



The Servants' Light

March 28, 2018

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***“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.

Holy Hunters—

10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship—

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Nursery/Preschool Care—

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday — March 29

Maundy Thursday Dinner at 6 p.m.

Pork Roast w/Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans Amandine, Tossed Salad

Rolls, Dessert, Beverages — Freewill Offering

Worship/Communion at 7 p.m.

Good Friday — March 30

Journey through the Stations of the Cross — 6 p.m.

Easter Egg-stravaganza — March 31, 9 to 11 a.m.

Breakfast, Telling of the Easter Story, Arts & Crafts,

Pictures with the Easter Bunny, and an Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter “Resurrection” Sunday — April 1

Traditional Worship at 9 a.m. with Chancel Choir,

Instruments & Glory Ringers

Contemporary Worship at 10:30 a.m.

with Worship Band

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor



EASTER SUNDAY, April 1. No Fear, for Christ Jesus is risen from the dead. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and the Empty Tomb on this Easter Sunday. We can cast all of our cares and anxiety upon God who loves us deeply in Jesus. Come celebrate the best news of all time and know the

calming peace of God that surpasses all understanding, and is ours in Christ Jesus.

The Chancel Choir and the Glory Ringers are singing and playing at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

SERMON. This Sunday I am preaching on “Never Let Go.” The scripture passages for this message are: Luke 24:1-8, I Corinthians 1:18-25, and John 15:4-11. There are some things in life, of which we should never let go. There are other things we need to let go of in life. We need to let go of our children, in such a way that they know we love them deeply but that lets them develop into adulthood. On the other hand, we should never let go of Jesus. Isn't it good to know that Jesus will never let go of us?

MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP THIS HOLY WEEK. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday provide different ways to worship and to experience the life, presence, sacrificial suffering, and Resurrection of Jesus. Plan to worship with your friends in Christ this week.

PROVIDE A WELCOMING PRESENCE. You could provide a welcoming presence by greeting at the front

and rear entrances before worship on Sunday morning. Come early to greet for the 9:00 a.m. worship service or, if you like sleeping in, you could come and greet for the 10:30 a.m. service. Or you could provide a welcoming presence by helping out at coffee fellowship between services on Sunday morning. Perhaps you would like to welcome many guests to our church by being involved in our Easter Egg-stravaganza on Saturday, March 31. Just call the office or talk with one of our church staff members to serve in these ministries.

THE LORD'S SUPPER, APRIL 8TH. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services on April 8 instead of April 1.

HELP OUR “HELPING HANDS” MINISTRY. We are looking for some more people who would like to serve members in need by providing and delivering a meal.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PROGRESS. We are going to hold another Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event this year on the first Friday and Saturday in November. This year we are going to raise the money to support the event, and so far we have received \$1,211.50. We are holding a Vendor and Craft Sale in April with the proceeds going to support Feed My Starving Children. We are off to a good start. There will be more to come.

In Christ,

Craig

March 25, 2018

Worship Attendance — 229

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$738,564
Year to Date Expenses	\$738,156

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$163,592.47
Angel House Special Offering — \$4,722
Feed My Starving Children — \$1,211
(Ash Wednesday and Concert)

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.”



Baptized:

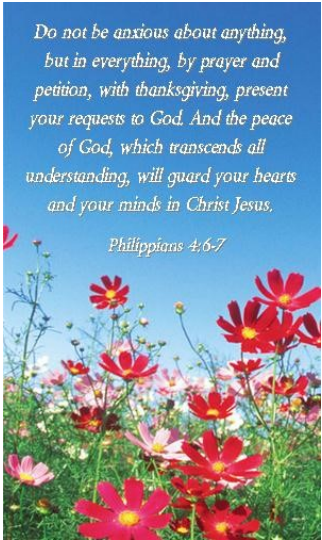
Rylie Patrick Blaser (Mar. 4)
Son of Matthew & Bernadette Blaser
Michael Eli Rogers (Mar. 11)
Rafe Logan Rogers (Mar. 11)
Sons of Brandt & Teresa Rogers

Passed to Life Eternal:

William Allen (Mar. 15)
Betty Marshall (Mar. 22)
Irene Kolmodin (Mar. 26)

The Memorial Service for Irene Kolmodin will be Tuesday, April 3, 11 a.m. here at First Pres. with visitation Monday, April 2, 4 to 8 p.m. at Carlson Holmquist-Sayles and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to time of service at First Pres.

Lenten Journey



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

We are finishing our Lenten Journey using Max Lucado's latest book, "Anxious For Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" for both worship and study.

