



# *The Servants' Light*

October 25, 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.



Saturday, November 11  
First Presbyterian Church, in Hoffman Hall

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 these 5 recently released movies!

*Beauty & the Beast* (the newest one) - Sanctuary

*The Shack* - Room 201

*Priceless* - Youth/Stephen Ministry Room

*Moana* - Cinema

*Hidden Figures* - Fireside Room



Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m.

at St. John Missionary Baptist Church

104 E. Zarley Blvd., Joliet

Join First Pres. and other Joliet houses of worship  
to give thanks and praise to our God for our  
many blessings. Rabbi Charles Rubovits will give the message.



### **After about 3 months, it's official!!**

The Center (formerly the Christian Youth Center – CYC) is moving back to Joliet and First Presbyterian Church will be their new home beginning November 16, 2017.

What started as a simple discussion about the first Joliet Faith Night back in the June/July timeframe, has blossomed into a new relationship where it is clear that God's hand has been involved. Bob Herrick and I have been intimately involved in the details of this new and exciting relationship with The Center and we have actively engaged Craig and the Session every step of the way...more importantly, they have affirmed their unanimous support all along the way.

For those who may not know about The Center, it all began with Harv Russell in 1947 as Executive Director for the CYC until 1999. Harv was committed to reaching young people in the Joliet area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thousands of kids have passed through the doors of the CYC/The Center over the 70 years of service this organization has provided to our community, and the tradition continues with Kelly Corcoran and Rick Abbott as key leaders of The Center today...nurturing teens with a foundation built on Jesus.

First Pres. has long been active as a congregation focused on a broad number of community issues from health care to housing. But no mission is more

important to us than providing a loving Christian environment for our children and youth. This is why the opportunity to partner with The Center is so exciting to us.

Let's welcome The Center with open arms remembering that, "Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'" (Luke 18:16-17)

As The Center readies itself to move into their new home here, they are planning a couple of "events" to aid in the transition...

Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Prayer walk in the community. They will gather in Hoffman Hall for a little breakfast, then head out into the neighborhood around the church. All are welcome to attend.

Friday, November 3, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – The Center will join us as, together, we look to feed starving children in our world.

Thursday, November 16, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – first night at First Pres. with worship at 7 p.m. followed by fellowship.

Friday, November 17, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Another "Fun Night" where those in the community around the church will be invited to join in on a night of fun!!

**Worship, Sunday, October 29.** Pastor Craig will be preaching this Sunday, the first Sunday of our new sermon series, "Better People, Better World." The sermon title is "Practice Pausing", using the texts Psalm 46, Mark 1:35-39, Philippians 4:4-13.

**October 22, 2017**  
Worship Attendance — 188

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

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Year to Date Receipts</b> | <b>\$391,687</b> |
| <b>Year to Date Expenses</b> | <b>\$383,691</b> |

150th Anniversary Offering — \$13,540  
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.

*Dale*



Turn your clocks back 1 hour  
when you retire on Saturday, November 4.

# Growing in Christ—

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## New Sermon Series

### “Better People, Better World”

R. Buckminster Fuller said, “We want a better world. It takes better people to create a better world.” With this quote in mind, we begin a new sermon series on October 29th, “Better People, Better World.”

October 29 “Practice Pausing,” Psalm 46, Mark 1:35-39,

Philippians 4:4-13

November 5 “Simplify to Renew,” Luke 10:38-42

November 12 “Responsibility,” Galatians 5:13-26

November 19 “Gratitude,” Psalm 100, Philippians 4:1-7

November 26 TBD

### “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

We are in our 5th year of blogging on our 1st Pres. Devotional Blog. As we venture forward in this sharing of devotional thoughts and source of inspiration, you are asked to comment on the blog, pray for those writing, and send in your questions or suggestions for things we can talk about. You can find us at:

[firstpresjoliet.wordpress.com](http://firstpresjoliet.wordpress.com)

## Adult Education Opportunities

### Adult Discussion Groups

#### Tuesday “Lunch Bunch” Discussion Group

During the month of November we will be continuing our journey through the Bible looking at “The Prophets,” “The Exile” and “The Return.” We meet on Tuesdays at 12:00 noon in Room 210, so bring your lunch, your Bible, and join us for a Spirit-ed discussion! We will not meet on Tuesday, November 21 due to Thanksgiving week.

#### First Pres. Men

We have looked at several individuals God has called to do his work...individuals like Abraham, Joseph, Mary and Martha, Elijah & Elisha—ordinary individuals. More importantly, we have tried to connect what these individuals have done with God's help to what our lives as men look like today. As a reminder, we get together in Room 210 on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. with the exception being no discussion group on Wednesday, November 22, due to Thanksgiving week.

#### Best Willow Creek Leadership Summit Speakers And Bible Study

We meet in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. 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. We meet again Wednesday, November 1, and will see and hear Angela Duckworth speak on “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance.”



This Sunday, October 29, is a very important Sunday for our children and youth. 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.

