



# The Servants' Light

April 24, 2019

*The Servants' Light* (USPS 560-720) is published monthly by  
First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, IL. Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL  
**Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Servants' Light*,  
805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435-6998.**

***“Servants of  
Jesus Christ—  
Ministering  
To One Another,  
To Our Community,  
And To Our World.”***

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## **Sunday Morning**

### **Schedule**

#### **Worship—**

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

#### **Children's Worship—**

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

#### **Coffee Fellowship—**

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

#### **Nursery/Preschool Care—**

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

## **Dale Ambler Retirement Lunch May 19**

Pastor Dale Ambler is retiring as of June 1, after serving our congregation for 10 years, first as a Seminary Intern and then as our Associate Pastor. His last Sunday in worship and preaching is May 19, so we are going to celebrate Dale's ministry that Sunday with a catered lunch in Hoffman Hall following the second service. Tari has also served well in the life and ministry of our church, cooking for our Mid-Week Family Night, leading the Project Linus Ministry, serving on Session, etc. We shall miss them both as they begin a new chapter of life together when Dale retires.

The menu for Dale's Retirement Lunch is Chicken with apricot bread crumb sauce, Garden Rice Blend, Broccoli & Carrots, Salad, Rolls, Butter & Dessert. To prepare for the lunch, we are asking that you make a reservation (\$5 per person). If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift for Dale, please include that with your lunch reservation. We hope you will join us for this time of sharing our appreciation for Dale and Tari's ministry.



## **Leadercast Live May 10, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

This is the largest one-day leadership event in the world, broadcast live from Atlanta to hundreds of host sites, including FPJ. We have been a host site for 14 years! This year brings together experts in leadership and organizational health to help attendees master the art and science of developing and leading healthy teams.

Learn what it takes to ensure your team functions at its highest and healthiest.

Be empowered in your leadership.  
Learn what it means to lead a healthy team.  
Add to your leadership toolbox.  
Hear from world-renowned experts.  
Network with leaders just like you.  
Earn CEU credits.

Featured speakers include Andy Stanley and Gayle King. Registration forms are available on our website. Costs vary for single registrations and for group/



**Sunday, April 28.** On this Second Sunday in the Easter Season we gather to worship in the Hope, Joy, and Reality of the Resurrection. Jesus Christ is alive and actively present in our lives. Come worship and celebrate with your friends in Christ this Sunday. Invite your guest(s) to join us.

The Chancel Choir is singing at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

**Sermon.** This Sunday Carrie Kapral is preaching as we begin a new Sermon Series, "In the Light of Resurrection." Carrie is preaching on "Fear to Joy, Doubt to Faith, and Death to Life." The scripture passage for her sermon is John 20:19-31. Worship with us as we consider what it means to move from fear, doubt, and death into joy, faith, and life.

**Free Summer Lunch Program, "Bags of Love" (Mission to the Homeless), Micro Food Pantry, Summer "Roar" VBS.** We have many mission and ministry opportunities going on as we celebrate the Easter Season and anticipate what God has in store for us this summer. I encourage you to ask some questions about these opportunities to serve and to get involved in one or more.



#### Known to be in the Hospital:

Randy Chapman at Silver Cross Hospital

#### Just Born:

Reagan Elisabeth Jaworski (March 19)  
Daughter of Nick & Anna (Bornhofen) Jaworski

#### In Sympathy:

Sympathies are extended to Henry Province and Caroline and Doren Gheorghiu on the passing of Henry's sister, Elizabeth Nelson, on April 20 in Mississippi.

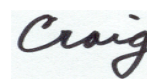
#### Thank You:

Judy Turner sends a heartfelt thank you to everyone for kind wishes, prayers and meals during her recuperation from surgery.

**There Are More Mission Opportunities.** In addition to what you've read here, think about our Night Deacons' Free Pancake Breakfast the first Saturday of the month, on May 4, from 8 to 10 a.m. Also, think about taking part in building a new Habitat House at 1517 N. Raynor Ave. this summer. We are involved and have committed to help build this home. We are anticipating that with other churches and Habitat leadership we will break ground on this new home in June.

