



# The Servants' Light

June 27, 2018

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***“Servants of  
Jesus Christ—  
Ministering  
To One Another,  
To Our Community,  
And To Our World.”***

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## **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.



Parish Council presents “Sounds of Summer”  
Concert Series

We had a great time last Wednesday with Ed  
Thompson and “ED”ertainment, to kick off our  
“Sounds of Summer” Concert Series.

On July 18th we'll gather for the second concert,  
featuring the return of the Matthew Miller Group.  
The Matthew Miller Group is comprised of musi-  
cians who play in varying combinations and settings  
throughout the Chicagoland area. This edition of  
the group focuses on interpretations of spirituals,  
jazz standards, and modern compositions, all deeply  
rooted in the jazz tradition. The versatility and  
knowledge of each musician allows the band to present music that is full of  
life and is always an exciting experience!



And on August 15—Calvary Quartet of Orland Park,  
IL, with special guest Royce Laverman, will present  
Southern Gospel Hymns and more!

Each concert evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with  
refreshments and dessert, with the concerts beginning at  
7 p.m. and more refreshments after the concert. A Freewill Offering will be  
received to benefit our Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event in  
November.

**Save the dates and invite friends!**

### Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor



As I am writing this letter today, the front office is buzzing with excitement in preparation of getting a new coat of paint. In many ways, I feel that as a church, we have experienced that excitement in the past few months—Hoffman Hall looking fresh with new paint and chairs, the kitchen

got a facelift with new stoves and new freezer and fridge. But there is something else that is new here at First Pres., something that gets me all excited: It is seeing so many people serving and getting caught up in the joy that service brings.

Last week was a fun week here at church: we had 120 kids singing like I have never seen them before, excited to share what they learned in Mr. B's class; and I have to say they did an awesome job raising \$1,300 for FMSC. But we also had our first concert in the Summer Concert Series, and everyone had a great time. The lunch program is going well, keeping Barb Rogers and all her dedicated volunteers busy as they serve all the kids that come every day. That is exciting!

The church is at work, serving and not slowing down. I want to encourage you to catch that spirit, that joy, and even if it is summer time, to get connected to a ministry here at First Pres. If you are like me, it does good to your soul, to see all the smiling faces that are blessed

by the many people serving Christ in our community.

This Sunday, July 1: This Sunday I am preaching on the Lord's Prayer - Your Kingdom Come. Just this morning I was talking to Bob Haas, who is assisting in worship this Sunday, about the importance of understanding the meaning of the Kingdom of God. For many of us, that has a future understanding, of the things to come, of the things that have not happened yet, and yet Jesus proclaimed: The kingdom has come, it is here, it is in your midst! I will encourage you to read Matthew 13 (The Kingdom Parable Chapter) with the following question: What is my understanding of the Kingdom of God? I am looking forward to seeing you on Sunday morning to worship together with you and share the Lord's Supper as a reminder of the promise of God's Kingdom. Ken Myers will be providing special music. Remember to come 10 minutes early to the 9 a.m. service every Sunday in July for our traditional July Hymn Sings.

Be Blessed,

Bo



#### Just Born:

Isabella Juliet DaMassa (June 18)  
Daughter of David & Jennifer (Cox) DaMassa  
Granddaughter of Steve & Mary Gajcak

#### Baptized:

William James Orr (June 3)  
Son of Jeremy & Sarah (Bornhofen) Orr  
Charlotte Olivia Jaworski (June 3)  
Daughter of Nicholas & Anna (Bornhofen) Jaworski  
Colin Robert Becker (June 3)  
Son of Robert Becker & Stacy Beeson  
Amber Lynn Korach (June 3)  
Jasmine Elizabeth Maxwell (June 3)



**June 24, 2018**

Worship Attendance — 182

#### **Stewardship Report**

2018-2019 Budget: \$799,852

<b>Year to Date Receipts</b>	\$156,123
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$163,134

Feed My Starving Children — \$4,859.89 to date  
2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — -0-

To make a donation on your credit card, please visit our website, [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org).

