



The Servants' Light

April 25, 2018

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.”***

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.



Finally, the sun is shining through my windows and spring has sprung! That joy of spring can only be compared, at least for me, to the joy that Vacation Bible School brings. Of course, we all know that VBS is just a week in the summer when our church is filled with kids and families from around the community. We know that, for that one week, they will learn about Jesus and spend a little time emerged in the scriptures. But even more, we pray and hope that in that one week in the summertime, each and every one will be affected by the love of God.

This year we are going to an uncharted island where kids will discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. *Shipwrecked* is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste!

Science-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. As our mission project for the summer, we will join together to raise money for Feed my Starving Children. In the past years the kids participating in our VBS have raised money for school supplies, etc. by finding ways to show the love of Jesus in a practical way.

Are you ready for this adventure? Are you ready to join our crew? I surely hope so! VBS this year is June 18 -22 and registration is open online on our church website for both participants and volunteers!

See you all aboard!
Bo M.



5th Sunday of Easter, April 29.

Come express your gratitude in worship for the extravagant grace of God in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks that God does not count our sins against us because “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ” (II Corinthians 5:19). We are united in our

need for God’s saving grace. We are made one in Christ Jesus, as his followers. 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 I am preaching on “Relationships With Each Other: Forbearance and Forgiveness.” The sermon text is Colossians 3:1-17. This Sermon Series is about our relationships and focuses on our “Relational Reach and Resiliency.” Join us as we think about the importance and power of relationships in our lives.

A Time to Thank Jim Mullins. This Sunday, April 29, we will have a reception in Hoffman Hall for Jim and Carol Mullins. They are leaving the area and moving to St. Louis. This is Jim’s last Sunday at church and we shall miss Jim and Carol very much as they move and make a new home in St. Louis. Jim has served in the life and ministry of our church for 12 and half years. We will say thanks to Jim and Carol at a reception in Hoffman Hall between worship services on his last Sunday, April 29.

John King, Leader of Churches United For Christ, is being honored at the “Community Support Banquet & Award Ceremony.” The Banquet is on Saturday, May 5, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, 411 S. Larkin Ave. You will remember seeing John King at our summer outdoor tent worship services with the community. For tickets call Ora Holloway at 779-279-3363.

Feed My Starving Children Progress. As you know, 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 raising the money to support the event, and so far we have received \$3,344. Our goal is \$23,000, which will fund 109,000 meals.

Grateful For Upcoming Sabbatical. I am very thankful for the opportunity to take two months for the work of study and renewal, beginning May 6. During this time I will read about church life, growth, ministry, and leadership. The goal is finding what would enhance and grow the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. I will visit at least four churches to see what they are doing that could be transferable to our church. I will spend some time in MA at the seminary I graduated from to do research and study. Then I will be working out of my home the rest of the time. During this time I will not be available for pastoral ministry, weddings, and funerals. I will return to the office on Tuesday, July 10. Both Dale Amber and Bo Mircea are highly capable pastors and I know that they will serve and lead well over these two months. I am grateful to them and all of the staff and the elders on session, for I am able to go on this Sabbatical and not worry about things at First Pres. I hope you will express your appreciation to the pastors, staff, and session for their faithful service.

In Christ,

Craig



Just Born:

William James Orr (February 14)
Son of Jeremy & Sarah (Bornhofen) Orr

Louise Elise Adelmann (March 29)
Daughter of Kyle & Christine Adelmann

Baptized:

Lorenzo David Valdivia (April 15)
Son of Kyla Steinberg & Miguel Valdivia

Gabriella Rose Wolfer (April 22)
Daughter of Michael & Christina (Lee) Wolfer

Passed to Life Eternal:

Lewis (Ted) Schorie (March 23)
Susan Pettigrew (March 29)

April 22, 2018

Worship Attendance — 211

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$804,000

Year to Date Receipts	\$53,284
Year to Date Expenses	\$37,087

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — -0-
Feed My Starving Children —
Craft & Vendor Fair brought in \$1,468 + some donations
FMSC total is now \$3,344

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.”

