spirit-ed discussion!

First Pres. Men

We have formed a special group just for you that comes together on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210. You are invited to join us as we look at the many ordinary men and women our God has used to accomplish extraordinary things! Our lives are often filled with lots of "stuff" and this hour together is a time to take a deep breath and be ourselves...to renew our lives!

Best Willow Creek Leadership Summit Speakers And Bible Study

We meet in the Fireside Room and each week we will sample some sections or clips of the best speakers from the Global Leadership Summit at Willow Creek and study selected passages of scripture which match up with the teaching. Each week the group decides which speaker they wish to focus on for the next week. For example, this Wednesday we think about serving others and will hear from Horst Schulze who went from being a bus boy to President of Ritz Carlton. He is a person of faith and speaks about Creating World Class Service. Jesus said on more than one occasion that "whoever wants to be great...must be your servant." The greatest is one who serves. Wouldn't you think that followers of Christ would want to excel in serving?

Possibilities for other weeks are:

The Act of Forgiveness by Immaculee Ilibagiza who lived through the genocide in Rwanda and now teaches people all over the world how to forgive;

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth who teaches how we can learn to persevere in life;

The Strategic Pause by Juliet Funt (her dad created Candid Camera). She talks about the importance of pausing in life, slowing down. We'll talk about what it means to "Be still and know that I am God" in Psalm 46 or Jesus going to a lonely place to pray;

Do Not Be Afraid by Gary Haugen. There is much to fear in world and society right now. Gary reminds us of Jesus saying to his followers, "Be not afraid."

One-on-One with Melinda Gates

Power of the Other by Henry Cloud

Celebrating Wins!

September has been an amazing month!! God is on the move at his Church! Just think about the following examples—if you are unfamiliar with any of them...find someone to ask!!

*New Members – about a dozen new individuals have decided that First Pres. will be their Church home and we give thanks to the God who has led them here.

*Sunday Worship – there is new life...the choir is excited about their new robes as they lead us in worship and the Worship Band is solidifying itself in the same way!!

*Youth Group – what more can you say about an energetic new Youth Director, our wonderful group of leaders and a group of young adults that are connecting with each other in openness and realness...again, we give thanks to God.

*Midweek Family Night – creating new ways to engage our Church Family together over meal fellowship and a variety of opportunities to enhance the growth and nurture of God's people gathered in Jesus' name.

A Special Christmas Concert Planned in Advent This Year

Chancel Choir will present a new Christmas cantata by one of our favorite composer/arrangers, Mary McDonald. We will perform her cantata in concert at 5:00 p.m. on December 17th. The performance will include a small orchestra, narrators, soloists and Christmas images. The work is titled "Peace Has Come." The nine movements contain both familiar carols, carols from other traditions, and original music by Ms. McDonald. Because this performance is a concert, you have a perfect opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to come and hear our Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers. The Glory Ringers will perform additional pieces of their own. For those who might be interested in singing with Chancel, our rehearsals for the cantata will open each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. from now until the performance. Anyone is welcome to join us for the cantata portion, or for our full rehearsal. If you are interested in ringing with the Glory Ringers, please contact Paula Stimpert or the church office.

— Ken Myers, Choirmaster

PW Circles

Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday
(Oct. 12, 9:15 a.m.)
in the
Fireside Room

Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Oct. 12)
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 September 14, 2017, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to replace 119 outdated fluorescent fixtures throughout the first, second, and third floors of our church facility at the cost of \$15,800;

—to hire a church consultant to look at First Pres. from website to parking lot to worship to Hoffman Hall with a focus on building relationships through a welcoming church culture;

—to transfer the memberships of Dale Hammond and Al and Pat Benson, and to remove Mandy Ward from membership, at their requests.



History Displays in Hoffman Hall

Coming soon—there will be History Displays in Hoffman Hall—150 years of the life, ministry, and mission of our church. We are celebrating our witness, ministry, and mission at First Pres. as followers of Jesus Christ. If you have any pictures, historical pieces, bulletins, newsletters, etc. from the history of our church you are willing to loan for the historical displays, please let us know by calling the office.



