



# e-News

December 20, 2017

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## Worship This Sunday



Find Joy...  
Find Hope...  
Find Christmas!

### 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.

#### Christmas Eve-Eve and Christmas Eve Services

Saturday Service, December 23,  
5:00 p.m. —Contemporary Candlelight Worship

Sunday Services, December 24,  
3:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Worship  
7:00 p.m. Spirit of Christmas Candlelight Worship  
10:30 p.m. A Celebration of Music  
(Vocalists & Instrumentalists)  
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship  
with Chancel Choir & Glory Ringers

The Message for the Worship Services on December 23 and 24 is “Finding The Savior.” When we find the Savior, the Christ, we find true Joy, Hope, Peace, and meaning. Find the Savior and let the life and light of God live in and through you. The sermon texts are Luke 2:8-15 and John 1:1-5, 9-14.

--Craig Herr

Sunday, December 31. Worship with us again on Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 a.m. (one service). The Sermon is “Find The Light.” Ken Myers is singing.

## The Week Ahead

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

Praise Yoga—Tuesdays at 7 p.m. & Thursdays at 8 a.m.  
in the Narthex (No class Dec. 26 or 28)  
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

(Discussion groups and Wednesday night classes will take a 2 week Christmas break, meeting again the week of Jan. 8)

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study—Saturdays  
at 7 a.m. in the Fireside Room

### Volunteers this Weekend, December 23/24

#### No Morning Worship

Dec. 23 —  
5:00 p.m.—Ed Schultz, Usher Capt.  
Rich Pool, Sound  
Todd Hayden, Video

Dec. 24—  
Ushers:  
3:00 p.m.—Barb Rodgers, Capt., Russ Brown  
7:00 p.m. — Lisa Haldorson, Jon Belfield, Allan & Marion  
Somers  
11:00 p.m.—Ed Schultz, Laura Schultz

Sound/Video:  
3:00 — Cliff Stepina/Todd Hayden  
7:00 — Cliff Stepina/  
11:00 — Rich Pool/Dale Endres

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

**Invite Guests and Be Friendly!** 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 at one of our Christmas Eve Services.

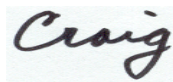
The other important thing is to be friendly and talk with those who come. The church pew or Hoffman Hall can be scary places when no one speaks to you and you are ignored. So be Friendly and Invite a Guest this Christmas Eve.

**Many Thanks for a Wonderful early evening Sunday Christmas Concert!** Last Sunday evening was a great night. The Glory Ringers Handbell Choir shared four beautiful songs throughout the concert, which communicated the joy and wonder of Christmas to us. The Chancel Choir sang the "Peace Has Come" musical by Mary McDonald and inspired us with the message of the Savior. The instrumentalists were wonderful and the readers communicated the Christmas Story so well. The power point slides added to our experience of imagining Jesus' birth on that first Christmas. We had many, many visitors come to our church to experience the Good News of the Christ Child. It was a great, great evening together. Thanks everyone!

**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.). Click on the Christmas Eve button for more details on the services. Please remember there is no morning worship on December 24.

Have a wonderful, meaningful, and joyous celebration of the Savior's birth this Christmas. May God fill you with strength, grace, goodness, and light as you rejoice in God's love come to us in the person and presence of Christ Jesus.

In Christ,



## KIDS

Mid-Week Family Night! See below.  
We're going caroling tonight!

## YOUTH

Sundays

10:00 a.m.—Jr./Sr. High Bible Study meets in Room 206  
(no Youth Bible Study on Dec. 24 & 31)

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.—Family Mid-week Dinner

6:00 p.m.—Teen Homework/Hangout Time  
(Christmas Break Dec. 27 & Jan. 3)

Confirmation—Wednesdays

Come for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Class starts at 7:20 p.m.

(Christmas break Dec. 27-Jan. 3)

## 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

Wednesday Mid-Week Family Night does not meet Dec. 27  
or Jan. 3

## Our Church Family

Russ, Luana and Dennis Mathena would like to thank the ministers and the congregation for their visits, cards and prayers to help to comfort them through the loss of their beloved wife and mother, Mary. A big Thank You to Judy Turner, our Stephen Minister, and to the Helping Hands ministry for providing endless meals and visits.

Carol Zettergren wishes to thank her church family, pastors and Day Deacons for their prayers, visits and cards during her recent hospitalizations.



## 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.

## 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 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.

### December 17, 2017

Worship Attendance — 212

### Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

<b>Year to Date Receipts</b>	\$525,702
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$507,331

150th Anniversary Offering to date — \$21,779  
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."