May the Joy of the Risen Christ be yours as you seek to serve the Lord Jesus and others in his name.

In Christ,



**April 21, 2019**

Worship Attendance — 292

#### **Stewardship Report**

2019-2020 Budget: \$768,135

**Year to Date Receipts** \$59,470

**Year to Date Expenses** \$45,145

One Great Hour of Sharing — \$615

2019-2020 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$0

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](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org), and click on "Giving."



**"Grateful Giving" Stewardship Campaign Response.** We are seeking to finish up the Stewardship Campaign in April. You have received your pledge card with a two-page selection of pictures of First Pres. We ask that you return your pledge card this Sunday. Or, if you prefer, you could mail it to the church office for Tracy Norris, our treasurer. Please think about your "Grateful Giving" in response to God's grace and make your own response.



## "In Light of Resurrection" Sermon Series April 29—May 26

We begin a 5-Week Sermon series this coming Sunday. Carrie Kapral is going to begin the series. We are going to think about what it means to live, worship, and serve In Light of the Resurrection of Jesus. What were the experiences of the Disciples in those first few days and weeks after Jesus rose from the dead? What do their experiences have to do with us as we seek to be Christ-Followers? What kind of doubts did the disciples experience and how were they able to move from doubt to faith? These are a few of the questions we will think about and work through in this new Sermon Series.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 28 | "Fear to Joy, Doubt to Faith, and Death to Life" — John 20:19-31 |
| May 5    | "Jesus, Church, and Calling" — John 20:19-31, Luke 24:1-12       |
| May 12   | "Life's Investments" — II Timothy 1:5, 2:1-13                    |
| May 19   | "Goodbye, Farewell, Amen." — Acts 20: 22-37 (Pastor Dale)        |
| May 26   | "Peace Be with You" — Luke 24:36-48                              |

## Confirmands read their Statements of Faith

Join us on Sunday, May 19, at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room as we witness our confirmands declaring their faith. Support these young people as they proclaim their beliefs and begin taking responsibility for their faith journey.

Our Confirmands are:

Bailey Frey  
Maria Kaiser  
Axel Wilson  
Tait Wilson  
Sophie Young

## Adult Education Opportunities

### Summer College Bible Study

*TwentySomeone* by Craig Dunham and Doug Serven is a book made for those who are in their 20's. They subtitled the book "Finding yourself in a decade of transition." After high school, throughout college and the years following, life is filled with changes. Young adults can so easily fall into the trap of trying to answer important, stressful, and maddening questions like: What will I do? Who will I love? Where will I live?

This study aims to be a place where young adults can step back from those questions and use their 20's to answer a bigger one that will help all the others fall into place: Who am I?

The book is filled with personal experiences from the authors and will help you discover who God is calling you to be.

Who's invited? While this began as an idea for college ministry, the book is directed toward all those in their 20's. We are inviting everyone who is graduating high school this spring to those who are 29!

When will it be? Wednesday nights beginning June 5 at 7:30 p.m. We will begin by meeting in the Youth Lounge at First Pres.—the one located on the second floor next to the choir room.

What do I need? You need to purchase the book *TwentySomeone* by Craig Dunham and Doug Serven and bring a notebook!

What's the study look like? We will read one chapter from the book a week and Karissa has created journaling/discussion questions that correspond with the reading from that week. While you'll do a lot of the reading and writing at home on your own, your answers will be crucial for our discussion! Have you ever felt like you are the only one struggling? By creating an atmosphere of honesty and transparency, you'll soon find you are far from alone!

Each Wednesday night that we meet will be filled with fellowship, laughter, discussion, and prayer. Karissa has a few classically cheesy ice-breakers to get the ball rolling, too!

### Small Groups & Special Events



May 28, 6:30 p.m.

It's time for our quarterly Bunco Night! You don't need to know how to play or have any skill for this game, it's just random luck! Bunco night is always filled with great conversation and much laughter, so don't miss this night of fellowship and fun!

### Guide Book & Directory

It's time for us to update our database with changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in your family over the past year. Please let us know now of any changes—new phone number, new address, children no longer living at home, etc., so that the information in the new Guide Book & Directory will be correct. AND, if you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our Guide Book, please call the church office.

