



e-News

February 13, 2019

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



“PARABLES: STORIES OF PURPOSE” SERMON SERIES

“Parables: Stories of Purpose” are the focus for a Sermon Series this February. Jesus often told stories and parables when teaching. Each parable has a particular point, which Jesus wishes to emphasize with his audience. We will see how Jesus’ teaching in Parables translates into today’s world each Sunday.

- February 10 “Appearances”
Matthew 13:24-30
- February 17 “One Question...”
Matthew 25:31-46
(The Sheep and the Goats)
- February 24 “Living out the Kingdom of God”
Matthew 13:31-32 (The Mustard Seed)
- March 3 “All In”
Luke 14:25-33 (Counting the Cost)

This Sunday’s sermon entitled, “One Question...,” comes to us from Matthew 25:31-46 and is one of those passages we find difficult to understand, and sometimes, even to accept. Difficult because it leads us to a word whose meaning is varied in our world today — judgment. Many want to turn away from this passage because “to be judged” is one of the ugliest phrases we know of today. But, if you let this passage wash over you, if you allow yourself to be immersed in these words from Jesus, you will find the trajectory of life is found here. Join us Sunday and, together, we will let this passage fill us with hope and truth.

--Dale Ambler

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital:

Todd Garrison at Provena St. Joseph

Our sympathies are extended to Judy Bartels, on the passing of her aunt, former First Pres. member Joan Pettigrew, last night in Ft. Myers, FL.

The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

- Church Growth Council—Feb. 13, 4:30 p.m.
- Executive Comm.—Feb. 14, 6 p.m.
- Session—Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
- Women’s Retreat Committee—Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
- Human Resources Council—Feb. 20, 8 a.m.
- Education Council—Feb. 21, 6 p.m.
- All-Officer Retreat—Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP To the office ASAP

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

- Thursday Morning Circle—Feb. 14, 9:15 a.m.
- Mary Circle—Feb. 14, 12 noon
- Lunch Bunch Adult Discussion Group—Feb. 19, 12 noon
- Dinner Out—Feb. 19, 6 p.m. at Tom Kelly’s, 495 Degroate Rd., New Lenox
- C4 Men’s Discussion Group—Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.
- Women’s Discussion Group—Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.
- Quilt Group—Feb. 21, 7 p.m. in Room 214-216
- Men’s Dinner—Feb. 22, 6 p.m. at Firewater BBQ, 1847 Knapp Rd., Crest Hill

Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 217
Praise Yoga—Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 8 a.m. in the Narthex

Volunteers this Sunday, February 17, 2019

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Connection Center:

Reed & Sue Mott

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Children’s Worship:

Stefanie Young

Bo Mircea

Greeters:

Jan Gehrig

Acolytes:

Emma Corcoran

Trevor Lakin

Liturgists:

Bob Haas

Teddy Lakin

Ushers:

Barb Rodgers, Capt.

Ed Schultz, Capt.

Mark Dykema

Coffee Fellowship: Allen Brooks, Capt.; Lilly Dunbar

Sound Room: Keith LeVasseur

Video Screens:

More Like Jesus: Sermon on the Mount Series for Lent. In less than a month we will start the Season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Evening Worship Service. Throughout Lent, on our way to Easter, we will focus on the Sermon on the Mount. We will journey through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from Matthew chapters 5-7. As we study these passages, we will relate them to the events surrounding Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In the process, our worship services will reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith in this special and sacred season.

Micro Food Pantry. Our Micro Food Pantry is open 7 days a week out in front of the church. Lisa Kasper is leading this ministry. Give her a call if you have questions. You can bring food in cans and boxes to share with those in need. Just place it in the micro pantry. The Micro Pantry currently has both food items and non-food items inside. Please feel free look at the items; then, if you are inspired and have items you'd like to place there, please do so. Food and non-food household items like soap and skin lotion are the intended items for the pantry. The only thing that Lisa asks is that you check the expiration dates of the items that you are donating. We want the food to be up to date and good.

