



The Servants' Light

February 28, 2018

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

805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

815.727.9259

FAX 815.727.9348

office@firstpresjoliet.org

firstpresjoliet.org

Sunday Morning

Schedule

Worship—

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship—

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Hunters—

10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship—

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Nursery/Preschool Care—

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.



Palm Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8:15 to 10:30 a.m./Youth Ministry Fundraiser

(A freewill offering will be received to help with the costs
of mission trips and retreats AND a silent auction
will be held as part of this fundraiser —

This is Youth Ministry's main fundraiser of the year!)

Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir at 9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship with Worship Band at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Worship/Communion at 7:00 p.m. with Chancel Choir

Good Friday, March 30

6:00 p.m. —Journey Through the Stations of the Cross
Dale Ambler & Bob Haas leading

Easter "Resurrection" Sunday

9:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir & Instruments
and Glory Ringers Handbell Choir

10:30 a.m.—Contemporary Worship with Worship Band
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering received

The Pastor's Corner—

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor



Sunday, March 4. “Be anxious for nothing...” we read in Philippians 4:6 and we wonder if it’s possible. Yet all things are possible for those who trust in the Lord. Worship with us this Sunday, the Third Sunday in Lent, and seek the calming peace of God that surpasses our understanding.

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 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sermon. Pastor Dale is preaching this Sunday. Dale writes, “We are moving on this week...taking a deeper look at how we can better cope in a world filled with many things that cause anxiety for so many. This Sunday I am going to look at Lucado’s book a little differently. While Philippians 4:4-7 is at the heart of the book, this week in my sermon titled, “There is a Purpose,” I am going to use the Philippians passage to support Romans 8:26-30—my sermon text, as we focus on God’s use of all things to bring about his purpose in both the good....and not so good times of our lives.”

“Anxious For Nothing” Study/Discussion Groups.

There are three options for you to join a study/discussion group: Sunday morning right after the 9:00 a.m. service in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Mark Morrison, a son of our congregation and retired pastor, facilitating. There’s the Men’s Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210 with Dale Amber as moderator. For women there is a small group discussion/study in the Fireside Room on

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. with Lisa Haldorson and Craig as moderators.

Our Church Feels Like Home Now. Kelly Corcoran, the executive director of The Center, told me this past week that after their lock-in at First Pres., the church feels like home. I think that’s great and just what we have wanted when we started our partnership in ministry. “The Center” Joliet Area Youth Ministry is thriving at their new home in our church. They have 30-60 youth plus their leadership team meeting each Thursday evening at First Pres. in Hoffman Hall. They worship together each week and you will see their band equipment set up in Hoffman Hall in the back corner.

Angel House Mission Special Offering Status. We are close to completely funding our yearly support of \$4,680 for Bhoke, Rhobi, and Lucia. We have been supporting these three middle school aged girls since they were in grade school. This Sunday is our final Sunday for this special offering. We received \$3,613 so far, only \$1,067 to go. It’s a joy to see them growing up and reaching their God given potential because of the love and ministry of so many fine leaders, teachers, and servants at Angel House Mission.

Feed My Starving Children Progress. We are going to hold another Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event this year the first Friday and Saturday in November. This year we are going to raise the money to support the event. The evening offerings at the Ash Wednesday Worship Service and at the Water Within Concert on 2/24 provided us with \$1,111. We are holding a Vendor and Craft Sale in April with the proceeds going to support Feed My Starving Children. We are off to a good start. There’s more to come.

In Christ,

Craig

February 25, 2018

Worship Attendance — 170

Stewardship Report

2017-2018 Budget: \$792,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$653,376
Year to Date Expenses	\$651,305

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

Angel House Special Offering — \$3,613

Feed My Starving Children — \$1,111
(Ash Wednesday and Concert)

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.”



Passed to Life Eternal:

Katherine Lester (Feb. 2)

Grace Gnadinger (Feb. 6)

Thank you—The loving support of my church family during my recent surgery was a beautiful gift to have received. Thank you so much.