Easter Sunday, April 1 —
"Never Let Go" (Ch. 10)

The Sunday Adult Discussion Group will finish discussing the book during April.

April & May Sermon Series "Relational Reach and Resiliency"

In April and May we will think about the quality of our relationships. What is your relational reach? How resilient are your relationships? We will consider what we can do to strengthen our relational reach and resiliency.

April 8—Community and Relationships
—I Corinthians 13

April 15—Relationships Matter: An Introduction
—Mark 12:28-34

April 22—Reconciliation with God: Our relationship with the Lord —II Corinthians 5:14-21

April 29—Relationships With Each Other: Forbearance and Forgiveness —Colossians 3:1-17

May 6—Relationships with Each Other: Sharing Life and Training Up

May 13—Relationships In the Community and World: We Are Sent

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

led by Mark Morrison, discussing Max Lucado's Book, "Anxious for Nothing"

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. —

Men's Discussion Group led by Dale Ambler
All men are invited to participate in a men's only discussion group. In April we will begin a discussion, at your request, on Paul's letter to the Galatians. It was a critical time for the life of the churches in Galatia as they struggled to define their mission and identity. We'll start April 4th looking at Chapter 1 of Galatians and then continue April 18 and 25. Please remember that there will be no discussion group on April 11, as that is Pinewood Derby Night and we will help cheer on all those who made cars!!

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.—

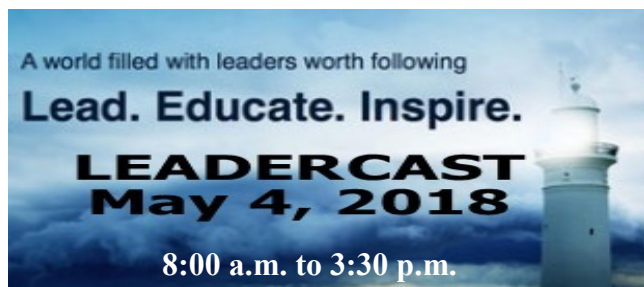
Women's Discussion Group led by Lisa Haldorson
Calling all women!! Are you looking for a fun, safe environment to grow your relationship with God and with other women of the church? Then we have just the discussion group for you!! Come and join the Women's Discussion Group that meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. You'll be sure to have an inspiring, love-filled time with other women of the church while growing in our faith together.

Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Discussion Group

Our 30-week journey of "Discovering the Bible" will come to a close this month as we look at "The Church", "The New Life", "The Hope", and "The Goal". Bring your lunch and join us Tuesdays at 12:00 noon in Room 210 for a Spirit-filled discussion as we grow together in our faith!!

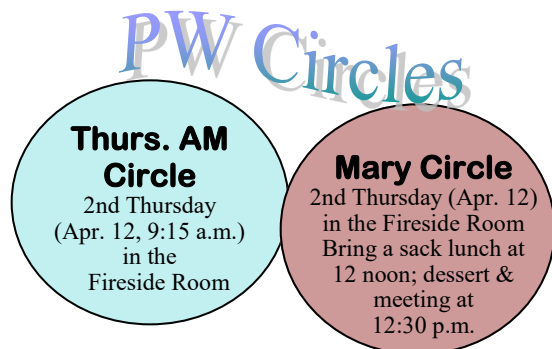
"Bible Perspectives" **Sundays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.** **Room 201 with Jim Mullins**

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.



Join some of the world's top leadership experts via simulcast as they take the stage at Leadercast Live, the largest one-day leadership event held live in Atlanta and broadcast to locations around the globe, including First Pres.!

The speakers this year range from leadership authors to fighter pilots to astronauts. Known for their work in coaching fellow leaders or leading large organizations, these eight speakers will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Leadercast Live stage. Take charge of your leadership journey with the practical lessons and tools you'll learn from these speakers. Single registration — \$79; 3 or more from same company — \$69. Register now—Rates go up after March 30. Visit our website: www.firstpresjoliet.org for the lineup of speakers and the registration form.



Help us Celebrate Your Graduate!

Graduation Day is coming up! And we like to celebrate those in our church family who have reached milestones in their education. If you or someone in your immediate family is graduating from Middle School, High School, College, or an Institute of higher learning, please pick up a graduate info sheet, fill it out and return it to the church office along with a photo of your graduate.

Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 8, 2018, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- to allow a Micro Pantry to be placed in an appropriate, readily accessible spot on church property to serve the immediate needs of hungry people;
- to allow Pastor Craig to take a sabbatical after May 4, 2018, during the months of May and June.