"Relational Reach and Resiliency" Sermon Series Continues

We are finishing this sermon series, thinking about the quality of our relationships. What is your relational reach? How resilient are your relationships? We will consider what we can do to strengthen our relational reach and resiliency.

April 29—Relationships With Each Other: Forbearance and Forgiveness —Colossians 3:1-17

May 6—Relationships with Each Other: Sharing Life and Training Up

May 13—Relationships In the Community and World: We Are Sent

Upcoming Sermon Series...

With Pentecost comes the start of a new sermon series ...“ACT-ing as the Church” – a series based on Acts 2:41-47. This passage paints a picture of a powerfully transformed community that comes together and is literally on fire with the Holy Spirit. It is a passage that defines the essence of growing the church.... “So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” We begin the new series on May 20th with the following:

May 20: “Worship”
May 27: “Hospitality”
June 3: “Discipleship”
June 10: “Service”
June 17: “Goodwill”

And, looking ahead, while Craig is away on sabbatical, our sermon series through the summer will include the following:

June 24 – July 29: A Refreshing Look at the Lord’s Prayer
August 5 – September 2: 500 Years of Solas

There is more to come on each of these opportunities to see how God may be working in and among our community of faith.

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Discussion Groups

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. —

Men’s Discussion Group led by Dale Ambler
All men are invited to participate in a men’s only discussion group. We have begun a look at Paul’s Letter to the Galatians that will take us through the entire summer. All men are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210 on the following Wednesdays in May as we move into the summer: May 2, 9 and 16.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.—

Women’s Discussion Group led by Lisa Haldorson
Calling all women!! Come and join the Women's Discussion Group that meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. You'll be sure to have an inspiring, love-filled time with other women of the church while growing in our faith together. We are studying *Present Over Perfect: Leaving Behind Frantic for a Simpler, More Soulful Way of Living*.

Tuesday “Lunch Bunch” Discussion Group

Join us as we begin a 6-week study of the Beatitudes. Bring your Bible and lunch and join in a SPIRIT-ed discussion on Tuesdays at noon in Room 210. We will meet on the following Tuesdays in May as we move into the summer: May 1, 8 and 15.



The New Members Class will be Sunday, May 20, following the second service. Bring a dish to share and join us for our “2nd Sunday Potluck,” have some time for fellowship, and then attend the class at 1 p.m. This is a great time to learn more about the life and ministry of First Pres. and to meet some great folks. New members will officially join First Pres. on Sunday, June 10. Talk to one of our pastors if you are interested in attending the New Members Class.



Parish Council is planning a Summer Concert Series for the third Wednesdays of June, July and August.

Mark your calendars for:

June 20 — Edertainment
July 18 — The Matthew Miller Group
August 16 — Enlivened Band

The evenings will begin with a time of fellowship, followed by the concert, and then—more fellowship!

2nd Sunday Potlucks

In May our 2nd Sunday Potluck will actually be on the 3rd Sunday, May 20, due to Mother's Day. Plan to join us for a great lunch and spend some quality time with friends. We'll gather right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring a dish to share, drop it off in the kitchen, and head to worship. Your dishes can be kept warm or refrigerated if necessary. Bring whatever you like – it'll be a true potluck. If you prefer to attend early service, you can stay through an "extended" coffee hour until the service ends or go run an errand and come back at 11:30. We'll have plenty of time to eat and visit together. About 40 folks gathered in April for our inaugural 2nd Sunday Potluck. Questions? Call Jen Gabl, 815-954-1254.



Help us Celebrate Your Graduate!

Graduation Day is coming up! And we'd 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 along with a photo of your graduate (which we will return). We'd like to have the board up the first week in May.

Small Groups & Special Events

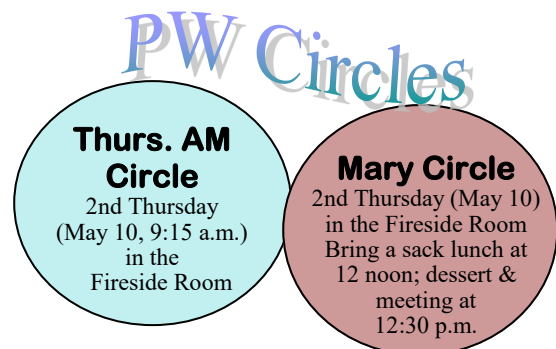


At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 12, 2018, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to move the August 2018 Session Meeting from August 9 to August 16;
—to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 20, 2018, to approve the pastors' terms of call and to elect Lisa Kasper and Mary Kessling to Session;
—to allow Parish Council to spend \$3,000 over budget to hire bands for our three Summer Concerts.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, May 20. There will be a gathering on Wednesday, May 16, 4:30 p.m. to go over the Annual Report and answer any questions you may have. Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, May 13th.



Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—May 4, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—May 15, 6 p.m. at Route 52 Roadhouse, 525 S. State St., Manhattan. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—May 25, 6 p.m. at Firewater BBQ, 1847 Knapp Rd., Crest Hill. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

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 5, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.



Every summer the special music for the 9:00 a.m. service is provided by volunteer soloists, groups and instrumentalists. This year we need to fill 9 Sundays. Many thanks to those who have already signed up. There are 3 openings left:

June 17

August 12, 19

If you can contribute as a soloist, duet, small group, or instrumentalist, please see Choirmaster Ken Myers. You can also find the signup clipboard attached to the bulletin board in the choir room and sign up there. A third choice, let the office know what date you would like to fill on the schedule.

This year Summer Choir will sing July 8, 15, 22, 29 & again August 26. This is a great opportunity to join the choir on a short term basis. We rehearse on Sunday morning at 8:20 a.m., before the 9:00 a.m. service, to prepare and sing an easy anthem in that service. More on this before July rolls around. I hope you will join us.

— Ken Myers



Our Night Deacons will again facilitate the free Summer Lunch Program, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting the first or second week in June. Activities include an open gym offered by Bo on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; a movie day with Mark Morrison (day to be determined); and craft and/or board games on the remaining 2 days of the week. Additional volunteers are needed to manage the activities and help distribute the lunches. Please call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to offer your help.

Children Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. The program is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Mission for the Homeless

Our Mission to the Homeless continues—providing needed items on a monthly basis to the homeless in our community. Helping is easy—simply bring pop-top canned goods such as soups and stews, fruit with peel-off lids, toiletries, etc. and place them in the bins in the Narthex (check out the list of needed items in the Narthex). Especially needed are warm socks. Then once a month we’ll pack up bags after worship and on Monday will deliver them to MorningStar Mission for distribution. The next bag-packing day is Sunday, May 20. Please call Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396, if you have questions or to offer your help.

Children's Ministry News

Are you ready for summer? I know that most parents are, and I am pretty sure that kids are just waiting for time off school. Kids are already on the baseball fields or playing soccer and doing all kinds of things that will keep parents and kids always on the run, so to speak. So, I thought that before vacation starts, I would share with you a few things you might consider as you get ready for summer.



Worship regularly. We all agree that life can be busy and sometimes plans change—team schedules or extra practices, etc. Things like that just happen. But worshipping together as a family is an important part of life, and it has a very well determined place in our lives. It helps kids see the importance of being involved in church life as a family, the importance of setting time apart to be in God's presence. Worship is about knowing and being known--knowing God and God's family, and also making friends and developing relationships in God's house.



Spend time in the word. As a kid I had a bunch of books to read as my summer reading, and just like any other kid, the week before going back to school was cram time. I am sorry to tell you that there is no cram time with God's word. We need to set time aside and read the Bible. Yes, I know, not many Bibles out there have pictures, or are full of illustrations that will make them fun to read. You will need to look for a Bible to fit your style and needs. Trust me, they are out there. Maybe this summer you can have a competition in your family and see who can memorize the most verses, or maybe who can memorize the most names. Find a challenge, make it fun and spend time in the Bible.



Get involved in a service project. With all the vacations and all the other things competing for our time, it might be hard for us to set time aside to serve. I cannot stress how important that is in the life of the church but also in the life of your family. I might teach the best Bible lesson on earth this Sunday morning, but to my surprise maybe just one kid might remember it by the end of the week. What they will remember for a long time is spending time with you as a parent or time with their friends, getting their hands dirty, getting involved in something bigger than themselves. Service is part of who we are as Christians; it is our call. So find time to cultivate that with your children, find something that you can get involved in.