— Linda Nachtrieb

Our sympathies are extended to Gail Chapman and family on the passing of her husband, Raymond, on Feb. 23.

Growing in Christ—

Lenten Journey

We continue our Lenten Journey using Max Lucado's latest book, "Anxious For Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" for both worship and study.

"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

This 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. Join us as we continue our journey through Lucado's book.

Sunday, March 3 — "Rejoice the Lord is Always Present" (Ch. 4)

Sunday, March 11 — "Prayer, Not Despair" (Ch. 5 & 6)

Sunday, March 18 — "Great Gratitude" (Ch. 7)

Palm Sunday, March 25 — "God's Peace, Your Peace" (Ch. 8)

Maundy Thursday, March 29 — "Think About What You Think About" (Ch. 9)

Easter Sunday, April 1 — "Stay With Jesus" (Ch. 10)

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 8 — "C.A.L.M." (Ch. 11)

March 10th Welcoming Ministry Seminar

As we continue our journey to growing Jesus' church one relationship at a time, we have invited Ward Utterback to provide teaching on how to best establish a Welcoming Ministry at First Pres. All Elders, Deacons, those who routinely greet on Sunday morning, and those interested in participating in this new ministry at the church are invited to join us in Hoffman Hall on Saturday, March 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will provide breakfast goodies beginning at 8:30 a.m. so please R.S.V.P. to the office that you are planning to attend.

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Anxious for Nothing, using Max Lucado's book

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room led by Mark Morrison

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. —

First Pres. Men & Your Guests

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 men's discussion group will include a 20-minute video each week and be grounded in Bible study.

Women's Discussion Group led by Lisa Haldorson and Craig Herr

Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Discussion Group

Our journey through the Bible continues as we look at The Mission, The Journey's, The Proclamation, and The Church. 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!!

"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.



Daylight Saving Time
begins Sunday, March 11!



Leave a Legacy of Love in Your Giving

“God is love.”
(I John 4:8b, NRSV)

Each and every day we have opportunities to live in love; that is, the love of Christ alive in us, influencing what we do, say, and commit to do. And over time — day by day, year by year — we leave a legacy of love in our world. The love of God in Christ Jesus never ends. What will your legacy of love look like over time?

Through our church, First Pres., we are given so many ways to live in love and touch and lift the lives of others. We make a difference, not just in the lives of friends and neighbors, but also in the lives of people around the world.

This year in our “Legacy of Love” Stewardship Campaign, you have the opportunity to give in love to support what God is doing through the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. Ask the Lord to guide you as you prayerfully decide what to give this year in 2018-2019. May the Lord bless you and fill you with the riches of his joy, grace, hope, and love.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary 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)

Small Groups & Special Events

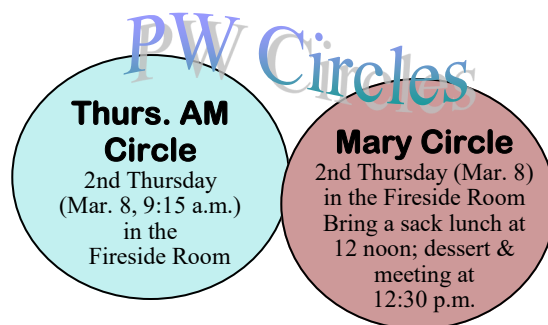


At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 8, 2018, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to approve a Special Offering between February 18th and March 4th in support of Rhobi, Lucia and Bhoke at Angel House Orphanage and Secondary School in Tanzania;

—to approve a special offering at the Ash Wednesday worship service in support of Feed My Starving Children;

—to approve the proposed 2018-2019 Church budget of \$804,000.



Church Women United

The Joliet Unit of Church Women United is having its “2018 World Day of Prayer” on Friday, March 2, at Prayer Tower Ministries COGIC, 500 Stryker Ave., Joliet. Business & Program is 10 a.m. to 12 noon; lunch is at noon (\$5). Call 815-726-8185 for more information.