New Food & Fellowship Opportunity

Do you love to eat? Of course you do! Do you ever feel like you don't have enough time to catch up with your friends at church? Of course you do! Here's an opportunity to eat AND spend time with friends. On Sunday, April 8th, we'll kick off our new "2nd Sunday Potluck." On the second Sunday of each month, we'll have a potluck in Hoffman Hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring a dish to share, drop it off in the kitchen, and head to worship. Your dishes can be kept warm or refrigerated if necessary. Bring whatever you like – it'll be a true potluck (if we have 10 salads that day, we'll eat 10 salads). If you prefer to attend early service, you can stay through an "extended" coffee hour until the service ends or go run an errand and come back at 11:30. We'll have plenty of time to eat and visit together. Questions? Call Jen Gabl, 815-954-1254. *Please note: Due to Mother's Day in May, we'll meet the 3rd Sunday, May 20th.

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—April 6, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—April 17, 6 p.m. at Fox's Restaurant, 14206 S. Route 30, Plainfield. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—April 27, 6 p.m. at Anthony's Restaurant & Pub, 3151 Voyager Lane, Joliet. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

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



SHARING RESOURCES

CHANG-

On Easter Sunday, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Our offering helps support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Presbyterian Committee for the Self Development of People.

"Legacy of Love" Stewardship Campaign

Leave A Legacy of Love Through Your Giving for "God is love" (I John 4:8).

Please bring your pledge card to worship this Sunday or mail your pledge card to the office. We are working to complete our "Legacy of Love" Stewardship Campaign.

Each and every day we have opportunities to live in love; that is, the love of Christ alive in us, influencing what we do, say, and commit to do. And over time — day by day, year by year — we leave a legacy of love in our world. The love of God in Christ Jesus never ends. What will your legacy of love look like over time?

Through our "Legacy of Love" Stewardship Campaign you have the opportunity to give in love to support what God is doing in the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. Ask the Lord to guide you as you prayerfully decide what to give this year in 2018-2019. May the Lord bless you and fill you with the riches of his joy, grace, hope, and love.

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, April 7, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.

Simple Indulgence Craft & Vendor Fair

**Sat., April 14
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$1 donation at the door**

Dozens of Crafters/Vendors,
Door Prizes, Drawings,
Lunch & Snacks available for
purchase

All monies raised through table
fees, gift drawings &
Lunch Café will benefit our fall
Feed My Starving Children
MobilePack Event

Children's Ministry News

Looking beyond Easter Sunday.....

We all love Easter, between the Sunday morning service and the family gathering for a meal and the excitement of finding the most eggs, adults and kids alike look forward to this day. Easter is indeed special to us. It is that constant reminder that rebirth, new life in Christ, is ours when we trust in the Lord, who overcame death on the cross so that we can walk in the freedom that faith brings. Easter is about each one of us coming to the cross, seeing God's love on display before our very eyes and walking to the tomb where we are met with the joy of resurrection. I can recall so many Easters as a child, sitting with the family for Easter lunch, and the red eggs that proclaimed in a timeless way that Christ Is Risen, but somehow missing the whole message that Easter brings—new life in Christ can start for each one of us.

At Christmas we take time to read the Christmas Story about the baby being born, and somehow at Easter we kind of skip through the story, in part because it is a hard to tell the story about Jesus being crucified, about someone dying and leaving so many people without hope behind him. The Easter Story is not as pretty as the Christmas one, at least to share with the little ones, if we stop at the grave. I would like to encourage you to take time as a family this Easter Sunday and speak about the whole story, about the suffering and the resurrection, about death and new life and eternal life in Christ. I would encourage you before the meal to proclaim as loud as you can: Christ is risen! Because in that proclamation we all can learn about hope, about God's love for us, and that even in difficult times we are not alone.

So take time to Celebrate, Rejoice and Proclaim that each day for us as believers is a brand new Easter Morning!

Be blessed,
Bo M.

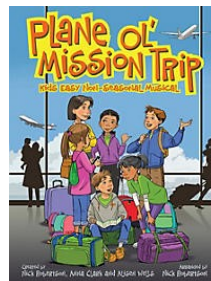
Midweek Family Night

We will be back on Wednesday, April 4th, as the kids are finishing rehearsals for the spring musical. It is not just a cute musical, but a meaningful encouragement to serve those around us. We will also do some work on the Pinewood Derby. All are invited to come; if you do not have a car yet, it is not too late to get in the game. April 11th is the big Pinewood Derby day for all those little cars and their engineers, so come out for a good meal and support them. This year we will continue our Midweek Family Night until May 16th. We will have dinner followed by a time for the kids to do their homework and have some fun time while the confirmation class will meet; and for the parents we will have both Men's and Women's Discussion Groups. So come out, have dinner as a family, and then let's fellowship around the word.

