



e-News

January 3, 2018

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

Worship This Sunday

How sad it is...Christmas is over. For many, Christmas trees have been removed, decorations put away, the candles snuffed out, all the carols have been sung and the Advent wreath is tucked away for another year. What did not fit or work has been returned and, oh yes, only 41 days until Valentine's Day...oops, I mean Ash Wednesday. Yes indeed, Christmas is over—the Church and it's calendar say so because Epiphany begins Saturday. Well, not so fast, this Sunday's sermon is "A Child of God" using John 1:5, 9-18.

—Dale Ambler

Sunday, January 7. Start the New Year with your church family in Worship. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. May God bless you, strengthen you, and give you his joy, hope, peace, and love in this New Year.

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship Band

Our Church Family

Congratulations to Matthew and Carla (Adelmann) McCowan on the birth of a son, Bennett George, on Dec. 30th.

Sympathies are extended to Sue Proctor and family on the passing of her daughter, Libby, on Dec. 31st. There will be a Memorial Service for Libby Proctor on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, 3200 Black Rd., Joliet. Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 5, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 21, to vote to elect new officers for the Class of 2020 and to fill vacancies and to vote to change the church bylaws to allow Elders to serve consecutive three-year terms. Both of the Deacon boards are allowed to serve consecutive three-year terms.

The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

Stewardship Council—Jan. 5, 9 a.m.
Day Deacons—Jan. 8, 10 a.m.
PW Board—Jan. 8, 10 a.m.
Worship Council—Jan. 9, 5 p.m.
Night Deacons—Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Parish Council—Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m.
Executive Committee—Jan. 11, 6 p.m.
Session—Jan. 11, 7 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Men's Breakfast—Jan. 5, 7:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study—Jan. 10, 10 a.m.
Thursday Morning Circle—Jan. 11, 9:15 a.m.
Mary Circle—Jan. 11, 12 p.m.
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
Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study—Saturdays at 7 a.m. in the Fireside Room
(Discussion groups and Wednesday night classes are on Christmas break, resuming the week of Jan. 8)

December 31, 2017

Worship Attendance — 113

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$608,302
Year to Date Expenses	\$555,364

Christmas Joy Offering Received — \$2,612
2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$163,592

Please 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."

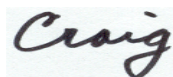
Volunteer to Take Off the Wallpaper in Hoffman Hall. We are going to have great fun working together on Monday, January 15. The Youth and leaders from The Center are going to help us take off all of the wallpaper in Hoffman Hall. The Center's Leaders and Youth wanted to do a project in the church to help us. We (session and staff) decided to go with taking off the wallpaper in Hoffman Hall so we can redecorate the Hall. We could use your help. We need 100 people so we can all take a small section and strip the wallpaper off and have some great fun together on this project. Then we can fill in any gauges and cracks and prime paint Hoffman Hall to get ready for the new look. Once we finish the new look we will order new chairs. But, first we need to strip the wallpaper in one day. It's a great way to start the new year together. We need your help stripping a small section.

Please Help Put Away the Christmas Decorations. The decorations at church are beautiful to see and experience in the Advent-Christmas Season. We are still enjoying them and thanks to all who helped set up. The date we have chosen to take them down and put them away is Saturday, January 13. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. and put them all back in their special places. Please come out for a couple of hours to put the decorations away. We have a fun time of conversation and catching up with each other.

Looking Ahead To Sunday, January 14. Ward Utterbach of Welcoming Touch Ministries is preaching on Sunday, January 14. Ward had secretly "shopped" or visited our church to see how friendly we are and what we can do to be more inviting and welcoming to guests who visit our church. He has produced a very interesting, practical, and helpful report on his visit. We will think about anything from trying to park in our lots to finding one's way to the Sanctuary/Worship Center to ending up in a pew and what to do in Hoffman Hall. So plan to worship with us on Sunday, January 14, and find out what we can learn about welcoming guests to our church family.

When We Struggle. We all struggle at times with what God wants or with understanding our calling, and with the difficulties and the troubles that life brings our way. Starting January 21, we will think about our struggles and how we can find strength in Christ.

In Christ,



KIDS

Mid-Week Family Night! See below.
On Winter Break, resuming January 10.

YOUTH

Sundays

10:00 a.m.—Jr./Sr. High Bible Study meets in Room 206

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.—Family Mid-week Dinner

6:00 p.m.—Teen Homework/Hangout Time

(On Christmas Break, resuming January 10)

Confirmation—Wednesdays

Come for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Class starts at 7:20 p.m.

(On Christmas break, resuming January 10)

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 today, it will resume Jan. 10.

Chili Cook Off & Family Movie Night

Saturday, Jan. 27

4:30 p.m. — Chili Set Up

5:00 p.m. — Chili Tasting Begins

6:00 p.m. — Movies begin

Bring a crock pot of your favorite chili, or just come for the tasting; then stay for the movies...new ones or old favorites!

Mission

Night Deacons' Free Pancake Breakfast is this Saturday, January 6, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.

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 the Joliet area. Call Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396, with questions.