Men's Breakfast—October 6, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—October 17, 6 p.m. at Old Town Restaurant, 113 Stephen, Lemont. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—October 27, 6 p.m. at Karl Darley's house, 429 Buell, Joliet. Bring a side dish, snack or dessert. 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 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, October 7, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.



Our Worship-Dinner Celebration of
our 150th Anniversary
will be on Sunday, December 3rd.

On the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, we will hold one Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dave Fillpot, our former Co-Pastor, will return to preach. Immediately following our worship celebration we will go to the Victorian Ballroom at the Jacob Henry Estate for a wonderful Christmas Dinner. Please put this celebration on your calendar and plan to join us.

150th Anniversary Special Offering

During the Fall Season we are receiving a 150th Anniversary Special Offering. We will split the offering in half so that 50% will be given to Mission and 50% of the offering will go for updating our church facility.

Half of the offering will go to Hurricane Relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and half of the offering will go to redecorating Hoffman Hall and the North Entrance Hallway. If you wish to designate your gift differently than 50/50, we will honor your request.



It's this Friday, September 29, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Parrotts have a great sense of humor and thoughtful insights on how to deepen any marital relationship. They share how personality, communication, conflict, adaptability, and harmony can lead to DeepLove in our relationship with our spouse. RSVP if you need childcare.



With 150 Loving Acts of Service!

Children's Page

It is hard to write a fall update newsletter when the weather outside is in the 90's! Part of it is because I cannot yet believe it is fall. I know, all the things that we are doing should remind me that indeed it is fall, and I should get with the program. There is a lot to celebrate as I write this—Midweek Family Night Kick Off last week and the new Mommy and Me class for the little ones are just two examples. Indeed, there is a lot of excitement for all that, but even more I am looking forward to the things to come: Feed my Starving Children is a great opportunity for everyone to jump in and serve the needy of the world, and Trunk 'n' Treat when we open our doors to the surrounding community to welcome kids that just love trunk and treating.

On top of that we celebrate 150 years of ministry here at 1st Pres. Just think of all the things that God has done in our community throughout the years. And God is not done; in part because this church has a great story to tell, a story that involves changed lives and people being generous and having the power to gaze into the future and ask the question: What will God have us do? And the answer to that, in part, is making disciples, making a difference in today's generation so the story of God can continue to the next generation.

And you and I are part of that very story. We are called to make a difference each and every day. I wish that all of us can capture that excitement in our hearts and be ready for what can and will happen in and through our faith family.

Be blessed,
Bo M.

Things to remember:

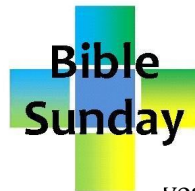


Trunk 'n' Treat is October 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m. We need you! And your car's trunk! Last year over 1,000 people went through our little festival on Western. Without your help we will not be able to make this happen. Please mark your calendar and let me know what your theme is for your trunk this year! There is a rumor that we will have a Best in Show contest. — Shhh don't tell anyone.



