



e-News

December 5, 2018

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

Stewardship Council—Dec. 5, 3:30 p.m.
Education Council—Dec. 6, 6 p.m.
Parish Council—Dec. 9, 11:45 a.m.
Night Deacons—Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Church Growth Council—Dec. 12, 4:30 p.m.
Executive Committee—Dec. 13, 6 p.m.
Session—Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Men's Breakfast—Dec. 7, 7:30 a.m., at The Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St.
2nd Sunday Potluck—Dec. 9, after second service
Lunch Bunch Discussion Group—Dec. 11, 12 noon
Men's Discussion Group—Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Women's Discussion Group—Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Morning Circle—Dec. 13, 9:15 p.m.
Mary Circle—Dec. 13, 12 noon

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



The Advent Season has started! “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.

This Sunday I am preaching on “God With Us: Our Shepherd” as we continue the new Advent Sermons Series, “God With Us.” As you prepare for Worship this Sunday I invite you to read the following sermon texts: Zechariah 9:9-17 and John 10:1-14. God in Jesus comes to us as the Good Shepherd. He risks his life for us out of love. May the light of Christ’s loving presence shine upon you this Advent Season and always.

— Craig Herr

Music this Sunday:

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

Volunteers this Sunday, December 9, 2018

9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Children's Worship: Bo Mircea	Pam LeVasseur
Greeters: Emma Sticklen	
Acolytes:	Carter Laken
Ushers: Roger Hileman, Capt.	Ed Schultz, Capt. Laura House
Coffee Fellowship: Barb Rodgers, Capt.;	
Sound Room: Rich Pool	
Video Screens:	

KIDS

Wednesday Mid-Week tonight.
Save the date—Dec. 19 for Pizza and Caroling

YOUTH

Wildfire Youth Group:

This week we will be making Christmas care packages for a few of our sisters who experienced loss this year. Bring something to youth group this week that brings you joy so you can help spread that joy to these sisters in Christ! For example, I love writing and will be giving each of our four widows a journal to spread my love of writing. We want to share part of ourselves with these women while bringing the Christmas joy to them as well. It'll be a great Sunday!

Midweek Teen Bible Study:

Tonight we will begin a new series where we go through the Gospel of Matthew. Tonight's lesson will focus on the history of the book and we will learn a little more about the tax collector that became one of Jesus' disciples!

The Final News on our Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Packing Event. In a second e-mail from Carrie L. Wiggins, Development Advisor – MobilePack for FMSC, I learned the following news:

All of the meals we packed have been sent to needy children in Haiti, which means they received 116,640 meals in 540 boxes. That will feed 319 children for an entire year. They were sent to the organization “Food for the Poor” in Haiti.

Food for the Poor links the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. Please check out the following blog post to see the impact of some of the work of Food for the Poor in Haiti: <https://www.fmsc.org/the-feed/from-the-field/2017/september/who-are-the-adults>

Habitat Build Meeting at First Pres. This Saturday. This Saturday, December 8, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., there will be a meeting to learn about Habitat’s Faith Build for the upcoming year of 2019. Habitat is going to build a new house on North Raynor Ave. in the 1500 block. We can be involved in building this new home. If you are interested in putting your faith into action in this exciting opportunity, show up on Saturday, December 8, between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in Room 210.

A Wonderful 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 great resource for preparing to celebrate Jesus’ birth. David Boyd writes, “We so often say to one another ‘God be with you!’ But we frequently fail to contemplate the miracle and meaning behind the message of ‘God with us’ in the person of Jesus Christ. Theologians call this the incarnation. We simply call it Christmas—the day God came down to be with us, embodied in the human flesh of a baby born in Bethlehem.”

A Christmas Gift. Why not bring your guest(s) to our Christmas Concert on 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.

In Christ,
Craig

Habitat for Humanity Build Meeting, December 8, 8:30 –9:30, in Room 210. Come learn about Habitat’s 2019 build in the 1500 block of North Raynor Ave. This is an exciting opportunity to put our faith into action!

PW Second Time Around Christmas Sale— Last Call for 2nd Time Around Christmas items. The Sale is this Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and during Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 9. Please bring your treasures/donations in by this Friday, December 7. Leave them under the coat rack in Hoffman Hall. It’s going to be a very colorful sale!

Our Micro Pantry is already 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.

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

Mission to the Homeless—Easy open canned goods, warm socks, toiletries, etc. are always needed and now that fall 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.

FAMILIES

Mid-Week Family Night, 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*)

2nd Sunday Potluck—Dec. 9, after second service

“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 2, 2018
Worship Attendance — 188

Stewardship Report
2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts	\$484,165
Year to Date Expenses	\$500,688

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$4,000

Feed My Starving Children so far — \$10,200
(Goal—\$23,900, 109,000 meals, feeds 300 Children for an entire year. We packed 116,640 meals that will feed 319 children for an entire year, \$25,660!)

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.” 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 8

2nd Time Around Christmas Sale

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Proceeds benefit PW missions

Habitat for Humanity Build Meeting

8:30 a.m., Room 210

Sunday, December 9

2nd Sunday Potluck, 11:45 a.m.

Bring a dish to share

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.

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