



# e-News

December 13, 2017

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
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## Worship This Sunday



### Advent Sermon Series

#### “Find Joy, Find Hope,...Find Christmas”

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 on that first Christmas, and still does today. We are on a journey to Find Christmas, which is about finding the Savior.

#### Sunday, December 17.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is upon us...time is getting short! Sunday’s sermon text reminds us that while Advent is a season of waiting and hoping, it is also a season of impatience—Impatience that results in far too many being overwhelmed. Thoughts of whether Christmas will work out as we have planned are many. What about those for whom this time of year is anything but a celebration? From Sunday’s sermon text, Matthew 11:2-15, a question rings out...“What are you looking for?”

--Dale Ambler

**Music:** 9:00 a.m.—Chancel Choir & Glory Ringers  
10:30 a.m.—Worship Band

## Our Church Family

Known to be in the hospital:  
Carolyn Schaeffer at Presence St. Joseph

Sympathies are extended to Adam Halatek and family on the passing of his mother, Barbara Ann Halatek, on December 4th in Sycamore, IL.

## The Week Ahead

### \*\*\*Council/Committee Meetings:

Church Growth Council—Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Parish Council—Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m.  
Executive Committee—Dec. 14, 6 p.m.  
Session—Dec. 14, 7 p.m.  
Education Council—Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

### \*\*\*Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Thursday Morning Circle—Dec. 14, 9:15 a.m.  
Mary Circle—Dec. 14, 12 noon  
Dinner Out—Dec. 19, 6 p.m. at Syl’s Restaurant, 829 Moen Ave., Rockdale  
Men’s Dinner—Dec. 22, 6 p.m. at Wild Horse Restaurant, 2314 W. Jefferson St., Joliet  
Praise Yoga—Tuesdays at 7 p.m. & Thursdays at 8 a.m. in the Narthex  
Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 217  
Mindfulness Practice—Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Narthex  
  
Lunch Bunch Adult Discussion Group—Tuesdays at 12 noon in Room 210 (Bring your lunch!)  
Mommy & Me Class—Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in Room 214-216  
Men’s Discussion Group—Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210  
Willow Creek Global Summit & Bible Study Discussion Group—Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

### Volunteers this Sunday, December 17, 2017

9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
<u>Children’s Worship:</u>	
Megan Pritz	Sarah Lundeen
	Kyla Fris
<u>Holy Hunters:</u>	
<u>Greeters:</u>	
Dave & Marg Grohne	Jan Gehrig
<u>Advent Families/Acolytes:</u>	
Corcoran Family/ Emma Corcoran	Lundeen Family/ Evan Lundeen
<u>Ushers:</u>	
Adam Halatek, Capt.;	Judy Turner, Capt.;
Mark Dykema	Laura House
Pat Costion	
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u> Barb Rodgers, Capt.; Jim & Barb Schwandt	
<u>Sound Room:</u> Rich Pool	
<u>Video Screens:</u>	

THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

**Be Friendly and Invite Your Guests.** One of the most important things we can do to share the story of the Savior this Christmas Season is to invite friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members to join us for the Sunday evening Christmas Concert, this Sunday at 5:00 p.m., and to join us at one of our Christmas Eve Services. The other important thing is to be friendly and talk with those who come. The church pew or Hoffman Hall can be scary places when no one speaks to you and you are ignored. **So be Friendly and Invite a Guest this Christmas Season.**

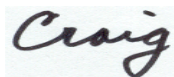
Shane Claiborne, a millennial follower of Jesus and author who lives in the inner city of Philadelphia, writes: "I have become convinced that Christianity spreads best not through force but through fascination." How will you spread your faith today?

**Great Food and Fellowship This Sunday—Christmas “Delights.”** This Sunday morning, December 17, there will be a special time of food and fellowship from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Come and worship and go to Hoffman Hall or come early before the 10:30 a.m. service and enjoy some good food and conversation in Hoffman Hall.

**“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.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services.** This year we will have services on Saturday, December 23, at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 24, at 3:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. (with the Musicale at 10:30 p.m.). There is no morning worship on December 24. Bring your guests to one of our Christmas Eve Services.