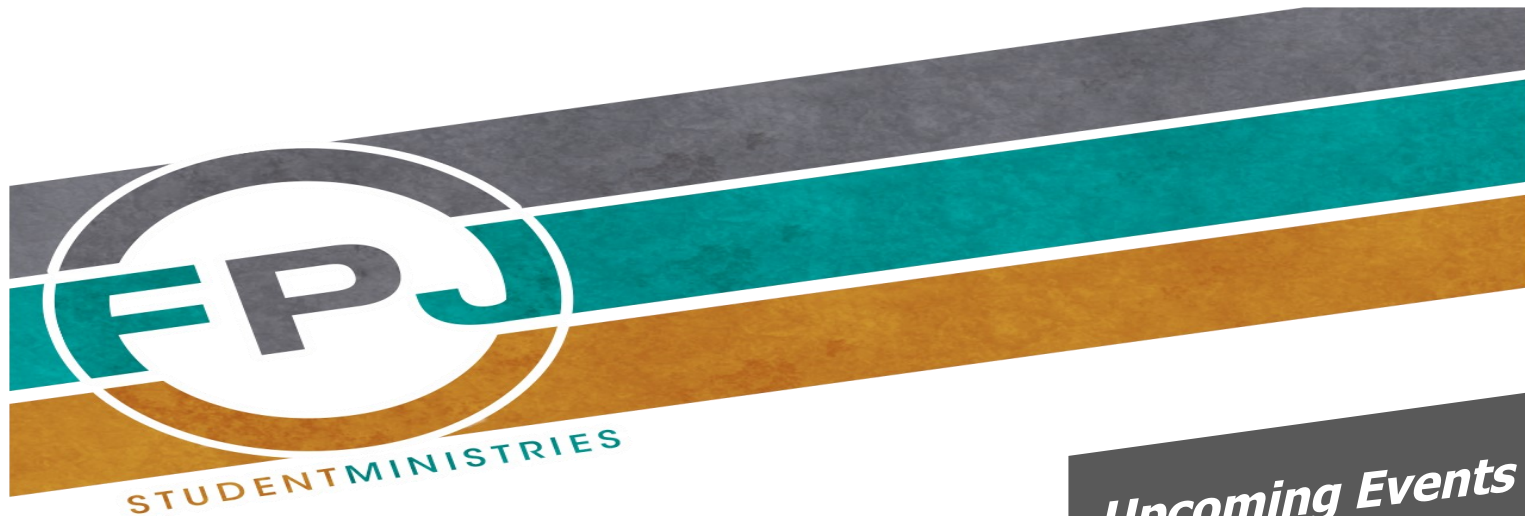
Confirmation Class – October 4

Any 8th grader or older kid that wants to take a step into looking a little deeper at their faith, please contact me or Karissa as we get ready to start confirmation.



Bible Sunday is October 29

This is a very important Sunday! Our 4 year olds, third graders and sixth graders will receive age-appropriate Bibles. If you have a child in one of these age groups who would like to receive a Bible, please call the church office at 815-727-9259 by October 23. Letters will be mailed soon.



Hello! My name is Karissa Fleming and I am honored to be part of First Presbyterian Joliet's family as your new Youth Director. I am a grateful believer in Jesus Christ who lives a life filled with wonder and awe at the good works that Christ has done for me and those around me. I witness miracles on a daily basis and have found that God truly does want our prayers for everything; nothing is too big or too small. As Youth Director it is my prayer that this light that God has placed in me will inspire and draw the Youth closer to Him. I come from a humble background and I promise the Youth, their parents, and the entire congregation that I will always use the cross as my guiding light.

I am happy to tell you all that September 17 was our Fall Semester Kick-off meeting and it went very well! We enjoyed live music, great food, and had a chance to fellowship together. The early church was constantly in fellowship (Acts 2:42) and that was a church that was truly on fire for Christ! With that example in mind, it was a blessing to spend time with the Youth and their parents. We are a forever family, after all.

At the end of the night I challenged the kids to keep 1 Timothy 4:12 as their life verse. Paul is writing to his younger brother in Christ and encouraging him to care for the church. He writes, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." Too often this world says, "Kids will be kids!" I have challenged our Youth to do something different—to remember they are not of this world (Romans 12:2). I trust God is doing amazing things in this church and in the Youth.

Many blessings, my family.
With love,
Karissa
815-727-9259 x207
Karissa.Fleming@firstpresjoliet.org

Verse of the Month:

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Upcoming Events

Youth Group —

Meeting Sundays at 6 PM in Room 206

Sunday School —

Meeting Sundays at 10 AM in Room 206

Family Mid-Week—

Youth Fellowship/Homework time meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in 206

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
Karissa Fleming, Dir. 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 October 25 *Servants'*
Light is **October 10**. Please e-mail to
sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

Movies...Movies...And Soup!!

Soup & Movie Night

Saturday, November 11
First Presbyterian Church
Hoffman Hall

Mark Your Calendars!!

Make a crockpot of your
favorite soup to share
We set up at 4:30 p.m.
Tasting begins at 5:00 p.m.

Movies begin at 6:00 p.m.
(Your choice of 5 recently released movies!)

A Special Pre-Release of

“Same Kind of Different as Me”
Sponsored by MorningStar Mission

October 18 at the Cinemark Theater
Louis Joliet Mall
3340 Loop Drive
Joliet, IL

Show Times: 6:30, 6:45 & 7:00 p.m.
For Tickets Call MorningStar Mission
at 815-722-5780
(samekindofdifferentasmemovie.com)