



The Servants' Light

January 31, 2018

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***"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.



Ash Wednesday — February 14

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Green Beans,
Garlic Bread & Dessert
Freewill Offering

Worship/Communion at 6:30 p.m.
Ashes are available for those who desire.

1 Concert - 2 Bands Saturday, February 24

They're back—Water Within—Mary Pat and Whitney! **Water Within** was with us in worship last August and now will be here on February 24th for a Saturday night concert. As an added blessing, the Christian band **Enlivened** will play as an opening band for Water Within. Enlivened began as a youth band with The Center. "The desire of Enlivened is to bring life to the world by creating art that expresses the passionate, loving heart of Jesus and in doing so, help all people find the value, power, and beauty in their own unique voice." You can find more about Enlivened by searching for them on FaceBook.



Music by **Water Within** can be found on iTunes from their albums "Unlocked" and "Long Live Your Spirit." Water Within has their foundation in Jesus when he said that "He was life-giving water. Anyone who drinks His water experiences the thirst quenching salvation and abundant life that only He can give. Once we have it, we become vessels, carrying the true meaning of life to a thirsty land. Jesus is the Water Within us...and we are the Water Within the world."

Saturday, February 24, looks to be a wonderful night of music as well as an opportunity to further a very important mission for First Presbyterian Church...Feed My Starving Children. We will take a freewill offering to benefit this wonderful mission organization and do our part to lessen the burden of starvation in the world.

Please join us for an inspirational night of music that begins with a time of fellowship and tasty goodies in Hoffman Hall at 6:00 p.m. Enlivened will begin around 6:30 p.m., followed by Water Within around 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, February 4. Worship with us this Sunday as we continue our series from Jonah on “The Struggle Is Real - A Journey with Jonah.” We all struggle at times with what God wants or with understanding our calling, and with the difficulties and the troubles

that life brings our way. This Sunday we will look to God for help with our struggles in life.

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. The Chancel Choir and the Glory Ringers are singing and playing at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Worship Band is singing and playing the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sermon. This Sunday I am preaching on “The Struggle Is Real.” The scripture passages for the sermon are Jonah 2:1-10 and Romans 5:1-8. There are struggles that stretch us and stress us in life. We can bring them to God and find endurance, peace, and hope. Join us this Sunday to find hope for your journey of faith and life.

Hoffman Hall Redecorating Progress. So far the wallpaper has been stripped, the walls have been patched, smoothed, and primed. The finish painting has begun this week and new wood trim chair rail is being installed and painted. Painting will be completed in several weeks. Then there will be wallpapering of the top part of the walls while the chair rail to the floor will

be painted. In the weeks to come there will be new window treatments, blinds and valances and new light sconces added to Hoffman Hall. It is exciting to watch everything take shape each week.

Feed My Starving Children. We are going to hold another Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event this year the first Friday and Saturday in November. This year we are going to raise the money to support the event. We are beginning early to make progress as 2018 unfolds. We are taking a special offering in the Ash Wednesday Worship service 2/14; we are taking an offering at the Water Within Concert on 2/24; and we are holding a Vendor and Craft Sale in April with the proceeds going to support Feed My Starving Children. You will hear more about this as we go through this new year.

All Officer Retreat for Day Deacons, Night Deacons, and Session. We are holding the All Officer Retreat on Thursday evening, February 22. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. We will start our retreat together at 6:00 p.m. and finish by 9:00 p.m. This worked very well for us last year. Come enjoy dinner fellowship and working together on the life, ministry, and mission of our church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig".

January 28, 2018

Worship Attendance — 167

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$ 792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$612,632
Year to Date Expenses	\$607,692

2017-2018 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$163,592.47

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.”



Baptized:

Henry James Ward (Dec. 31)
Son of Jimmie & Amanda (Lundeen) Ward

Passed to Life Eternal:

Elizabeth Proctor (Dec. 31)

Growing in Christ—

"The Struggle is Real – A journey with Jonah"

We are finishing up our sermon series, "The Struggle is Real—A Journey with Jonah" with:

Feb 4 – "The Struggle is Real"

Theme: Jonah 2:1-2; Struggles That Stress and Stretch Us

Feb 11 – "Go to Nineveh!"

