



The Servants' Light

November 29, 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.”***

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.

150th Anniversary Celebration — Dec. 3

The big day is almost here! Our grand celebration of 150 years of First Pres.'s life, ministry and mission is this Sunday.

We'll gather at 10:30 a.m. for one Worship Service with former pastor Dave Fillpot preaching, and then will enjoy a delicious Christmas Dinner at noon at the Victorian Ballroom on the Jacob Henry Estate with former pastor Ken Shedenhelm speaking—plus a string quartet, portrait photographer and a magician for the children.

(We cannot take any more reservations; however, if you would like to be put on a waiting list, call the office.)



**“Christmas Delights” by Parish Council
Food, Fellowship & Celebration
December 17, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Light Breakfast-style Goodies**

“Peace Has Come” Christmas Musical — Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

An unforgettable Christmas Worship Experience
featuring Chancel Choir and Instruments
plus Christmas selections by the Glory Ringers



Composer Mary McDonald writes, “Mary and Joseph were initially troubled, but eventually found peace. Shepherds on a hillside were trembling with fear, but were told to ‘fear not.’ In ‘Peace Has Come,’ we follow the journey of those who experienced that first Christmas night...and found peace in a new and fresh way.” Join us for this enchanting musical journey!

Nursery care available.



SUNDAY, December 3. Come worship and celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do in our lives, the church, and world this Sunday. We are celebrating our 150th Anniversary at one combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.! Come sing and rejoice because of God's extraordinary grace, love, and truth come to us in Christ Jesus. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent.

The Worship Band, Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers, Bev Adelman and Beth Maurer, and Dean and Martha Sayles will all be singing and playing in this Sunday's Worship Service. Please remember we have one service at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday.

SERMON. Rev. Dave Fillpot is preaching this Sunday as we begin our "Find Joy, Find Hope,...Find Christmas" Advent Sermon Series. Dave is preaching on "How Can I Keep From Singing." The sermon texts are Psalm 137:1-4, Matthew 26:26-30, Acts 16:23-25, and Ephesians 5:15-20.

"PEACE HAS COME" CHRISTMAS CONCERT. On December 17, come experience the Peace and Wonder of Christ Jesus through the "Peace Has Come" Christmas Musical. It's an inspirational selection of songs featuring the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists

plus there will be Christmas selections by the Glory Ringers. The concert begins at 5:00 p.m. Bring your guests to the concert. And we suggest you go out to dinner together following the concert.

WONDERFUL HISTORICAL DISPLAYS. You will find throughout the first floor of the church a number of Historical Displays that Mary Jane Johnson, Don and Raelene Barnes, Harriet O'Malley, Mark Morrison, and Joe Milosevich have put together for you to see. In celebration of our 150th Anniversary you will find many interesting pictures and historical information about First Presbyterian Church.

THANK YOU, CHRISTMAS AND HARVEST DECORATORS! I want to thank everyone who helped in decorating the sanctuary for the Advent Season: Jim and Barb Schwandt, Sandi & Dave Zang, Suzanne Watson, Kris, Todd and Kory Hayden, Dave and Sharon Cavanaugh, Dale and Tari Ambler, Bob and Jana Rudisill, Pat and Michael Haldorson, Roger Hileman, Anna Rowzee, Karen Myers, and Sue Lee. And thanks to Jana Rudisill and Karen Myers for decorating the communion table for the Thanksgiving Season.

In Christ,

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

November 26, 2017

Worship Attendance — 189

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Year to Date Receipts | \$468,765 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$460,082 |

150th Anniversary Offering — \$16,607
50% to Hurricane Relief
50% to Hoffman Hall Redecorating

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$138,592

Call Tracy Norris if you wish to use electronic giving through your bank. We also have online giving in which you can use your credit card. Just go to our Website www.firstpresjoliet.org and click on "Giving."



Known to be in the Hospital:

Donna Filo, Sis Schmidt,
and Jan Weber at Presence St. Joseph

Just Born:

Gabriella Rose Wolfer (Nov. 1)
Daughter of Michael and Christina (Lee) Wolfer

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Tuesday “Lunch Bunch” Discussion Group

During the month of December we continue our journey through the Bible, looking at the journey of God’s people or, more importantly, God’s presence with his people. We meet on Tuesdays at 12:00 noon in Room 210, and you are invited to bring your lunch, your Bible and join us for a Spirit-ed discussion! Special Note: we will NOT meet on December 26 or January 2.



**“Find Joy...
Find Hope...
Find Christmas!”**

Advent Sermon Series

During this Advent Season we will focus on Finding the Meaning and Message of Christmas. Each week we will search and study the scriptures to unpack the wonder of what God was doing in that first Christmas and still does today. We are on a journey to Find Christmas!