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—March 20, 6 p.m. at Mamma Onesta’s Italian Restaurant, 1100 S State, Lockport. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men’s Dinner Group—March 23, 6 p.m. at McBrides on 52, 2727 W Jefferson St, Joliet. 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. We have begun 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 have a bag-packing day on the last Sunday of each month and then the bags are 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.



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.

All monies raised through table fees, gift drawings, and our lunch café will be going to Feed My Starving Children Campaign fundraiser for our Fall MobilePack Event.

The more items that are donated the more we will be able to keep our costs down. Here is a short list of some things that can help supply our lunch café that day:

- 3 cases of bottled water
- 12 -12 packs of soda - Coke/Diet Coke, Pepsi/Diet Pepsi, 7-Up/Sprite
- 3 - 50 ct. Frito Lay variety individual bags of chips

There is a sign up sheet in Hoffman Hall, if you are able to help out.

Special Offering for Bhoke, Rhobi & Lucy



Rhobi

Bhoke

Lucia

We continue our Angel House Special Offering to support Rhobi, Bhoke and Lucia at Angel House Orphanage and Secondary School in Tanzania. We need to raise \$4,680 to fully support the 3 girls for the year.

A recent e-mail message from Angel House Grass-roots tells of how the kids took time to make valentine cards for people in their lives. They write, "It was also an opportunity to remember and be thankful for the miracle God has done at Angel House. He has not only created a safe place at Angel for both the kids and staff, but He has created a home and a place of love. One of the ways God has done this is through the generosity of child sponsors and we also want to honor and thank you for the love that you have shared. From everyone at Angel House, WE LOVE YOU!"

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, March 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

As I am writing this, the sun outside is shining, and it almost feels like a spring day. As much as I love snow, I always look forward to this type of day, because soon everything will bloom, flowers will fill the air with their smell and once again the song of happy birds will wake me up early in the morning. This is a season of transformation on so many levels, from the nature outside to each one of us. Easter is that Spring day for us as Christians, that we look forward to it with great joy and anticipation—a day when hope arises once again. And we all need that!

But before that day comes, we still have to go through the season of Lent, a season when we are called to look towards the cross, to the death of the Lord, a season where hope only comes through sacrifice. That is one thing I wish for us to be able to share with the children and youth of our congregation. Hope comes through sacrifice.

What was the last thing you gave up, or went out of your way in order to bring hope in someone's life? In times like this when our world seems filled with so much division, I believe that we are called to bring and stand for hope, even if it comes at a price.

I would like to encourage each one of you, parents and grandparents, kids and youth, to stand for hope, to do your best and encourage people around you, to make a sacrifice that will bring a smile and make a difference in someone. Kids learn from examples; let us all be those examples of hope and care, let our lives reflect who Christ is and may this season indeed, be a season of renewal and new life for all.

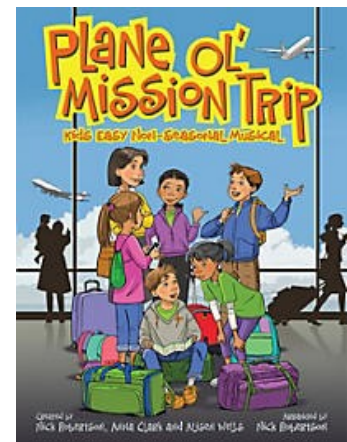
Be blessed,
Bo M.



Please mark your calendars for our Easter Egg Hunt – March 31. Even if this event is closer to Easter than to Palm Sunday, we will still welcome all kids and their families to come and enjoy breakfast with us and meet the Easter Bunny, enjoy lots of crafts and hear the Easter Story. This event is very dear to me, because it brings people from all over the community; and for one hour in their lives they are our guests, surrounded by the love of our faith community, to hear the message of God's love.