Theme: Jonah 3:1-3a; 4:10-11; Jonah's acceptance and our acceptance

Lenten Journey

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Throughout this Lenten Season we are using Max Lucado's latest book, "Anxious For Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" for both worship and study.

Max Lucado describes his book: "Do you feel weighted down with worry? Does the road you're traveling loom large with mountains to cross, obstacles to avoid and hair-pin curves to navigate? Could you use some calm? If so, I have a scripture for you to read.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 is the most underlined passage in the Bible. According to this promise, anxiety comes with life, but it doesn't have to dominate your life. With God as your helper and this verse at your side, you can sleep better tonight and smile more tomorrow. You can talk yourself off the ledge and view bad news through the lens of sovereignty. You can discover a life that is characterized by calm and develop tools for facing the onslaughts of anxiety.

Let's invite God to reframe the way we face our fears and win the war on worry. By his power we will 'be anxious for nothing' and experience the 'peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.'"

I invite you to pick up a copy of Max Lucado's book in the Narthex this week. I believe you will be glad you did. It's a bargain and a great investment for just \$12.

- Pastor Craig

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Discussion Group

Our journey through the Bible continues as we look at The Kingdom, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection, and The Holy Spirit. So, bring your lunch and join us in Room 210 on Tuesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for a Spirit-ed discussion as we grow together in faith and fellowship!!

First Pres. Men

All men are invited to join us in Room 210 on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. during Lent as we look at Max Lucado's book, "Anxious for Nothing." Our discussion group will include a 20-minute video each week and be grounded in Bible study.

Gospel of Mark

Each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. we have a women's Bible Study in the Fireside Room. We are studying the Gospel of Mark.

Mark is the shortest Gospel. It was earliest written of the four Gospels. It was written to Christians in Rome who suffered persecution from the Roman Emperor Nero.

It's a most intriguing and interesting Gospel that opens us up to Jesus' life and ministry as well as the life and ministry of the first disciples and the early church.

Come join us for discussion and support in your journey of life and faith.

"Bible Perspectives" Sundays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Room 201 with Jim Mullins

This class follows the Common Lectionary of Scripture passages. The Bible itself, along with history, psychology, and spirituality are woven together to allow participants to gain personal realizations of God's working today. Join Jim Mullins on Sundays 10:15 a.m. in Room 201.

All-Officer Retreat February 22, 5:30 p.m.

All current Elders, Day Deacons and Night Deacons will meet on Thursday, February 22, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m., to make plans for our ministry this year.

Welcoming Seminar

On Saturday, February 24, we will host Ward Utterback as he returns to provide a seminar on building a welcoming culture at our church. The seminar will build on Ward's review of the church and the training needed to build this welcoming culture. Sponsored by Growth Council, we are in the process of inviting individuals to attend.

Easter Flowers



We would like to decorate the sanctuary for Easter with many pots of beautiful flowers. If you would like to donate flowers for Easter, please fill in below and mail to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers." The deadline for ordering is March 19.

How many (at \$12/pot):

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

_____ to the Glory of God
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving
 memory of loved ones
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving
 memory of

Name _____

(please use exact wording to be printed in the booklet)

Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of January 11, 2018, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to elect Don Caisley as Clerk of Session, Chris Wise as Assistant Clerk of Session, Tracy Norris as Treasurer, and Margaret Lucas as Assistant Treasurer;

—to accept Mark and Carol Morrison and Estella Jurkovich into membership;

—to begin the Hoffman Hall redecorating project as soon as possible as proposed, starting with removing the wallpaper on Jan. 15 and preparing the walls;

—to apply all money collected by the church from the April 14 Craft/Vendor Fair admissions, table rentals, and food to sponsor another Feed My Starving Children event later in the year;

—to move communion from April 1, Easter, to April 8.

PW Circles

Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday
(Feb. 8, 9:15 a.m.)
in the
Fireside Room

Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Feb. 8)
in the Fireside Room
Bring a sack lunch at
12 noon; dessert &
meeting at
12:30 p.m.