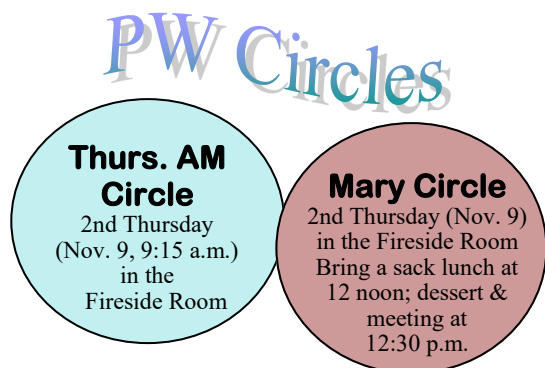


Come get in the holiday spirit and help Worship Council decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. We'll gather on Saturday, November 25, at 9 a.m. We have a lot of fun and enjoy great fellowship! It takes about 2 hours.



### History Displays in Hoffman Hall

Coming soon...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.



Church Women United World Community Day is November 3, 10 a.m. at Second Baptist Church, 156 S. Joliet St., Joliet.

## Small Groups & Special Events



At its regularly scheduled meeting of October 12, 2017, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to present a proposed amendment of the Church Bylaws to the congregation at a future Congregational Meeting, to permit church members who want to continue serving on Session to serve consecutive terms;

—to approve Christmas Eve services for 2017 on December 23rd between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and on December 24th at 3:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. We will not have Sunday morning services on December 24th;

—to welcome and fully support The Center Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church;

—to authorize the Quilt Group to receive donations for a quilt, with the proceeds to be distributed for church mission causes.



**Men's Breakfast**—November 3, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

**Dinner Out Group**—No gathering in November; join us December 19.

**Men's Dinner Group**—November 17 (one week early), 6 p.m. at Prairie Bluff Golf Club (PJ Mulligan's), 19433 Renwick Rd., Lockport. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.





Sue Fordyce, Ken Graham, Nancy Harbin,  
Roger Hileman, Charity Chishimba,



Wade Graefen, Jody Graefen, Keith Farr

### Welcome New Members!

On October 1st, we had the pleasure of welcoming new members into our church family. In the next few weeks, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and welcome them to our church family. And please add them to your church directory.

Wendy Chishimba and daughter, Charity  
16141 Laurel Oak Dr.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403  
815-756-0696  
Wendy\_21073@yahoo.com

Roger Hileman  
761 Pleasant Dr.  
Shorewood, IL 60404  
medrtch@comcast.net  
815-671-3590

Keith Farr  
807 Grand Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60436  
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Teresa Rogers  
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Sue Fordyce  
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Jody Graefen and son, Wade  
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Nancy Harbin  
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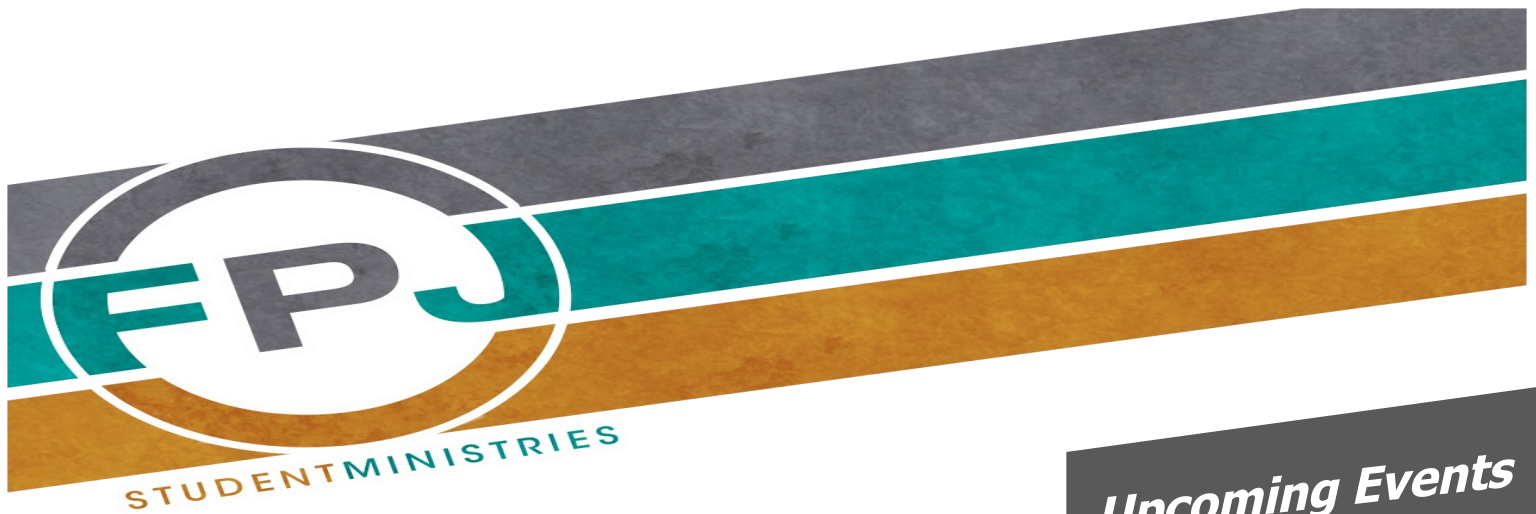
# TRUNK N TREAT