I hope that my words were not too many and that your mind has not left for vacation by the time you read this. I hope and I pray that this summer will be a great family time for you and your family; and a meaningful time to grow as God's loved ones.

Be blessed,
Bo



Special Announcement:

Youthworks has closed the Kansas City, KS, mission trip site (the site we were planning to attend), but we are excited to announce that we will now be going to Cincinnati, OH! The dates are the same (June 24-30), just a new location. If you are interested in going, please contact me ASAP. Thank you!

In the blink of an eye April is gone. I want to give a major shout out to Mahryha Iwema for teaching the lesson on Grace while I was gone, and a special shout out to Bob Becker for taking command of the group when the Linus Blankets Project came. Matt Pritz and Aubrey Herr are rockstars, too! Without you and your dedication to our teens, Wildfire would have had to take a two-week break while I recovered from having my tonsils out. So, again, thank you!

While spring is around the corner, despite the snow that keeps falling, schools become a place of stress as finals draw ever nearer. The day of Mario Kart was a great way to have fun, laugh, blow off some steam, and just enjoy fellowship with each other. I am also very excited to share my testimony this coming week with the kids. There is always Hope in every situation, and I am happy to share my experience of that with them.

I imagine May will be the quickest month of the year. I look forward to all the fun things to come!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS WILDFIRE Youth Group Sundays, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**April 29- Live Testimony
Karissa Fleming**

**May 4-May 5- Lock-In
High Schoolers Only**

**May 6- Skit Lesson
End of Attributes of God**

**May 13- No Meeting
Mother's Day**

**May 20- Last Meeting
Jello Fight!**

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
 POSTAGE PAID
 AT JOLIET IL
 USPS 560-720

Address Service

First Presbyterian Church
 805 Western Ave.
 Joliet, IL 60435

Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the May 30 *Servants' Light* is **May 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

May Daily Devotional Blog

5/1/18	1 Sam 25-27	Eccl 11:1-5	Acts 12
5/2/18	1 Sam 28-29	Psalm 53	Acts 13
5/3/18	2 Sam 1-2	Eccl 11:6-10	Acts 14
5/4/18	2 Sam 3-4	Psalm 54	Acts 15
5/5/18	2 Sam 5-6	Eccl 12:1-8	Acts 16
5/6/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: <i>God as Strength</i>		
5/7/18	2 Sam 7-8	Psalm 59	Acts 17
5/8/18	2 Sam 9-10	Eccl 12:9-13	Acts 18
5/9/18	2 Sam 11-12	Psalm 60	Acts 19
5/10/18	2 Sam 13-14	Job 1	Acts 20
5/11/18	2 Sam 15-16	Psalm 61	Acts 21
5/12/18	2 Sam 17-18	Job 2	Acts 22
5/13/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: <i>God as Shepherd</i>		
5/14/18	2 Sam 19-20	Psalm 62	Acts 23
5/15/18	2 Sam 21-22	Job 3	Acts 24
5/16/18	2 Sam 23-24	Psalm 63	Acts 25

5/17/18	1 Kings 1-2	Job 4	Acts 26
5/18/18	1 Kings 3-4	Psalm 64	Acts 27
5/19/18	1 Kings 5-6	Job 5	Acts 28
5/20/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: <i>God as Hope</i>		
5/21/18	1 Kings 7-8	Psalm 65	Rom 1
5/22/18	1 Kings 9-10	Job 6	Rom 2
5/23/18	1 Kings 11-12	Psalm 66	Rom 3
5/24/18	1 Kings 13-14	Job 7	Rom 4
5/25/18	1 Kings 15-16	Psalm 67	Rom 5
5/26/18	1 Kings 17-18	Job 8	Rom 6
5/27/18	DAY OF REFLECTION: <i>God as Rest</i>		
5/28/18	1 Kings 19-20	Psalm 68	Rom 7
5/29/18	1 Kings 21-22	Job 9	Rom 8
5/30/18	2 Kings 1-3	Psalm 69	Rom 9
5/31/18	2 Kings 4-5	Job 10	Rom 10

Sam = Samuel; Eccl = Ecclesiastes; Rom = Romans