



e-News

March 6, 2019

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



MORE LIKE JESUS: SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES FOR LENT

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.

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| March 6 | “Blessed Are You”
Matthew 5:1-12 |
| March 10 | “Salt and Light”
Matthew 5:13-16 |
| March 17 | “Prayer and Fasting”
Matthew 6:5-18 |
| March 24 | “Do Not Worry”
Matthew 6:25-34 |
| March 31 | “Judge Not”
Matthew 7:1-5 |

We gather in worship this first Sunday in Lent, continuing our journey in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. Pastor Bo starts us off on Ash Wednesday with the Beatitudes and “Blessed are You.” This week we move to “Salt and Light,” an interesting combination of metaphors used by Jesus in teaching his disciples. In this season of Lent, we look backwards knowing what Jesus has done for his followers in order for us to be able to move forward and answer two questions: Who are we? What are we to do? Two questions that hang deep in the closets of many individuals and congregations today. Join us Sunday as we dig into Matthew 5:13-16. — Dale Ambler

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

The Week Ahead

***Upcoming Council/Committee Meetings:

- Parish Council—Mar. 10, 11:30 a.m.
- Women's Retreat Comm.—Mar. 11, 7 p.m.
- Night Deacons—Mar. 12, 7 p.m.
- Church Growth Council—Mar. 13, 4:30 p.m.
- Executive Comm.—Mar. 14, 6 p.m.
- Session—Mar. 14, 7 p.m.

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

- 2nd Sunday Potluck—Mar. 10, 11:45 a.m.
- Lunch Bunch Adult Discussion Group—Mar. 12, 12 noon
- Women's Bible Study—Mar. 13, 10 a.m. Call Mary Lynn Keir at 815-782-4762
- C4 Men's Discussion Group—Mar. 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Women's Discussion Group—Mar. 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs. A.M. Circle—Mar. 14, 9:15 a.m.
- Mary Circle—Mar. 14, 12 noon

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, March 10, 2019

<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Connection Center:	
Jill Strimel & Clarence Red	Jill Strimel & Clarence Red
Children's Worship:	
Megan Pritz	Bo Mircea
Greeters:	
Emma Sticklen	
Acolytes:	
Tate Albers	Carter Lakin
Liturgists:	
Cameron Paul	Trevor Lakin
Ushers:	
Barb Rodgers, Capt.	Ed Schultz, Capt.
Mark Dykema	Misti Lakin
Coffee Fellowship: Allen Brooks, Capt.;	
Sound Room: Rich Pool	
Video Screens: Matt Blaser	

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

Thank You for Supporting Creighton's Hot Chocolate Stand. On Sunday, February 24, between services in Hoffman Hall, Creighton Blaser (age 6) gave away hot chocolate for donations. The money he collected was used 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." Your generosity was evident, as some \$1,027 was raised to help needy children.

Micro Food Pantry Continues to be a Busy Place of Help and Hope. It is open 7 days a week out in front of the church. You can bring food in cans and boxes to share with those in need to the church 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 the 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 also good items for the pantry. The only thing that Lisa Kasper 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. Please give Lisa Kasper a call if you would like to help with this ministry.

"Grateful Giving" Stewardship Campaign. Our lives are, in a sense, a living response to God's grace. Through the "Grateful Giving" of ourselves we can respond in many, many ways—serving, giving, loving, hoping, believing, praying, worshipping, surrendering, forgiving, building, striving, challenging, creating, and more.

Our "Grateful Giving" 2019 Stewardship Campaign gives everyone of us the opportunity to make our own response to God in terms of "Grateful Giving." You have already received the introductory letter for our "Grateful Giving" Stewardship Campaign for 2019-20. There was an enclosed brochure picturing some facets of our life, ministry, and mission, as well as an outline of this year's budget.

During the week of March 10 you will receive your pledge card with a two-page selection of pictures of First Pres. We ask that you return your pledge card on Sunday, March 17 or March 24. Or, if you prefer, you could mail it to the church office for Tracy Norris, our treasurer. Please begin to think about your "Grateful Giving" in response to God's grace.

In Christ,
Craig

KIDS

No Mid-Week Family Night tonight; come for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.

YOUTH

Ash Wednesday: All Wildfire students and their families are invited to join us tonight for dinner at 5:30 p.m. where we can talk about what Lent means to us before attending the worship service together. Remember, what begins on Ash Wednesday always ends with Easter Sunday!

Wildfire Youth Group: FPJ's very own Betty Jones will be joining us this Sunday to discuss a project that has been close to her heart for years. After she shares her mission, we will come together as a group and work on our own project to be Helping Hands with Jesus. And who knows? Maybe you'll even be inspired to join Betty on a visit this summer! Join us this Sunday at Youth Group, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Windy City Bulls Faith Night: For our monthly fellowship event we will be attending The Windy City Bulls Faith Night on Friday, March 15! Tickets are \$20/person. This includes food, a beverage, and a seat! Money for the tickets is due Sunday, March 10. We will meet at FPJ at 5 p.m. on March 15 and head to the game! We should be back around 10 p.m.

FAMILIES

Join us tonight for our Ash Wednesday Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and Worship/Communion at 6:30 p.m.

Our Mid-Week Family Night resumes next Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Dinner, Kids Music & Learning, Teen Bible Study, and Men's and Women's Discussion Groups.

2nd Sunday Potluck is this Sunday, March 10, 11:45 a.m. Bring your dish to share and enjoy great food and fellowship.

MISSION

There is a Habitat for Humanity Build Meeting this Saturday, March 9, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Room 210. Come learn about Habitat's 2019 build in the 1500 block of North Raynor Ave.

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.



Spring Craft & Vendor Sale
 Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

In an effort to keep our costs minimal for the Craft/Vendor Fair Café, we are looking for donations of the following supplies:

- Bottled water
- Cases of Pop: (cans only) Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, 7-up or Sprite
- Bags of chips - (50 ct. boxes) original variety
- Candy bars, full size
- Hot dog buns

Items can be brought to church anytime to the table in Hoffman Hall (look for the Craft/Vendor Fair Donations sign).

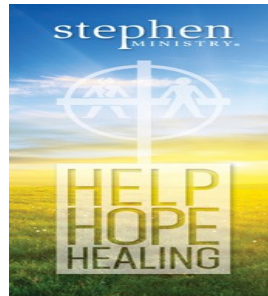
When leaving donations, please sign the sheet so we can properly thank everyone who helps to make this event a great success

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

The hospitals will no longer call to tell us if members have been admitted, so please let us know if you or a member of your family is in the hospital.

Our sympathies are extended to Nicole Long on the passing of her husband, George, on February 28th.



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).

Community Bulletin Board

The 2019 Channahon Antique Fair is this Friday and Saturday at Channahon United Methodist Church, 24751 W. Eames, Channahon. Hours on March 8 are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and on March 9, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a \$2 admission donation. One item per person can be appraised free on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; additional items \$2. Also featured are a silent auction, bake sale, and food and beverages for sale.

The Housing Authority of Joliet is taking registrations through June 30 for the Public Housing Program's 1 bedroom waiting list for elderly individuals and for individuals with disabilities. Registration is through the website www.hajoliet.org.

March 3, 2019

Worship Attendance — 189

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts	\$692,506
Year to Date Expenses	\$708,587

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."