In Christ,



## KIDS

Mid-Week Family Night! See below.  
We're going caroling on Dec. 20!

## YOUTH

### Sundays

10:00 a.m.—Jr./Sr. High Bible Study meets in Room 206; This Sunday at Youth Group, 6-7:30 p.m., we'll meet after the Christmas Concert for our Christmas Party (ugly sweater contest & White Elephant gift exchange)

### Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.—Family Mid-week Dinner  
6:00 p.m.—Teen Homework/Hangout Time

### Confirmation—Wednesdays

Come for dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Class starts at 7:20 p.m.

## FAMILIES

Each Wednesday we have a time for us to be together as a church family, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with lots of options:

5:30 p.m.—Dinner for everyone  
6:15 to 7 p.m.—Mommy and Me Class  
6:30 p.m.—Music and learning for kids  
— Jr./Sr. High Fellowship/Homework time  
—Men's Discussion Group  
—The Best Leadership Speakers from Willow Creek Global Summit & Bible Study  
7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir

### December 10, 2017

Worship Attendance — 187

### Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

<b>Year to Date Receipts</b>	\$515,065
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$490,464

150th Anniversary Offering to date — \$21,774  
50% for Hurricane Relief  
50% for Hoffman Hall Redecorating  
Or, divided as you designate.

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

We are accepting pre-pledges for next year. Please identify them as pre-pledges. 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](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org) and click on “Giving.”

## December 17

\*9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

\*10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Christmas “Delights” served 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.  
(Food & Fellowship)

**\*5:00 p.m. “Peace Has Come”  
Christmas Musical**

An Unforgettable Christmas Worship experience  
featuring Choir, Instruments & Handbells

Find Peace in a New Way!

New and well-known tunes and carols offer an  
opportunity to lay aside illusions that promise  
peace and embrace Jesus  
—the gift of God’s Peace to the World!

Composer Mary McDonald writes, “Christmas has a way  
of settling us down and reminding us what  
really matters in life: family/children, Jesus,  
miracles, and the most sustaining gifts  
of joy, love, hope and peace. Christ came to bring peace  
to the world—everlasting holiness and peace  
in the form of a baby—a King!”

Guests Welcome—Invite friends, neighbors  
and relatives!

This is our gift to the community.

## Mission

**Mission for the Homeless**—a call to care for the  
poor amongst us. Please bring flip top canned goods  
such as spaghetti and ravioli, fruit with peel-off lids,  
warm socks, scarves, mittens, gloves, and toiletries  
to the narthex. Volunteer drivers will deliver them  
to the homeless in area parks. Call Linda Zoellick at  
520-400-8396, with questions.

**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 youth small and  
medium sweaters and sweatshirts. There is a box by  
the tree for larger items. Thank you in advance for  
your generosity.  
— PW

**The Christmas Joy Offering** is taken on  
Christmas Eve. It is distributed as follows: 70% 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 Pres-  
byterian Church (U.S.A.). This special offering is a  
tradition of over seventy years, supporting the serv-  
ants 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.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

### Saturday, December 23

\*5:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Worship  
with our Worship Band & Musician Matthew Miller

### Sunday, December 24

No Morning Worship

\*3:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Worship with  
our Worship Band & Musician Matthew Miller

\*7:00 p.m. The Spirit of Christmas Candlelight Worship  
A message of hope, peace and love  
in scripture and carols

10:30 p.m. Celebration Music (vocals & instrumentalists  
as we gather for worship)

11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship  
with Chancel Choir & Glory Ringers

\*Nursery Care Available

\*December 31—One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.



### Away in the Manger

“Away in a Manger, No Crib  
for a Bed”—How can this  
happen? How can our Lord,  
our Savior, our King be born  
in a feed trough? How do we reconcile this scene?  
Do we decorate our manger, share gifts with family  
and friends, or just enjoy each other’s company over a  
meal? These endeavors are all worthwhile. However,  
maybe we should manage our manger by sharing the  
gifts God gave us in the Christmas season, grace, mer-  
cy, forgiveness, peace, and joy. “Away in a Manger,  
No Crib for a Bed” How will you manage your manger  
this season?

— David Steinberg