As we wrap up TnT, I can only think of how blessed we are as a church to be able to host our community every year and share who we are with the kids and families that make this event a “go to” place every year. Have you wondered what it takes to make it happen? This year was all about 35 trunks with 5 schools from District 86 being here for the first time, the petting zoo, 720 cups of chili to go along the 1,200 hot dogs and 20 plus volunteers running food, cooking and welcoming everyone. At the end of the night, the many smiles and the laughter that filled the parking lot made it all worth it. Thank you, 1st Pres., for coming together once again to share this 10th TnT! You are awesome! One more thing: Jamie and Joel Buffington got the Best Ihn Show Trunk with their awesome Lego themed trunk, the “Marvelous Minifig Midway.” Please join us on Facebook for more pictures from the night.

— Bo







As October comes to a close I am excited to say I have officially been part of this family for a month! The kids, the advisors, and myself have been in a series called "The Way I'm Wired." We have been identifying our strengths and weaknesses, beginning to explore the age old question of "Why was I born?"

It has been an honor to work along these students and get to know them. I have especially been enjoying our Wednesday homework nights and Sunday morning Bible Study. It is a blessing to engage the youth with their Bible and guide them along a path of Light and Truth as Proverbs 22:6 instructs. The Bible, week by week, is becoming less a thing in the house and more of a presence in their lives. I have great hope, faith, and expectation that God is doing mighty works in the youth of First Presbyterian Church Joliet.

If you are a youth or a parent of youth, I want to encourage you to subscribe to the weekly email I send out which includes: Bible Study information, Youth Group information, and Fellowship Opportunities! If you are not receiving these emails, please contact me ASAP so I can change that!

The youth are a treasure and I thank you all for the part you've played in their lives.

Many Blessings,  
Karissa  
815-727-9259 x207  
[karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org)

## *Upcoming Events*

Feed My Starving Children  
Nov. 4

Friendsgiving—  
Nov. 18

Live Testimony and Music  
from Jenni Escalante  
Rojas—Nov. 19

No Youth Group  
on Nov. 5 or Nov. 26  
(Thanksgiving Weekend)

Bible Study—  
Sundays at 10 am  
in Room 206

Youth Group—  
Sundays, 6 to 7:30 pm  
in Room 206

# Servants of Jesus Christ —

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## 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, November 4, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.

### Give The Gift That Keeps On Giving

You can remember the church in your will and/or provide a special year-end gift to one of First Presbyterian Church's Endowment Funds.

Endowment Fund—We have an Endowment Fund that is growing. The principal amount given is invested and preserved to provide income. Only the income is used for church ministry and mission.

Fred A. & Ruth N. Merrell Mission Endowment—We have a Mission Endowment Fund which funds mission in the community and around the world. The principal is invested and preserved and only the income is used to fund mission.

Wadsworth Family Endowment Fund—We have an Endowment Fund that can be used for capital improvements or to maintain our church facility. The principal amount given is invested and preserved to provide income. Only the income can be used.

Susan Kingsbury Morton Youth Endowment Fund—We have an Endowment Fund that can be used to help fund the Youth Ministry Program in our church, other than for salary. The principal is invested and preserved and only the income is used to help fund our Youth Ministry.



Just a reminder— it's coming up!

Fri., Nov. 3— Set up: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Packing: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 4— Packing: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Clean Up: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Check out our website, [www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org), for available openings and to sign up. Just click on the Feed My Starving Children button and follow the directions.



Look for the Stars of Hope in early November. The Stars of Hope program provides Christmas gifts to hundreds of MorningStar Mission families. Just pick a name, shop for gifts, and return the wrapped gifts to church. If you are unable to shop, a personal shopper will gladly shop for you (with your contribution) and wrap your gifts. The gifts are due back to church on Sunday, November 26.



### 150th Anniversary Special Offering

We are receiving a 150th Anniversary Special Offering this Fall. 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.



## 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

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### Address Service

First Presbyterian Church  
805 Western Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60435

**Newsletter Deadline**—The deadline for reserving space in the November 29 *Servants' Light* is **November 10**. Please e-mail to [sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org).

TO:



What a wonderful celebration we have planned in honor of First Presbyterian Church's 150 years of life, ministry and mission!

On December 3rd we will gather at 10:30 a.m. for one worship service with former Co-Pastor Rev. David Fillpot preaching.

Following worship we will go to the Jacob Henry Victorian Ballroom for a delicious Christmas Family Style Dinner featuring Turkey with all the trimmings. Former Associate Pastor Rev. Kenn Shedenhelm will speak, a string quartet will provide music, a portrait photographer will be available for pictures, and a magician will give a special show for the children. Each family attending will receive a complimentary ornament.

Dinner is \$15 for adults; \$10 for children 11 and under; there is no charge for children 2 and under. Please RSVP by November 17th so we can adequately plan. We hope you will join us at this memorable celebration. If you know of former members or friends you would like to invite, please call the office for more invitations. And let us know if you have any historical photos or artifacts of First Presbyterian Church that you would like to share.