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—February 2, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—February 20, 6 p.m. at Cheddar's Casual Café, 105 Remington Blvd., Bolingbrook. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—February 23, 6 p.m. at Giovans Restaurant & Pizzeria, 1804 N. Larkin Ave., Crest Hill. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

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

Mission to the Homeless

God calls us to serve in many ways and the call to care for the least of the kingdom is at the heart of God's desires. Last month we began a new mission opportunity to provide needed items for the homeless in our community. Helping is easy—the first is to simply bring pop-top canned goods such as soups and stews, fruit with peel off lids, warm socks, hats, gloves, scarves, mittens and toiletries to the bins in the Narthex. We will have a bag-packing day on the last Sunday of each month and then the bags will be delivered to distribution points in the area. The second way to help is to offer to drive the bagged items to these distribution points. Please contact Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396 with questions.

The Per Capita charge payable in 2018 is \$36.34 per active member. The per capita pays for administrative costs at three levels of the Presbyterian Church. Each local church is assessed for the active members reported the previous year. If you would like to pay your per capita, please send it to the church treasurer's office by mail or Sunday offering plate, indicating "Per Capita" on the check.

HELPING HANDS

Since the inception of this ministry in October of 2005, over 3,500 meals have been provided to members of our church family through your assistance. In the past year alone, over 265 meals have been provided. Helping Hands would like to thank the following people who, over the past six months, have provided meals, rides, and other services to members of our congregation. There is always a need for more people to help provide assistance. If you would like to be a part of this vibrant ministry, know someone who can use some temporary help, or would like more information about Helping Hands, please contact Betty Jones at 815-729-0349, David Steinberg at 779-234-6413, or the church office at 815-727-9259.

Dale & Tari Ambler
Marvin Balsley
Don & Raelene Barnes
Bob & Colin Becker
Al & Pat Benson
Gina Kleckaukas-Bonomo
Russ & Sue Brown
Don & Mary Caisley
Dave Church

Pat Costion
Karl Darley
Dale Endres
Kyla Fris
Jen Gabl
Judy Garrison
Amy Gibson
Pat Haldorson
Rich & Mary Jane Johnson

Judy Jordan
Chet June
Nick & Marsha Maggio
Harriet O'Malley
Carolyn Schaeffer
LuAnn Stepina
Emma Sticklen
Holly Tomashek
Wayne & Linda Zoellick



Simple Indulgence Craft and Vendor Fair

Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



We are looking for sellers, crafters, and shoppers!
If you are interested in having a table to sell your merchandise, pick up a registration form in the church office or print one out from our website.

Proceeds from space rentals, gift/prize drawings, food, etc. will benefit Feed My Starving Children.

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, February 3, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.

Children's Ministry News

Beyond the Sunday Morning Stories

For many of us, the Bible started to come alive when we were kids, going to Sunday morning class, seeing the stories on a flannel board or with little wooden figurines. Those stories are as important today as they were when I was a kid, in part because they familiarize us to the Bible, but also because they help form us as believers. They build character, one might say.

But there is something about those Sunday morning stories that I always find to be lacking: the rest of the week. It is that connection with the rest of our lives that will make a difference, will build and change us into the image of God. It is the rest of the week that will give us the right balance in dealing with life. And our kids need to learn that.

What are some things that you do outside of Sunday that will help your child grow and see God in their lives? How do you bring Sunday beyond Sunday for the rest of the week?

This year as a church we will be focusing on Feed My Starving Children, raising money to feed over 100,000 kids. That is a big undertaking, but even more important, it can be a beautiful life-changing project for all of us—something tangible, something so powerful that it can teach thankfulness, gratitude, service and so much more. What if as adults we would replace our Starbucks once a week with a home brew; what if kids would give up a candy bar once a week? Can you see the impact that we can make?

Sunday morning lessons can live beyond the walls of the church when we take them for what they are: God changing our world. I would like to encourage you to focus on that aspect of church—what can we do as a family to live out God's lessons for the world.

Be Blessed,
Bo M.

Dates for your calendar:

February 14 – Ash Wednesday Service –
kids kjjare participating in Worship

Regular Wednesdays/Kids Choir –
Kristina and the kids are working on a
new musical for April. Please plan
on being there!