Pray for the All Officer Retreat Evening on Thursday, February 21. Our Day Deacons, Night Deacons, and Elders are meeting to work on the ideas for ministry and mission posted on the Five Practices of Fruitful Ministry Boards. Pray for the ministries which will come to life that represent: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner, and then we'll get to work at 7:00 p.m. Please let our leaders know the ministry ideas you would like to help with and volunteer for in order to make them a reality. Everyone can be involved and serve in some capacity.

In Christ,
Craig

Community Bulletin Board

Trinity Christian School in Shorewood is seeking donations to their annual Benefit Auction. Held in March, this event raises money to provide scholarships to children who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. Item donation ideas include (but are not limited to): sport and/or concert tickets, rounds of golf, memorabilia, gift baskets, gift cards, etc. The item(s) can be from a business, a family, or an individual, and they ask that the minimum value be \$25. Kendra Albers, Tate's mom, is coordinating all donations, so please reach out to her by February 15th if you are interested in contributing to this great cause!

KIDS

Mid-Week Family Night is tonight!

YOUTH

Midweek Teen Bible Study: This week we will finish Matthew 5 by looking at what Jesus says about Anger, Lust, Divorce, Retaliation, and loving our enemies. We'll even practice praying for those who hurt us by privately writing our prayer request on a notecard and keeping those prayers with us throughout the week. What better way is there to prepare for Valentine's Day than to learn the true beauty, freedom, and art of loving our enemies?

Wildfire Youth Group: Invite your friends to this event and win a special prize! Our dear friends at Enlivened are coming to our Youth Group to share their music, their lives, and their call with us on Feb. 17. The music is contemporary worship music and will include songs from a band that we have been blessed to work with over the past year and a half. Enlivened's Danny Tracy and Jenni Rojas shared their testimonies in 2018, while the entire band played for our Junior High Mission Trip. We are excited to have them for the evening and really hope you grab a friend to share the good news with them, too!

FAMILIES

Mid-Week Family Night, Wednesdays,
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 C4 Bible Discussion Group

(discussing the 4 C's: Christ, Conviction, Courage, & Compassion))

—Women's Discussion Group (studying Max Lucado's book, *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*)

February 10, 2019

Worship Attendance — 178

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts \$638,273

Year to Date Expenses \$649,982

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."

Thank you for Spaghetti Dinner Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spaghetti To-Go Fundraiser! We were excited to have sold around 250 dinners, made \$2,400 in profits, and had 13 kids helping us out! While the financial success is one thing, I want to share a story of our youth and the impact that they made on one man's life.

That Saturday night was warmer than some we've been experiencing, but it was still cold. One of our youth noticed a man grabbing food from the micro pantry and brought him inside, while another youth took money from her own pocket and gave it to him. Soon after, another youth invited him to have a warm meal that had generously been donated.

This man, Carlos, spent the remainder of the fundraiser in the Fireside Room with a few youth and their families. They grew to learn about Carlos as a man, not just the stereotypical homeless man. While the FPJ family worked to find the man warm blankets, socks, and other warm items, some worked to figure out a place for him to sleep. While we were unable to find him shelter for the night, he left with a warmer heart after the teens initiated a prayer for him. The teens circled around, laid hands on Carlos, and prayed for him. I wish I could really express the beauty of that moment.

I share this with you so that you all will know that the mission of the church is alive and well and it is spreading to our younger members. They are watching this church's generosity and acting to help make the world a better place. I know I am proud of the work the Holy Spirit is doing in them and I pray you all join me in this celebration!
— Karissa

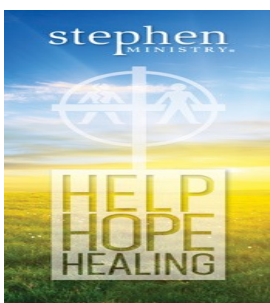


Vendors Wanted —
for our Spring Craft & Vendor Fair
Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.



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).

Mission

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 next packing day is Sunday, February 27.

Our Micro Pantry is often almost bare by Monday mornings. Please help us by bringing canned or packaged food supplies. 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.