### Meal Fellowship

**Men's Breakfast**—May 3, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

**Dinner Out Group**—May 21, 6:00 p.m. at Agave Azul Mexican Restaurant, 330 W. North Street (Route 52), Manhattan. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616, to make a reservation.

**Men's Dinner Group**—May 24, 6:00 p.m. at Larry's Diner, 24522 W. Lockport Rd., Plainfield. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.



At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 11, 2019, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to hold the church's Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 26, 2019;

—to accept the budget for the fiscal year April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020, of \$768,135 as presented.

### 2nd Sunday Potluck

No 2nd Sunday Potluck in May—it's Mother's Day, so celebrate with your family!

#### Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday  
(May 9, 9:15 a.m.)  
in the  
Fireside Room

#### Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (May 9)  
in the Fireside Room  
Come at 12 noon and bring  
a sack lunch; meeting  
and bible study  
at 12:30 p.m.

## HELP US CELEBRATE



Graduation Day will soon be here! And we like to celebrate those in our church family who have reached milestones in their education. If you or someone in your immediate family is graduating from Middle School, High School, College, or an Institute of Higher Learning, please pick up a graduate info sheet, fill it out and return it to the church office by April 30, along with a photo of your graduate.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**1st Pres. Ladies Retreat**

**September 28, 2019**

**at the Jacob Henry Mansion!**

# Servants of Jesus Christ —

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## Ministering to One Another, to Our Community, and to Our World

### Night Deacons Food Ministry

On the first Sunday of each month, the Night Deacons collect monetary donations to fund our various ministries. Please use the special envelopes marked "Night Deacon Ministries" in the pew racks for your donation. Thank you for your on-going support!

Our next Night Deacons' Free Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, May 4, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.

### Free Summer Lunch Program

June 5 To August 15  
Monday through Friday  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. Transportation to and from First Pres. is NOT provided. This program is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The meals come boxed; volunteers are needed to help distribute the lunches and help the children open their lunches. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to offer your help.

### Bags of Love

Kendall Fris has taken over the ministry started by Wayne and Linda Zoellick (now called Bags of Love) to help the homeless. There are bins in the narthex for your donations of food (with easy open lids), socks and toiletries. The plan is to pack up bags the last Sunday of the month for delivery to MorningStar Mission and distribution to the homeless in our community. The next packing day will probably be the last Sunday in May. Your donations can be left on the table in the narthex. Thanks so much for supporting this ministry.

### Habitat Build Meeting May 18, 8:30 a.m.

There's an informational meeting for the Churches Habitat Build on Saturday, May 18 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting is going to be held in Room 210. It's all about our church and others in the area going together to build a new home at 1517 N. Raynor Ave. I hope you will go and learn about building this new home for a family who is anticipating owning their first home.

### Micro Food Pantry

We are seeing that the Micro Food Pantry is being used quite a bit and that's so good, for there is a need in our community. Sometimes it is emptied several times in a day. We are looking for volunteers who will check on the Micro Food Pantry one day a week. We have food to fill it, as well as a budget to purchase food. If you would like to help by filling it up one day a week, please contact Lisa Kasper at 312-644-2773 or call the church office and let us know. More eyes and hands on this ministry would be great.



Please consider sharing your musical talents at a worship service this summer. Soloists, small vocal groups and instrumentalists are all welcome.

Dates available are: June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
July 7, 14, 21, 28  
(Summer Choir sings in August)

Just call the office to schedule a date. Share your talents and help enhance our worship with the gift of music this summer!

# *Time for an Adventure!*

Are your vacation plans for the summer ready? Where are you going? What are you going to see? Who are you going to take? Those might not have been the questions that the Israelites were asked before departing from Egypt heading to the Promise Land! Instead they listened and followed God's call to a new place.



This summer our Vacation Bible School will follow in their footsteps as we get to discover who God is, and learn to depend on God for our lives. Sometimes those are some hard lessons to learn, but GOD IS GOOD and HE gives us time to learn.

Mark your calendar for JUNE 24- 28 and get ready for an adventure to last a lifetime.

