



e-News

July 18, 2018

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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"The Lord's Prayer" Series

We are forgiven in and through the mercy of God come to us through the sacrificial death of Jesus, for all sin, on the cross. When we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask for forgiveness each and every time because we need God's mercy. As we study the Lord's prayer together we move to the second section of the prayer in asking for our daily bread and in asking for forgiveness. The first section deals with what God expects of us. The second section is about what we may expect from God. How good to know that the Lord wants us to ask for forgiveness, which he wants to provide, provided we extend the forgiveness given to us, to others, our debtors.

I will be preaching on "Writing It Off" this Sunday. I encourage you to prepare for Worship by reading the scripture passages for the sermon, Matthew 6:9-15 and Matthew 18:21-35. It's my second week back from my two-month Sabbatical time and I look forward to Sunday worship and seeing all of you.

The Lord's Prayer Series

July 22—"Writing it Off"

July 29—"Crying for Help"

Rejoice in the wonderful forgiveness of God in and through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.

--Craig Herr

Music this Sunday:

9:00 a.m. — Hymn Sing and Summer Choir

10:30 a.m. — Worship Band

Our Church Family

Known to be in the hospital:

Ellen Vaughn at Presence St. Joseph

The hospitals will no longer call to tell us if members have been admitted, so please let us know if you or a member of your family is in the hospital.

The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

Stewardship Council—July 18, 3:30 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Sounds of Summer Concert—Matthew Miller Group—
July 18, 6:30 p.m.

Bike Ride—July 22, 2 p.m.; meet at the Joliet Iron
Works Trail

Project Linus—July 23, 9 a.m. in Hoffman Hall

Lunch Bunch Discussion Group—July 24, 12 noon in
Room 217

Women's Bible Study—July 25, 10 a.m. Call Mary Lynn
Keir at 815-782-4762

Men's Discussion Group—July 25, 6:30 p.m.
in Room 217

Men's Dinner—July 27, 6 p.m. at Old Town Restau-
rant, 113 Stephen, Lemont.

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

Mission

Mission for the Homeless—Check out the list in the narthex for items to bring—easy open canned goods, warm socks, toiletries, etc. Socks are especially needed. The next packing day is July 22. We have a lot of items to pack, the more hands the better! Call Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396, with questions or if you can help.

Kids Summer Lunch Program—11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, through August 17. Kids Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. This year kids can come at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays for open gym. Tuesdays are movie days; and on Thursdays and Fridays crafts, board games, Fun with Foods, etc. will be offered during the 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. timeframe. If you can help with the activities or help distribute the meals, call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 or 708-744-2161 (cell).

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Here are the Books that captured my attention the last two months. During my sabbatical, six books (about 1700 pages) became my friends.

The Power of Moments: Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact by Chip Heath & Dan Heath (268 pages). The authors share how we can create moments and experiences that shape those whom we serve in good and life-enhancing ways.

Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression—And the Unexpected Solutions by Johann Hari (264 pages). Researchers and studies indicate that Depression and Anxiety has biological, psychological, and social causes. Yet there is still much to learn. The author focuses on these causes of depression and anxiety. Disconnections from: Meaningful Work, Other People, Meaningful Values, Childhood Trauma, Status and Respect, the Natural World, a Hopeful or Secure Future, and then the Real Role of Genes and Brain Changes. All of these “Disconnections” are a part of the world and culture we experience today. As I read this book I thought that the answer is Jesus Christ and the Church being the kind of church in the world which Jesus has in mind for us.

Center Church by Timothy Keller (382 pages). Timothy Keller started a new church in Manhattan, NY, of all places, after teaching in a Seminary following a pastorate. He understands the Gospel, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and how to do ministry in the city and our culture. He advocates that the church needs to be a missional church in our cities and world today. It's an excellent book about being the church and following Christ into our neighborhoods, city, and world.

Remember the Future by Robert Schnase (137 pages). Schnase writes 28 short messages to help followers of Christ and the Church get excited about all the possibilities for ministry and mission through the local church today.

Strategic Planning for Public and Non Profit Organizations: A Guide to Strengthening and Sustaining Organizational Achievement by John M. Bryson (491 pages). This is an excellent text book study of Bryson's Strategy Change Cycle to raise the value, level of service, and impact by any Organization in the world.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Revised and Updated by Robert Schnase (175 pages). This is a fresh book full of faithful, relevant, and real-life ways to be the church Jesus intends us to be. It's an amazing rewrite about Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. Here we see Christ alive in churches and followers of Jesus across the U.S.

Wait, one more book, the devotional I use—the 4th Edition in a series. A Guide To Prayer For All Who Walk With God by Rueben Job, Norman Shawchuck, and John. S. Mogabgab (39 pages). It is a devotional with a Psalm for each week, a scripture passage for each day, prayers for each week, and short readings (a paragraph) for each day.

If you are still reading, I would add that every follower of Christ Jesus needs to read! First, we need to read our Bible. Find a devotional that works for you so you read 5-10 minutes each day at some point. We will not, we cannot, grow if we refuse to read. I write this born of experience over the course of my life. It's not a pastor thing, it's a Christian thing.

So, I encourage you, read your Bible first. Then find other good books to read.

Once again, thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity to learn and renew my spirit on Sabbatical.

In Christ, Craig

KIDS

Free Summer Lunch Program

Monday—Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays for Open Gym; Tuesdays are Movie Days during the lunch times; Thursdays & Fridays are Craft/Board Game/Fun With Food Days

WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP

Jr. High Mission Trip: July 25-July 27. We will be serving Joliet's own local organizations (Big Brothers Big Sisters, Hands of Hope, and Hopeful Tails) while also serving our own church home. Each night will include a fun activity as well! Students who are entering the 6th grade in the fall to students who just graduated 8th grade are welcome. The three days will be filled with work, laughter, and the chance to grow closer as a church family! For more information please contact Karissa: 815-954-3047. Cost for this mission trip is \$20/student.

FAMILIES

Sounds of Summer Concert—July 18, 6:30 p.m.
featuring the Matthew Miller Group

Biking Group—We'll meet Sunday, July 22, 2 p.m. at the Joliet Ironworks Trail. Call Jon Belfield at 815-592-0956 if interested.

Volunteers this Sunday, July 22, 2018

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship & Holy Hunters:

Bo Mircea

Bo Mircea

Greeters:

Joan Paul

Acolytes:

Cameron Paul

Tait Wilson

Ushers:

Allan Somers, Capt.;

Ed Schultz, Capt.;

Marion Somers

Mark Dykema

Coffee Fellowship: Estella Jurkovich, Capt.; Jon Belfield

Sound Room: Cliff Stepina

Video Screens:

July 15, 2018

Worship Attendance — 165

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts \$188,916

Year to Date Expenses \$212,384

Feed My Starving Children so far — \$5,060

(Goal—\$23,900, 109,000 meals, feeds

300 Children for an entire year)

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$ -0-

To make a donation on your credit card, please visit our website, firstpresjoliet.org