



e-News

February 20, 2019

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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“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”
(The Wheat and the Tares)
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 week we will look at the Parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13:31-32. The kingdom of God was a central theme to Christ’s teaching, and yet many of his disciples did not understand his message along the way. As we are looking at this parable, I would like to start by asking a few questions: What does the Kingdom of God mean to you? How do you see the kingdom of God present in your life? As we get ready for Sunday worship I pray that we all can capture the excitement and the beauty of God’s kingdom, and come together as one people rejoicing in what God is doing.

Be blessed, Bo M.

Music this Sunday:

- 9:00 a.m.—Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers
- 10:30 a.m.—Worship Band

The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

- Education Council—Feb. 21, 6 p.m.
- All-Officer Retreat—Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Worship Council—Feb. 27, 4:30 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

- 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
- Project Linus—Feb. 25, 9 a.m.
- Lunch Bunch Adult Discussion Group—Feb. 26,
12 noon
- Ladies Night In—Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m., Bunco Night!
- Women’s Bible Study—Feb. 27, 10 a.m. Call Mary
Lynn Keir at 815-782-4762
- C4 Men’s Discussion Group—Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Women’s Discussion Group—Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m.

- 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

Ladies Night In—Join us on Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m. in Hoffman Hall for another Bunco Night. It’s a fun game, easy to learn and there’s time for fellowship while playing. We’ll even provide the chocolate!

SAVE THE DATE for our **2019 Ladies Retreat:**
Saturday, September 28, at the Jacob Henry Mansion.

Volunteers this Sunday, February 24, 2019

<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Connection Center:</u>	
Dave & Sharon Cavanaugh	Dave & Sharon Cavanaugh
<u>Children’s Worship:</u>	
	Sarah Lundeen
<u>Greeters:</u>	
<u>Acolytes:</u>	
Cameron Paul	Evan Lundeen
<u>Liturgists:</u>	
Jean Bailey	Sadie House
<u>Ushers:</u>	
Al Brooks, Capt.	Ed Schultz, Capt.
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u> Sue Fordyce, Capt.;	
<u>Sound Room:</u> Rich Pool	
<u>Video Screens:</u> Matt Blaser	

Our Micro Food Pantry is a Very Busy Place. It is open 7 days a week out in front of the church. Lisa Kasper is leading this ministry. Please give her a call if you have questions and would like to help. You can bring food in cans and boxes to the church to share with those in need or place it in the food pantry. The Micro Pantry currently has both food items and non-food items inside. Please feel free to look at items within it. 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.

Opportunity to Help Children This Sunday at Creighton's Hot Chocolate Stand. This Sunday between services in Hoffman Hall Creighton Blaser (age 6) will be giving away hot chocolate for a donation. He will use the money he collects to buy toys for children at the Will County Children's Advocacy Center. The center "exists to provide Hope, Healing and Justice for Abused Children." Please plan to support Creighton and help foster a heart for mission in this young soul!

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.

In Christ,
Craig

KIDS

Mid-Week Family Night is tonight!

YOUTH

Midweek Teen Bible Study: This week we will begin reading Matthew 6 and dive into the Lord's Prayer. It's probably the most known prayer, and Jesus himself tells us to pray this way. But what do all those words mean? We will dig into something that some of us may consider to be habit and realize just how powerful the prayer is.

Wildfire Youth Group: This Sunday we'll hear live testimony from Katie Shelton. Katie is a dear friend of Kari's who has a real heart for Christ and she doesn't let her youth stop her! She's sung solos for churches, has overcome an eating disorder, and has been on various missions. For such a short amount of life, this girl has a lot of experience and a deep love for God. Hear her story this Sunday at Youth Group, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

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*.)

MISSION

Creighton's Hot Chocolate Stand—This Sunday, February 24, Creighton Blaser (age 6) will give a cup of hot chocolate for each donation to the Will County Children's Advocacy Center. He will use the money he collects to buy toys for the center. Please plan to support Creighton and help foster a heart for mission in this young soul!

Project Linus Workday is Monday, February 25, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Join us to make fleece blankets and easy quilts for area children in need. Please bring your sewing scissors. Call Tari Ambler, 815-351-2544, for more information.

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.

February 17, 2019
Worship Attendance — 151

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

Year to Date Receipts	\$645,328
Year to Date Expenses	\$667,226

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."