December 3- “Find Joy”- “How Can I Keep From Singing”
Psalm 137:1-4; Matthew 26:26-30;
Acts 16:23-25; Ephesians 5:15-20
Rev. Dave Fillpot preaching on our
150th Anniversary Sunday

December 10- “Find Peace”
Isaiah 9:2-7

December 17- “Find Hope: What are you looking for?”
Matthew 11:2-15, Matthew 3:1-10

December 23 and 24-Christmas Eve Services
“Find the Savior”
Luke 2:1-12

Daily Devotional Blog

We have a number of blog writers who follow a variety of themes with fresh insights. As we venture forward in this sharing of devotional thoughts and sources 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

If you desire a printed devotional, Upper Room Devotionals are available in the Narthex and in the office.

First Pres. Men

In the month of December we will continue our look at individuals God has chosen to do his work...individuals like Thomas, Elijah and Elisha, and John the Baptist. 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. Join us in Room 210 on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Special Note: we will NOT meet on December 27 or January 3.

Best Willow Creek Leadership Summit Speakers And Bible Study

Each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. 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. This Wednesday we meet Melinda Gates. We will see a One-on-One-interview of Melinda Gates with Bill Hybels, Lead Pastor of Willow Creek, and think about how we impact our world. We meet in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m.

“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.

Small Groups & Special Events

Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 9, 2017, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to hold a Congregational meeting on January 14, 2018 to elect officers and to change the Church by-laws so that an elder completing a 3 year term on Session does NOT have to wait 1 year before going back on Session;

—to negotiate a date with the Water Within Band to hold a Saturday night concert and play in church the following Sunday sometime in February 2018;

—to remove Mark McKeen, Anna Johnson, Jeanette Corso, and Mike and Amanda Nolan from the membership roles of the church per their requests.



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

Dinner Out Group—December 19, 6 p.m. at Syl's Restaurant, 829 Moen Ave., Rockdale. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—December 22, 6 p.m. at Wild Horse Restaurant, 2314 W. Jefferson St., Joliet. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

PW Circles

Thursday Morning Circle—Dec. 14, 9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Mary Circle—Dec. 14 in the Fireside Room; bring a sack lunch at 12 noon, dessert & meeting at 12:30 p.m. Christmas Party at Al's Steakhouse—Dec. 28.

Poinsettia Order Form

Help decorate our sanctuary this Christmas with beautiful poinsettia plants. Fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by December 10th. The poinsettias cost \$12 each. Make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church-Poinsettias.

My/Our poinsettias are given: (indicate one)

- ☐ To the Glory of God
☐ To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones
☐ To the Glory of God and in loving memory

of _____

Your Name _____

(please use exact wording desired)

Phone/email _____

Poinsettias Orders can also be made and paid for online. Just go to our website: www.firstpresjoliet.org and click on the Poinsettias box.



History Displays in Hoffman Hall

Check out the History Displays in Hoffman Hall, the Narthex and the hallways—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.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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

Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering is taken on Christmas Eve. It is distributed as follows: seventy percent of the offering goes to support the Night Deacons' Food Ministries, and 30% goes to support assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and the racially ethnic schools and colleges affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This special offering is a tradition of over seventy years, supporting the servants of the church, many of whom work at below sustenance wages, and students at our Presbyterian racial ethnic schools. Please prayerfully consider your donation to this special offering.



PW Mitten Tree

Once again as cold weather falls upon us...let us remember the children at Farragut Elementary School (K-5) and the mitten tree. In addition to mittens, gloves, hats and scarves; gently used boots, sweaters, and sweatshirts are also appreciated. Please bring only size youth small and medium for sweaters and sweatshirts. The mitten tree is in the hallway between the Narthex and Hoffman Hall, with a box underneath the tree for larger items.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,
— Presbyterian Women

Night Deacons Food Ministry

On the first Sunday of each month, the Night Deacons collect monetary donations to fund our various ministries.

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, December 2, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.



E-Mail Christmas Greetings to Lucia, Bhoke & Rhobi, our Girls at Angel House

If you would like to send Christmas Greetings to our girls at Angel House Orphanage in Tanzania, you may do so through the sponsorship email address, angelhousesponsors@gmail.com. Emails (and pictures) will be printed out for each girl's personal file folder. The girls we sponsor at Angel House are Lucia (Lucy) Joshua, Bhoke Mnanka and Rhobi Mnanka.



Thank you for your love and kindness to help bring the Spirit of Christmas to MorningStar Mission families. The gifts are being picked up this week by the Mission to be distributed to their families.