## Growing in Christ—

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### A Refreshing Look at the Lord's Prayer Sermon Series

Of all the prayers we pray, "The Lord's Prayer" is, by far, the best known and recognized in all of Christianity. Why have a sermon series on this great prayer? Because sometimes, even the most "recognizable" can become commonplace...losing its deep meaning.

Using Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught his disciples how to pray to God, the Father in 6 petitions—58 words in all. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Every prayer is contained in it. Whatever is included in the petitions of the Lord's Prayer is prayed aright; whatever is not included is no prayer."

We began last Sunday with "Keeping Our Distance," which focused on a simple understanding that while God is very close with us and he wants to be in relationship with us... God is still God and we are not. The next 5 weeks will continue to offer a refreshing look at:

July 1: Crossing to the Future

July 8: Willing Obedience

July 15: Feeding Ourselves

July 22: Writing it Off

July 29: Crying for Help



Summer Choir sings July 8, 15, 22, 29, and again on August 26. This is a great opportunity to join the choir on a short term basis. We rehearse Sunday mornings at 8:15 a.m., before the 9 a.m. service. Also in July, we'll have our annual Summer Hymn Sings. Come 10 minutes before the 9:00 a.m. service to request your favorite hymns.



[www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org)

## Adult Education Opportunities

### Adult Discussion Groups

#### Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Discussion Group

We are in the home stretch for this summer. Our next discussion groups will be on Tuesdays, July 10 and 24. Bring your lunch and join us for a SPIRIT-led discussion on Tuesdays at noon in Room 210.

#### Men's Discussion Group

We are wrapping up our discussions on Galatians—our last 2 discussion group dates are July 11 and July 25 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210. Bring your Bible and join us as we look at Paul's letter.



We are accepting resumes for the position of Handbell Director. If you are interested in this part-time paid position, please call the church office. Or, if you know of someone who might like this position, please refer them to the details on our website, [www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org). Directing experience, a knowledge of music theory, and experience in church music would be helpful. If you have music experience, our Handbell Choir will help make the transition to handbells!



## 2nd Sunday Potluck

Save the date — July 8—for our 2nd Sunday Potluck. Plan to join us for a great lunch and spend some quality time with friends. We'll gather right after 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 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-

## Welcome, New Members

Kendra Albers (Mrs. Jim) 217-898-9677  
806 Nightshade Lane  
Shorewood, IL 60404  
kendraalbers@hotmail.com  
Children: Tate, Hale

Amber Korach 815-370-4831  
1213 C Cedarwood Dr.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403  
alkorach@gmail.com

Judy Korach 815-528-8052  
1213 C Cedarwood Dr.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Doug & Sandy Beguin 815-467-7001  
23965 S. Navajo Dr.  
Channahon, IL 60410

Jasmine Maxwell 872-230-9422  
1400 N. Rock Run Dr., Apt. C3  
Crest Hill, IL 60403  
jasminemaxwell@hotmail.com  
Child: Malik



Kendra, Sandy, Doug, Jasmine



Judy, Amber

## Small Groups & Special Events

### Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 14, 2018, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to allow a freewill offering to be taken at the Sounds of Summer Concerts to benefit the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event this fall;

—to accept new members Kendra Albers, Amber Korach, Judy Korach, Doug & Sandy Beguin, and Jasmine Maxwell;

—to accept the resignation of Paula Stimpert as Handbell Choir Director.

## Ladies Fellowship

Our next Ladies Fellowship event is "Bunco & Chocolate" on Tuesday, July 17, at 6:30 p.m. Bunco is an easy to learn game, and a great way to get to know others because teams switch up during play. Bring your favorite chocolate item to share (if you're allergic to chocolate just bring your favorite

dessert/sweet). Come join us for a night of fun and chocolate therapy!