THIS Saturday, March 31,
9 to 11 a.m.!

Come on out and help greet and welcome our guests. This is a favorite annual event when families have the opportunity to come be surrounded by the love of our faith community, and to hear the message of God's love.

We ask that those who are helping to greet folks, serve food, help with crafts, etc. come a little early, at 8 a.m.



Children's Musical
April 8, 9 & 10:30

When a group of kids headed on a mission trip find themselves stranded at the airport due to inclement weather, they quickly learn that our mission field is everywhere. Join us for upbeat music as well as prayerful pieces, and enjoy the fun, hopeful perspective of "Plane Ol' Mission Trip."



Wildfire Youth Group has spent the month of March in service and reflection. We were happy to make care packages for our former youth group college kids. The teens especially loved writing little notes to their friends, and the college kids seemed to enjoy the silly little toys (and junk food!) we sent their way. We are halfway through our lesson series on The Attributes of God by T.W. Tozer, and it was great to have a night strictly dedicated to discussion. The students' minds are always working, and it was especially wonderful to have them and us adults being real with each other as we talked about God. Wildfire has really enjoyed the play time as well! Every Sunday begins with 30 minutes of play: Gaga Ball, Relay Races, Tag, etc. There is something miraculous in the power of play, and I know I look forward to those thirty minutes every week.

We want to say a major THANK YOU to everyone who came out for our Palm Sunday Breakfast! We had so much fun serving our church family and we are grateful to have your support. We are happy to announce that we raised \$2,065 at the breakfast! This amount is almost enough to entirely cover the cost of our mission trip to Kansas City, KS, this summer! As each piece of the mission trip puzzle gets put into place, we are getting more excited to serve God and grow!

This April we are excited to learn about God's goodness, have our very own church members tell us about Linus Blankets, and to hear my own testimony at the end of the month.

As always, I look forward to spending time with our teens!

Many Blessings,
Karissa Fleming
Karissa.Fleming@firstpresjoliet.org
(815)727-9259 x207



UPCOMING EVENTS WILDFIRE Youth Group Sundays, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 1—EASTER
No Meeting

**APRIL 8—LESSON
NIGHT**
God's Grace

**APRIL 15—SERVICE
PROJECT**
Linus Blankets

**APRIL 29—LIVE
TESTIMONY**
Karissa Fleming

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
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Address Service

First Presbyterian Church
805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for
reserving space in the April 25 *Servants'*
Light is **April 10**. Please e-mail to
sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:



April Daily Devotional Blog



4/1	Day of Reflection: God as Messiah		
4/2	Joshua 9-10	Psalms 40	John 8
4/3	Joshua 11-12	Eccl 5:1-9	John 9
4/4	Joshua 13-14	Psalms 41	John 10
4/5	Joshua 15-16	Eccl 5:10-20	John 11
4/6	Joshua 17-18	Psalms 42	John 12
4/7	Joshua 19-20	Eccl 6:1-6	John 13
4/8	Day of Reflection: God as Friend		
4/9	Joshua 21-22	Psalms 43	John 14
4/10	Joshua 23-24	Eccl 6:7-12	John 15
4/11	Judges 1-3	Psalms 44	John 16
4/12	Judges 4-6	Eccl 7:1-13	John 17
4/13	Judges 7-9	Psalms 45	John 18
4/14	Judges 10-12	Eccl 7:14-29	John 19
4/15	Day of Reflection: God as Lion and		
4/16	Judges 13-15	Psalms 46	John 20

4/17	Judges 16-18	Eccl 8:1-9	John 21
4/18	Judges 19-21	Psalms 47	Acts 1
4/19	Ruth 1-2	Eccl 8:10-17	Acts 2
4/20	Ruth 3-4	Psalms 48	Acts 3
4/21	1 Sam 1-3	Eccl 9:1-10	Acts 4
4/22	Day of Reflection: God as Sovereign		
4/23	1 Sam 4-6	Psalms 49	Acts 5
4/24	1 Sam 7-9	Eccl 9:11-18	Acts 6
4/25	1 Sam 10-12	Psalms 50	Acts 7
4/26	1 Sam 13-15	Eccl 10:1-11	Acts 8
4/27	1 Sam 16-18	Psalms 51	Acts 9
4/28	1 Sam 19-21	Eccl 10:12-20	Acts 10
4/29	Day of Reflection: God as Capable		
4/30	1 Sam 22-24	Psalms 52	Acts 11