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.



Children's Ministry News

It's that time of the year!

Advent! Christmas! Sounds like excitement to me! Joy and precious moments! This is the season to give and share! We have all heard this before. And it seems that every year families go through a rollercoaster of emotions, where the joy of the season might not be the first thing on the list. I am talking about the rush to buy the perfect gift, or juggle the many Christmas parties that we are invited to or just the simple idea of finding five minutes to read the Christmas story on an evening when the kids are in meltdown mode because of homework and so on.

Christmas in many ways is a time when we have an idyllic picture of what it should be, a picture of a quiet Bethlehem night when the Son of God was born in a manger — a moment when the whole world paused and quieted down to listen to the heavenly hosts singing. But in all reality, Christmas is far from that. Mary and Joseph just completed a long exhausting journey, and the barn they got to share for the night might not have been the neatest place in the whole world. Maybe it was just a crummy night for our travelers who felt they caught a break when that barn door opened for them, and maybe that moment when they looked at each other and the newborn was that precious moment that said: It is Christmas!

And maybe that is what Christmas should be about: Finding each other in the midst of expectations, finding the promise that God is with you when you feel otherwise, finding that precious moment as you pause to sip your tea after a long day and realize how blessed you are. And that is my prayer for all of us, especially for the little ones that look at us, the grown ups, for those special moments. God helps us to be present, helps us to create precious moments out of our stress. God lets us discover beauty in our messiness this season, and may we all find joy in all the imperfections that make us who we are.

Be blessed,

Bo M.



Wednesday Family Night—we are going caroling on Dec. 20th right after we will enjoy dinner here at church. More details to follow.

Sunday Morning Children's Worship—We are moving from the Old Testament story to the Advent and Christmas story. I would encourage you to talk to your kids about Advent and the expected Messiah.



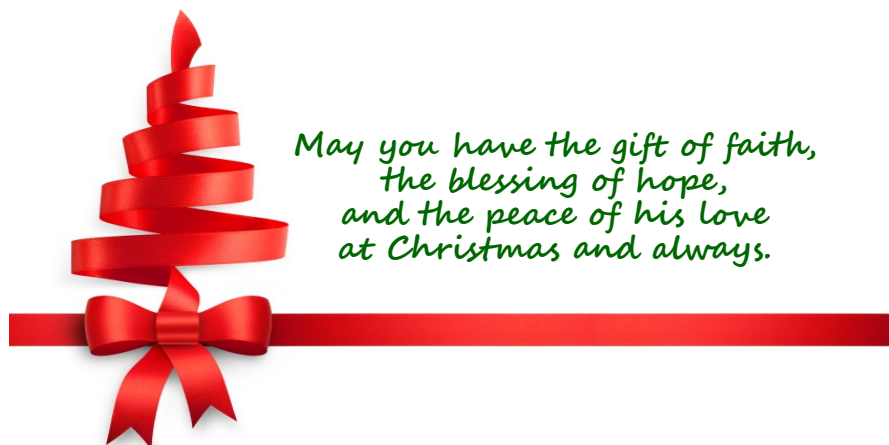
The Youth Group at First Presbyterian is finishing 2017 with a bang! We are happy to present our new name, logo, and mission statement! We are establishing our identity in this church and we are so happy to be part of this family!

Who are we?
Wildfire Youth Group

What is our mission statement?
Wildfire at First Presbyterian Church Joliet exists to spread the Good News like wildfire—all-consuming and hard to extinguish. We aim to be bearers of the Holy Fire which is purifying and great. We are mighty warriors of our faith, despite our age, and rise up to be examples in our speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. We are a wildfire for Christ and we cannot be stopped!

I want to thank the church for your support! This has been a great season and I look forward to all that is to come!

Many Blessings,
Karissa
815-727-9259 x207
karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 3
First Pres.'s 150th Anniversary Celebration
12:00pm in the
Victorian Ballroom at the
Jacob Henry Mansion
No Youth Group

Dec. 10
Ken Graham,
Guest Speaker
6:00pm-7:30pm

Dec. 17
Christmas Musical
5:00pm
Youth Group Christmas Party
6:00pm-7:30pm

Dec. 24
Christmas Eve
No Youth Group

Dec 31
New Year's Eve
No Youth Group

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 December 27 *Servants' Light* is **December 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:



Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, Dec. 23, 5 p.m.

*Contemporary Candlelight Service

Sunday, Dec. 24

No Morning Worship

*3 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Service

*7 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

10:30 p.m. Musicale
(as we gather for worship)

11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

* Nursery Care Available

Sunday, December 31st — One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.