## Meal Fellowship

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

**Dinner Out Group**—July 17, 6 p.m. at White Fence Farm, 1376 Joliet Road, Romeoville. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

**Men's Dinner Group**—July 27, 6 p.m. at Old Town Restaurant, 113 Stephen, Lemont. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

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

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

### More Night Deacons News

The Night Deacons donated \$500 to Joliet School District 86 to sponsor 50 students to attend the Education Day Celebration at the Slammers Game on May 17, 2018. These students were awarded this game day because of academic and attendance accomplishments. Many would not have the funds to pay for the game and lunch. Our donation provided those funds for 50 students who might not otherwise have been able to attend. First Presbyterian Church received a letter of appreciation from the Elementary Principals of Joliet District 86 and pictures of some of the smiling children who were able to attend.

### Summer Giving

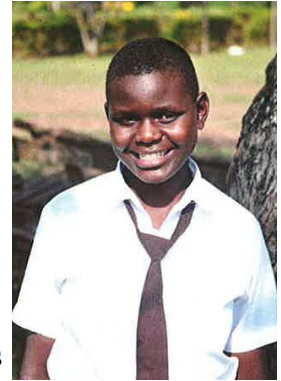
With Summer vacation now upon us, it’s easy to stay current with your pledge in support of the life, mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Here are the guidelines for On-Line Giving and Text Giving.

For on-line giving, just go to our website—[firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)— and click on the On-Line Giving box on the home page. You can plug in your user e-mail address and set up a password, then follow the instructions.

For Text Giving, text an amount to 815-205-3044. The first time you text a donation, you will be prompted with a one-time registration screen. This will assign your mobile number to First Pres., and allow you to select what account from which your text donation is withdrawn.



Rhobi, age 15, is the younger sister of Bhoke. They both live at Angel House Orphanage in Tanzania. Rhobi is quiet and very sweet. She loves God and loves to worship Him. She enjoys school and is very organized. Rhobi’s favorite subject is math and her favorite hobby is singing. She would like to be a financial officer. Rhobi would like you to pray for her—for focus and discipline in her studies and that God would give her confidence and direction.



### Mission for the Homeless

Our Mission to the Homeless continues—providing needed items on a monthly basis to the homeless in our community. Helping is easy—simply bring pop-top canned goods such as soups and stews, fruit with peel-off lids, toiletries, etc. and place them in the bins in the Narthex (check out the list of needed items in the Narthex). Especially needed are warm socks. Then once a month we’ll pack up bags after worship and on Monday will deliver them to MorningStar Mission for distribution. The next bag-packing day is Sunday, July 22. Please call Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396, if you have questions or to offer your help.

A graphic with the text "Did You Know?" in a black, handwritten-style font, set against a yellow brushstroke background.

You can contribute to the church by simply making Amazon.com purchases through the web page, “[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)”. This is a simple way to contribute .5% of Amazon purchases to the church!





**THANK YOU, THANK YOU**  
 —to all who helped with our Ship-  
 wrecked VBS last week—teachers,  
 bakers, snack preparers, T-shirt  
 makers, decorators, etc. ....  
 It was a fantastic week!  
**AND....\$1,300** was raised for  
 the VBS Feed My Starving  
 Children mission project!





# WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP

## EXCERPTS FROM THE BLOG

Sunday, June 24 — by Jon

We arrived at the church, ready to load our bags onto the van and get into the service. During service, we were able to get commissioned by the church, an interesting experience that set the mood for the trip ahead. The elders coming forward and putting their hands on us... showed an overwhelming sense of community and love, that fueled the trip participants.

Monday, June 25 — by Vaughn

On this day, my group and I went to the Boys and Girls Kids Club. This place is the absolute bomb, it was so cool and nice to see all the kids smiling and being so happy even in the conditions they were in. This was my favorite day out of the 2 days we've been on this trip so far.... The place was different because of the poverty the kids were in and how they still kept on going with happy faces and having so much fun. After the service day, we went to a very cool Christian rap concert.... Thank you for supporting us.