March 31 – Easter Egg Hunt – invite a
friend and join us as we celebrate
Easter (note that the Easter Egg-
stravaganza is on Easter weekend
this year!)





How quickly January came and went! Thus far 2018 has not disappointed us.

On Wednesday nights we have been coming together to eat as a church family followed by a time of homework and sometimes play. This month we found a healthy sense of competition and math in Scrabble as well as a time of easy fun when the teens took over the Mommy and Me class for one night. By having no agenda and no curriculum on Wednesdays we have truly been able to get to know one another and just enjoy each other's company. We look forward to more kids joining us for a refreshing evening!

Sunday mornings have been spent examining Genesis. What better way to tie in the attributes of God than to look at God's creation and His earliest forms of grace! Sunday mornings have proven to be a time of learning, question asking, and reflection. This is a great opportunity for kids to come and learn about a book they know is important but seems hard to comprehend.

Sunday nights at Wildfire have been great! Learning about God's character is beautiful and a little daunting, all at the same time. The students have been open to all the concepts we are teaching and I am confident that they are relating to these lessons on varying levels. Our guests have been a true blessing this month. Our service project with New Life for Old Bags was a hit! This project gives a new purpose to recycling and we look forward to doing it again one day in the future. Our guest speaker Kaylyn joined us at the end of the month and we were so excited to have her! She's a teen herself and can relate to these kids well. Her story was filled with hope in times of darkness as well as our God who loves her and holds her.

February is looking to be just as fun and we look forward to expanding this family!

Many Blessings,
Karissa Fleming
Karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org
(815) 727-9259 x207

UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 11—
Service Project
Mission for the Homeless**

**February 25—
No Sun. Morning
Bible Study**

**Live Testimony
Danny Tracy**



**JOIN US TO HEAR THE
LIFE STORY OF DANNY:
BELIEVER AND MUSICIAN**

**February 25, 2018
6:00pm-7:30pm**



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
 Diane Uden—Administrative Ministry Assistant
 Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &
 Newsletter Editor

PERIODICALS
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 Joliet, IL 60435

Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for
 reserving space in the February 28 *Servants'*
Light is **February 10**. Please e-mail to
sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

February 2018 Blog Readings							
2/1	Ex 27-28	Prov 14	Matt 26:1-16	2/15	Lev 13-15	Prov 20	Mark 9
2/2	Ex 29-30	Psalms 15	Matt 26:17-46	2/16	Lev 16-17	Psalms 21	Mark 10
2/3	Ex 31-32	Prov 15	Matt 26:47-75	2/17	Lev 18-20	Prov 21	Mark 11
2/4	Day of Reflection: God as Alpha & Omega			2/18	Day of Reflection: God as Counselor		
2/5	Ex 33-34	Psalms 16	Matt 27	2/19	Lev 21-22	Psalms 22	Mark 12
2/6	Ex 35-36	Prov 16	Matt 28	2/20	Lev 23-25	Prov 22	Mark 13
2/7	Ex 37-38	Psalms 17	Mark 1	2/21	Lev 26-27	Psalms 23	Mark 14
2/8	Ex 39-40	Prov 17	Mark 2	2/22	Num 1-3	Prov 23	Mark 15
2/9	Lev 1-3	Psalms 18	Mark 3-4	2/23	Num 4-6	Psalms 24	Mark 16
2/10	Lev 4-5	Prov 18	Mark 5	2/24	Num 7-9	Prov 24	Luke 1
2/11	Day of Reflection: God as Lord of All			2/25	Day of Reflection: God as Faithful		
2/12	Lev 6-7	Psalms 19	Mark 6	2/26	Num 10-12	Psalms 25	Luke 2
2/13	Lev 8-10	Prov 19	Mark 7	2/27	Num 13-15	Prov 25	Luke 3
2/14	Lev 11-12	Psalms 20	Mark 8	2/28	Num 16-18	Psalms 26	Luke 4

Ex = Exodus; Lev = Leviticus; Num = Numbers; Prov = Proverbs; Matt = Matthew