



e-News

December 12, 2018

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

The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

Church Growth Council—Dec. 12, 4:30 p.m.
Executive Committee—Dec. 13, 6 p.m.
Session—Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Human Resources Council—Dec. 19, 8 a.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Thursday Morning Circle—Dec. 13, 9:15 a.m.
Mary Circle—Dec. 13, 12 noon
Lunch Bunch Discussion Group—Dec. 18, 12 noon
Dinner Out—Dec. 18, 6 p.m. at Fox's Restaurant,
14206 S. Route 30, Plainfield

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

The PW Mitten Tree is up! This tree, in the back entry hall, is dedicated to helping keep the children at Farragut School warm in these freezing months. Donations of mittens, hats, boots, and gently used outerwear are appreciated.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken at worship services December 23 and 24. Seventy percent 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.).

Mission to the Homeless—Easy open canned goods, warm socks, toiletries, etc. are always needed and now that winter is here, warm hats, gloves, and socks are especially needed. If you work for a company that would like to share in this mission, call Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396.

Our Micro Pantry is filling a need in our community. The "Take what you need, leave what you can" policy is designed to allow anonymous food pick-up for those in need and a drop-off point for those who wish to donate. Lisa Kasper is working with Linda and Wayne Zoellick as well as Kendall Fris to grow this ministry for those in need.



"Advent is not just about Christmas! Rather, it is about the beginning of the Christian year. The focus is on the future of all things as seen through the eyes of those who follow Jesus. At the same time, the Season of Advent takes history seriously and encourages us to remember and reflect upon God's mighty acts and how they affect us today." *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God*, by R. Job, N. Shawchuck, J. Mogabgab

In this time, we make our preparations to celebrate the mighty act of the Savior's birth once more. We are considering what it means for God to be With Us in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. --Craig Herr

As we continue our sermon series "God With Us," we will seek the message from John the Baptist, "the voice from the wilderness," who says, "bear fruits worthy of repentance." My sermon text is Luke 3:7-18 paired with John 15:1-5. Both passages talk about bearing fruit and we will dig deeper into the message John the Baptist brought to the people then and to us today as we think about not only celebrating the birth of Jesus but his promised return. --Dale Ambler

Music this Sunday:

9:00 a.m. — Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers

10:30 a.m. — Worship Band

Volunteers this Sunday, December 16, 2018

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship:

Laura Pritz

Pam LeVasseur

Greeters:

Jan Gehrig

Advent Family:

The Corcorans

The Lundeens

Ushers:

Allan Somers

Ed Schultz

Marion Somers

Lisa Ambler

Coffee Fellowship: Sue Fordyce, Capt.;

Sound Room: Keith LeVasseur

Video Screens:

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

“A Christmas Gift” Concert is this Saturday afternoon. This is going to be a wonderful experience of Christmas music. The song selection is tremendous and inspirational. I hope you will bring your guest(s) to the Christmas Concert this Saturday, December 15, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. You can be a part of giving the gift of inspirational music to someone you know.

Christmas Breakfast This Sunday. Come and enjoy a great breakfast and meal fellowship in Hoffman Hall anytime from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Orders for Poinsettias. There's still time to order poinsettias by calling the office. They are \$12 each. Call this week to order one.

Christmas Candlelight Worship Services. We have four Candlelight Services, one on Christmas Eve, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. Then we have three more on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 3:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. I encourage you to bring guest(s) to any of our Candlelight Services.

Habitat Preparing to Build a New Home. Habitat is going to build a new house in the 1500 block of North Raynor Ave. this summer. If you are interested in helping to build this new home, which is not far from our church, please let me or one of our Mission Council Members know—Mary Kessling or Mahryha Iwema. Dave Cavanaugh and I attended the meeting to learn about the details for the new home and the wider mission of Habitat for Humanity in Will County.

“God With Us” Advent Devotional Available at Church. Pick up a copy of David Boyd's “God With Us: Devotions for Advent” in the Narthex/Lobby area this Sunday. It's a very good spiritual resource for preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth.

In Christ,
Craig

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Congratulations to Dan and Samantha (Parratore) Golembiewski on the birth of their son, Dominik Lee Golembiewski, on November 24, 2018. Very proud and happy grandparents are Sharon and Rocky Ausec.

Sympathies are extended to the family of Robert Fraser, who passed away on December 9. A memorial service will be held Friday, December 14, 10 a.m. at Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral Home. Visitation is Thursday, December 13, 4 to 8 p.m.

Sympathies are also extended to Joe and Laura Sutton and family on the passing of Joe's father, Thomas Sutton, on December 7 in Naperville.

KIDS

Pizza and Caroling, Dec. 19. Meet at church at 5:30 p.m. for dinner before we go caroling.

YOUTH

Midweek Teen Bible Study:

Join us tonight as we come together as a church family and create gifts to bring to the nursing home next week when we go caroling! Crafting isn't your thing? That's okay! Maybe you can write a note of encouragement. Remember, the elderly are some of the most forgotten and lonely people in the U.S. and God calls us to care for and love the least of these. Invite a friend and spread the holiday cheer!

Wildfire Youth Group:

This Sunday during the “Who is Jesus” series we will take a look at the miraculous Resurrection. We will gain insight into its historical accuracy as well as the miracle itself! It'll be a great night of celebration! Wildfire Youth Group meets Sundays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and students in grades 6-12 are invited.

Wildfire Youth Group Christmas Party is on December 23! Attend the 5 p.m. Christmas service and engage in a time of worshipping the King of King's birth! Afterwards, at 6 p.m., we will all head upstairs and have our own party. We will play Christmas games, have food, decorate cookies, and hear the story of Jesus' birth as told in Luke. It'll be a fun time and you should bring a friend!

FAMILIES

Mid-Week Family Night, Tonight, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.—Dinner for everyone

6:30 p.m.—Kids Music & Learning

—Teen Bible Study

—Men's Bible Discussion Group
(Proverbs)

—Women's Discussion Group (Bob Goff's book, *Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People*)

Pizza & Caroling—Dec. 19. Meet at church at 5:30 p.m. for pizza before we go caroling at Willow Falls Retirement Community.

(We are taking a 3-week Winter Break; next Mid-Week Family Night is January 16.)

“A Christmas Gift” concert—Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m.
(Nursery Care Provided)

Christmas Breakfast—Dec. 16, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

December 9, 2018

Worship Attendance — 206

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts	\$503,123
Year to Date Expenses	\$517,310

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$14,000

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.firstpresjoli.org, and click on “Giving.” Tracy is also receiving Pre-Pledges for 2019 and 25% of pre-pledged giving is used for January-March 2019, while 75% is used for April-December of 2019.

ADVENT

2018

Saturday, December 15

“A Christmas Gift” Concert, 3:30-5 p.m.

Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers, Solos, Ensembles,
Worship Band, Strings & Instruments
present a variety of Christmas music.
Bring a guest and celebrate the Hope and Joy
of the Christ Child’s Birth!

Sunday, December 16

Parish Council Christmas Breakfast

Serving 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
Scrambled Eggs, Sausage,
French Toast & Fruit
Gourmet Coffee & Juice Bar

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Sunday, December 23, 5 p.m.

Contemporary Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

3:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service
10:30 p.m. Musicale (Christmas Music as
we gather for worship)
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service