We are needing people to come out and help with greeting, serving food, or helping with crafts. Please talk to me on Sunday or shoot me an email: bo@firstpresjoliet.org.

Coming in April —
Children's Musical



When a group of kids headed on a mission trip find themselves stranded at the airport due to inclement weather, they quickly learn that our mission field is everywhere.



It's amazing how January feels like a month that drags on for 90 days, but February is gone with a blink of an eye! This month we experienced snow storms, warm weather, and were joined by Wayne and Linda Zoellick! It was wonderful to have Wayne and Linda share their hearts and their mission with us at Wildfire. The couple shared many God stories where they saw the miraculous way He works in people's lives. We learned about the homeless, a population in Joliet much larger than we realized, and helped create the cards that go into the bags created for our Mission for the Homeless.

Danny Tracy, lead singer for the Enlivened Band (which opened for Water Within on Saturday 2/24/18), shared his life with us this month as well. It was encouraging to hear how this young man was chasing his dream while chasing Jesus all the more.

March is going to be a busy month! As the sun shines a little longer and the weather gets a little warmer (sometimes at least) we at Wildfire are getting excited about everything God is doing with us and through us.

Many Blessings,

Karissa Fleming
Karissa.Fleming@firstpresjoliet.org
(815)727-9259 x207



UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 4- Lesson Night
God's Justice and Mercy**

**March 11- Service Project
Make College Care
Packages**

**March 18- Live Testimony
Kendall Fris**

**March 24-Set Up for
Palm Sunday Breakfast
5pm-7pm**

**March 25-
Palm Sunday Breakfast!**

**March 25- No Evening
Youth Group**

**March 30- Good Friday
Service, then a
Movie Night!**

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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 AT JOLIET IL
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 805 Western Ave.
 Joliet, IL 60435

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

TO:

March Blog Readings by Day

3/1/18	Num 19-21	Prov 26	Luke 5
3/2/18	Num 22-23	Ps 27	Luke 6
3/3/18	Num 24-26	Prov 27	Luke 7
3/4/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: God as Au-		
3/5/18	Num 27-29	Ps 28	Luke 8
3/6/18	Num 30-33	Prov 28	Luke 9
3/7/18	Num 34-36	Ps 29	Luke 10
3/8/18	Deut 1-2	Prov 29	Luke 11
3/9/18	Deut 3-4	Ps 30	Luke 12
3/10/18	Deut 5-6	Prov 31	Luke 13
3/11/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: God as Redeemer		
3/12/18	Deut 7-8	Ps 31	Luke 14
3/13/18	Deut 9-10	Prov 31	Luke 15
3/14/18	Deut 11-12	Ps 32	Luke 16
3/15/18	Deut 13-14	Eccl 1:1-11	Luke 17
3/16/18	Deut 15-16	Ps 33	Luke 18
3/17/18	Deut 17-18	Eccl 1:12-	Luke 19
3/18/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: God as		

3/19/18	Deut 19-20	Ps 34	Luke 20
3/20/18	Deut 21-22	Eccl 2:1-17	Luke 21
3/21/18	Deut 23-24	Ps 35	Luke 22
3/22/18	Deut 25-26	Eccl 2:18-	Luke 23
3/23/18	Deut 27-28	Ps 36	Luke 24
3/24/18	Deut 29-30	Eccl 3:1-8	John 1
3/25/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: God as		
3/26/18	Deut 31-32	Ps 37	John 2
3/27/18	Deut 33-34	Eccl 3:9-22	John 3
3/28/18	Josh 1-2	Ps 38	John 4
3/29/18	Josh 3-4	Eccl 4:1-6	John 5
3/30/18	Josh 5-6	Ps 39	John 6
3/31/18	Josh 7-8	Eccl 4:17-	John 7

Num = Numbers; Ps = Psalm; Prov = Proverbs;
 Deut = Deuteronomy; Eccl = Ecclesiastes;
 Josh = Joshua