As kids learn to trust God when life gets wild, they will get to meet some interesting characters who will lead them through this adventure. From Bible Story Teller to a Mad Mad (about God) Scientist, the VBS camp will be filled with lots of exciting things for the kids to experience.

So mark your calendar, set this week apart and join us as we discover that God is Good!

See you at ROAR VBS!

Bo.

P.S. Registration will be available on our website in the coming weeks.



April was a quick month for the Youth Group!

We began the month by living out Scripture that calls for fellowship by having an entire Youth Group dedicated to games. Not only did we run with a few games of Sharks and Minnows, but we ended the night with a fun game of catch called “Challenge or Chat,” in which a large beach ball is covered with various prompts to either chat about something or a pretty funny challenge. It was a night filled with laughter and immense gratitude for the beautiful weather!

On Palm Sunday we entered Holy Week by watching Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*. After the showing we were able to sit down as a Youth Group together and discuss a few elements of the film, such as character identification, the conversion of the soldier at the end, and Jesus’ temptation.

This coming week we had originally scheduled a testimony, but due to scheduling conflicts we have switched it up to honor Mother’s Day. We will read through Proverbs 31 and make gifts for the women in our lives who helped raise us up to be children of faith—the same way Timothy’s mother and grandmother did.

May will be the last month of weekly meetings for the season, but there is so much to come this summer!

One thing I want to add to the Newsletters: A Family Monthly Challenge

This month I challenge you to all download the YouVersion Bible App. Once downloaded, a “Verse of the Day” appears on the home screen of the app (or you can allow a push notification to remind you!), and I challenge you to read the verse as a family in the morning—at breakfast, on the way to school, as soon as the family wakes up. Anytime in the morning that works for you, I say go for it! Why? Because when we begin our day with God’s Word it helps us keep our eyes on Jesus throughout the day.

Blessings to you all,

Karissa

### Upcoming Events

**April 28:**  
**Mother’s Day**  
**Focus Youth Group**  
**6 to 7:30 p.m.**

**May 5:**  
**Will County Child**  
**Advocacy Speaker;**  
**Cape Making**  
**Service Project!**  
**6 to 7:30 p.m.**

**May 12:**  
**No Youth Group;**  
**Go love on your**  
**Mama (or Mama**  
**Figure!)**

**May 19:**  
**JELL-O FIGHT!**  
**6 to 7:30 p.m.**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Craig M. Herr—Senior Pastor  
Dale Ambler—Associate Pastor  
Bo Mircea—Associate Pastor of Children's Ministry  
and Family Ministry  
Karissa Fleming, Dir. of Youth Ministry  
Jen Gabl—Administrative Ministry Assistant  
Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &  
Newsletter Editor

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### Address Service Requested

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805 Western Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60435

**Newsletter Deadline**—The deadline for reserving space in the May 29 *Servants' Light* is **May 10**. Please e-mail to [sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org).

TO:

## May Daily Devotional Blog

We continue with our theme, "Our God Is..."

5/1	Giving us the Peace that Surpasses Understanding	Phl 4:7
5/2	Jesus of Nazareth	Jhn 19:19
5/3	The Door of the Sheep	Jhn 10
5/6	The Way, Truth & Life	Jhn 14:6
5/7	The Prince of Peace	Isa 9:6
5/8	The King of Kings & Lord of Lords	Rev 17:14
5/9	The Lamb of God	Rev 5:6
5/10	The Bread of Life	Jhn 6:48-58
5/13	The Bright & Morning Star	Rev 22:16
5/14	The Light of the World	Jhn 8:12
5/15	Immanuel	Isa 7:14

5/16	Wonderful Counselor	Isa 9:6
5/17	The Great Shepherd of the Sheep	Hbr 13:20
5/20	The Head of the Church	Eph 1:22
5/21	Jesus	Mat 1:21
5/22	The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever	Hbr 13:8
5/23	Our All Sufficiency	2Co 3:5
5/24	The Word	Jhn 1:1
5/27	Dwelling in Us	2Co 6:16
5/28	Easily Touched	Hbr 4:15
5/29	Faithful & True	Rev 19:11
5/30	A Sure Foundation	Isa 28:16
5/31	Upholding All Things by the Word of His Power	Hbr 1:3