Tuesday, June 26 — by Michael

The worksite for our group today was centered at a community garden just outside the city. There, locals (specifically the elderly for our garden) were invited to plant their own fruits and vegetables in slots to donate to the community.... Some of us were digging, some of us were laying mulch, some were pulling weeds, etc... The main job I was tasked with was removing a tree stump from the ground by handsaw. This singular job then turned into one for Dane and I, then one for Dane, Jon and I, and then one for half of the workforce at the garden. The thing would not come out of there! Sadly we had to leave just as we were about to knock the sucker down.... Finally, we went to a museum that focused on telling the story of the underground railroad. ...It seemed to have a very emotional effect on a lot of the people there, so that was cool to see a bunch of people getting affected by the history of our country.

Please pray for those on the Sr. High Mission Trip—

Michael Endres, Jon Gabl, Dane Iwema, Vaughn Iwema, Xander Sticklen, Abby Warf and Aaron Warf; Youth Director Karissa Fleming and Advisers Dale Endres and Mahryha Iwema. You can read the full daily blogs at [firstpresmissiontrips.wordpress.com](http://firstpresmissiontrips.wordpress.com)



## JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR:

**July 8: Bonfire**

**\*Sr. High Trip Reunion,  
4 pm to 6 pm**

**\*All Youth Fellowship,  
6 pm to 8 pm**

**July 25-27: Jr. High  
Mission Trip**

**August 11: Pool Party at  
Pritz's**

**\*Jr. High Trip Reunion,  
3 pm to 5 pm**

**\*All Youth Fellowship,  
5 pm to 7 pm**

**August 26: Summer  
Review Night!**

**\*at Church,  
6 pm to 7:30 pm**



**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

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**Address Service**

First Presbyterian Church  
 805 Western Ave.  
 Joliet, IL 60435

**Newsletter Deadline**—The deadline for  
 reserving space in the July 25 *Servants' Light*  
 is **July 10**. Please e-mail to  
[sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org).

TO:

## July Daily Devotional Blog

7/1	<b>Day of Reflection: God as Everlasting</b>		
7/2	Ezra 1-2	Psalm 81	2 Cor 5
7/3	Ezra 3-4	Job 24	2 Cor 6
7/4	Ezra 5-6	Psalm 82	2 Cor 7
7/5	Ezra 7-8	Job 25	2 Cor 8
7/6	Ezra 9-10	Psalm 83	2 Cor 9
7/7	Neh 1-3	Job 26	2 Cor 10
7/8	<b>Day of Reflection: God as Refuge</b>		
7/9	Neh 4-5	Psalm 84	2 Cor 11
7/10	Neh 6-7	Job 27	2 Cor 12
7/11	Neh 8-10	Psalm 85	2 Cor 13
7/12	Neh 11-13	Job 28	Gal 1
7/13	Esther 1-2	Psalm 86	Gal 2
7/14	Esther 3-4	Job 29	Gal 3
7/15	<b>Day of Reflection: God as Victor</b>		
7/16	Esther 5-6	Psalm 87	Gal 4
7/17	Esther 7-8	Job 30	Gal 5

7/18	Esther 9-10	Psalm 88	Gal 6
7/19	Isaiah 1	Job 31	Eph 1
7/20	Isaiah 2	Ps 89:1-26	Eph 2
7/21	Isaiah 3	Job 32	Eph 3
7/22	<b>Day of Reflection: God as High Priest</b>		
7/23	Isaiah 4	Ps 89:27-52	Eph 4
7/24	Isaiah 5	Job 33	Eph 5
7/25	Isaiah 6	Psalm 90	Eph 6
7/26	Isaiah 7	Job 34	Phil 1
7/27	Isaiah 8	Psalm 91	Phil 2
7/28	Isaiah 9	Job 35	Phil 3
7/29	<b>Day of Reflection: God as Humble</b>		
7/30	Isaiah 10	Psalm 92	Phil 4
7/31	Isaiah 11	Job 36	Col 1

Neh = Nehemiah; Ps = Psalm; Cor = Corinthians;  
 Gal = Galatians; Eph = Ephesians;  
 Phil = Philippians; Col = Colossians