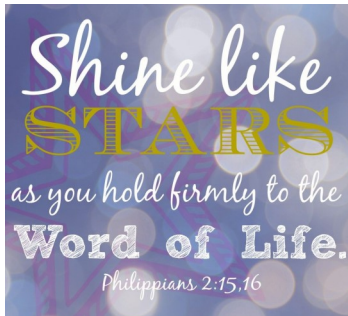




e-News

January 2, 2019

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



And an early “Happy New Year!!” This coming Sunday we are back to 2 services and we will be celebrating communion at both. We begin a new sermon series, “Run Your Race” with Sunday’s message, “A God-Inspired Life” using Philippians 2:1-18 as a foundation for the sermon. It’s a new year and we begin by focusing on whether we look like stars shining in the world amidst a “crooked and perverse generation” (Phil 2:15).
— Dale Ambler

Music this Sunday:

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

The Week Ahead

*****Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:**

PW Board—Jan. 4, 11 a.m.
Night Deacons—Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Stewardship Council—Jan. 9, 3:30 p.m.
Church Growth Council—Jan. 9, 4:30 p.m.
Executive Committee—Jan. 10, 6 p.m.
Session—Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

*****Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:**

Men’s Breakfast—Jan. 4, 7:30 a.m. at The Old Fashioned Pancake House
Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast—Jan. 5, 8 to 10 a.m.
Women’s Bible Study—Jan. 9, 10 a.m.; call Mary Lynn Keir, 815-782-4762
Thursday Morning Cir. —Jan. 10, 9:15 a.m.
Joint Circles Lunch—Jan. 10, 11:30 a.m.
Mary Circle—Jan. 10, 12 noon

Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 217
Praise Yoga—on break; resuming Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. & Thursday, Jan. 10, at 8 a.m.

“Run Your Race” Sermon Series

January 6	A God-Inspired Life Philippians 2:12-18
January 13	In Hope I Corinthians 9:24
January 20	Overcoming Obstacles Hebrews 12:1-4, Psalm 27
January 27	Don’t Run Alone

Volunteers this Sunday, January 6, 2019

<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Children’s Worship:</u> Laura Pritz	Kaleigh Belfield
<u>Greeters:</u>	
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Trevor Lakin
<u>Liturgists:</u> Joan Schultz	Carter Lakin
<u>Ushers:</u> Allen Brooks, Capt. Mark Dykema	Laura House
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u> , Capt.;	
<u>Sound Room:</u> Keith LeVasseur	
<u>Video Screens:</u>	

Free Pancake Breakfast, January 5:

Cooks—Adam Halatek, Jasmine Maxwell, Justin Keir, Allen Brooks; Helpers—Sue Fordyce, Allan & Marion Somers, Ed Schultz, Jon Belfield

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...

Dale Ambler, Associate Pastor

2019...a new year filled with possibilities or complaints? How do you see it? Personally, I am tired of all the negativity that surrounds us in this world, and while I am one small voice, I am taking this opportunity not to focus on stuff inside First Pres. (check out the monthly newsletter and the remainder of this week's eNews), but how First Pres. appears to those in our community and our world. Will those outside of our four walls know us as real believers in Jesus? I think this is a key part of the new sermon series starting on Sunday. Running the race of faith is not about how we think we look in the mirror but how others... those in need, those in pain, those who do not yet know the Jesus we claim to follow...How do they see us as disciples of Jesus?

I don't believe in new year resolutions but I do believe in people, and that the greatest majority of our human population is basically good. I am tired of the negativity and the hate, so maybe...just maybe...each of us can decide that there is indeed something better for our world and each of us, using the gifts given to us, will seek to make this world a better place to live by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ throughout our circles of influence. And, by the way, I believe this is the behavior Jesus wanted for all of his children who claim to be his disciples...what do you say, are you in? #MakeADifference

In Christ,
Dale

Mission

Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast is this Saturday, Jan. 5, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help greet and serve our guests!

On the first Sunday of each month, the Night Deacons collect monetary donations to fund their various ministries. Please use the special envelopes marked "Night Deacon Ministries" in the pew racks.

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.

Stephen Ministry—We have trained Stephen Ministers who are eager to walk alongside anyone who needs someone to provide caring listening and supportive conversation. If you need someone to talk to during a difficult time or a time of change or a time when you are recovering from one of life's challenges, call Kris Hayden, First Pres. Stephen Leader, @ 815-725-3696 or 815-258-8617 (cell).

KIDS

Mid-Week Family Night resumes Jan. 16.

YOUTH

Wildfire Youth Group regular meetings resume January 13.

Fellowship Event: On January 4 at 6:30 p.m. we will meet at Bob Becker's to watch *I Can Only Imagine*. Snacks will be provided, but make sure you eat dinner before. Bob's address: 1951 Macher St., Crest Hill. We look forward to seeing you there! The movie should be done around 8:45 p.m.

FAMILIES

Mid-Week Family Night. We are on break, resuming Jan. 16.

2nd Sunday Potluck is January 13, right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring your dish to share and join us for a great lunch, fun and fellowship.

Chili Cook-Off and Movie Night—Jan. 26

Chili Set-Up — 4:30 p.m.

Tasting — 5 p.m.

Movies begin — 6 p.m.

The Greatest Showman

Shark Boy & Lava Girl

The Star

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

Beautifully Broken

Vendors Wanted —

For our Spring Craft & Vendor Fair
Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Door prizes, Special Drawings, Lunch & Snacks available for purchase.

Information and registration form are on our website, www.firstpresjoliet.org.

Proceeds will benefit First Pres. Joliet Stephen Ministry and Women's Ministry.

December 30, 2018

Worship Attendance — 94

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts	\$574,469
Year to Date Expenses	\$587,408

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.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.