



The Servants' Light

August 29, 2018

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

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Joliet, IL 60435

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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.



Men's Group

Calling all men—please join the men of the church at Panera Bread, south-east corner of IL Route 59 and Caton Farm Road, Plainfield, on Thursday, September 13, for the first men's group session of the fall season. We have the private dining room from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Led by men of the group, we will get to know each other and be better prepared for the fall line up of Wednesday evening men's group sessions. Please bring your ideas for future men's group activities. All First Pres. men and their guests are welcome. If you wish, you can meet at Panera Bread by 6 p.m. in order to have dinner together first.



Mid-Week Family Night begins September 12
Our Wednesday Family Nights are for everyone—come and take time during the week to connect & spiritually recharge!

5:30 p.m. — Dinner for everyone

6:30 p.m. — Music & Learning for Kids (age 4 yrs.—5th Grade)

— Teen Bible Study

— Men's Bible Discussion Group

— Women's Discussion Group

— Childcare for age 3 & under



Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Sunday, September 2. We live by faith in the Living God who “raised Christ [Jesus] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the age to come” (Ephesians 1:20-21). Come in faith to worship our Great and Wonderful God with your friends in Christ this Sunday.

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

Sermon. Bo is preaching this Sunday and he writes, “Sola Fide - By Faith alone! This Sunday we are closing our sermon series by looking at what it takes to follow God. For many, faith translates into religion and religious behavior, but I would like to challenge that idea that faith goes beyond the outside display of one’s faith and it deals with the core of who we are. Hebrews 11:1—‘Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see’—becomes an encouragement to all, once we understand that the relationship between God and his creation requires trust. I would like to encourage you to read the entire chapter of Hebrews 11 as we prepare our hearts for Sunday. I am looking forward to celebrating God with you as we gather around the communion table and looking with great joy at what we can and will do to strengthen our faith.”

Special Offering for Farragut School Supplies.

Thank you for your response these past two Sundays. The principle, Joy Hopkins, visited us last Sunday and was thrilled with our support of the children and partnership with Farragut. We have one more Sunday, this Sunday, for the school supplies offering. We have purchased 1,200 Composition Books for grades 2-5. The children are so happy to them. Thank you for your support over the years for the children at Farragut.

Feed My Starving Children Progress. Excitement is building for our second Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event, the first Friday and Saturday in November. This year we are raising the money to support the event and so far we have received \$6,797. Our goal is \$23,000, which will fund 109,000 meals. I encourage you to invite anyone you know to give to this wonderful effort. In addition, invite them to come and volunteer at the mobile packing event, on Nov. 2-3.

In Christ,

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



Known to be in the Hospital:

Shirley Hill at Presence St. Joseph

Baptized:

Preston Robert Dickinson (July 29)
Son of Michael & Kaaitlin (Larsen) Dickinson

August 26 2018

Worship Attendance — 145

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$799,852

Year to Date Receipts	\$261,588
Year to Date Expenses	\$284,063

Farragut School Supplies — \$1,036
Feed My Starving Children — 6,797 to date
2018-2019 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 and click on “Giving.”

Growing in Christ—

"Overcoming: Reconnect and Sustain Your Life in Christ"—New Sermon Series

We live in challenging times in what is being called a "Post-Christian" era. People have become more and more disconnected from meaningful work, as 70%-80% of workers hate their jobs. More and more people in our frantic paced society are becoming disconnected from other people, the good world God created, meaningful values, real hope, the Church, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The good news is the tremendous opportunity we have to do ministry in these challenging times. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we can help people connect or reconnect with the Savior, reconnect with the community of God's people the church, and reconnect with a purpose-filled life serving the Lord and others. The Lord wants to work through us to help others reconnect to the real hope we have because God so loved the world. Perhaps there are areas in our own lives in which we need to "Reconnect" with Jesus, His Church and other followers of Christ, the good world God created, and the living hope we have in God.

Worship with us as we seek the overcoming strength of God in the Lord Jesus Christ this fall. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

September 9—"Reconnect and Live"

John 15:1-11, 18-21, 16:33

September 16—"Made for More"

Genesis 1:26-31, Psalm 8, Ephesians 1:15-19

September 23—"Choices..."

Matthew 7:13-29, II Kings 13:14-20

September 30—"Making Work, Work"

John 6:25-40, Colossians 3:23

Women's Discussion Group

It seems like just yesterday since we last gathered... however, the calendar tells us that the fall is upon us. Lisa Haldorson will be facilitating a Women's Discussion Group on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room using Bob Goff's new book, *Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People*. "In his entertaining and inspiring follow-up to the New York Times bestselling phenomenon, *Love Does*, Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint, or worry. The path toward the liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple to say as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits." (Amazon) The only requirements to participate in this discussion group are to be a woman and to bring your thoughts and ideas about life with you to share with others.

Adult Education Opportunities

Tuesday "Lunch Bunch" Bible Discussion Group

Can you believe it - fall is upon us? Our Tuesday discussion group is about to start up again beginning on Tuesday, September 11, at 12:00 noon in Room 210. We will spend our time until Christmas discussing 1 Corinthians. Paul's letter to the church at Corinth was a bold letter, and it is a bold letter for us as well. The young church faced many challenges to their integrity and faith...just as we do today. With great passion and love, Paul writes about building their faith on the one and only sure foundation... Jesus.

Remember, this is a discussion group—I will be sending out detailed information to those who have participated with us in the past so they can be better prepared. If you have a desire to join us, just let me know and I will include you as well. Send your request to dale.ambler@firstpresjoliet.org or text me at 815-953-1383. See you in a couple of weeks!!

— Dale

C4 Men's Bible Discussion Group

Well men....the fall is nearly upon us and there is a time slot on Wednesdays devoted just for you. Beginning Wednesday, September 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. we will gather in Room 210 and begin a discussion using the book of Proverbs to guide us.

Why Proverbs? Because I believe we can be difference makers in this world through godly wisdom and Christian character...the very heart of the book of Proverbs. A second reason is that the character of a man is defined certainly in what he claims to believe regarding matters of truth but, more importantly, by the practicing of these truths.

This is a discussion group more than a class...so come prepared to talk about what you believe and why you believe it and we will not only learn from the book of Proverbs, but hopefully, from each other. I will be sending out detailed information to those who have participated with us in the past so they can be better prepared. If you have a desire to join us, just let me know and I will include you as well...send your request to dale.ambler@firstpresjoliet.org or text me at 815-953-1383. See you in a couple of weeks!!

— Dale

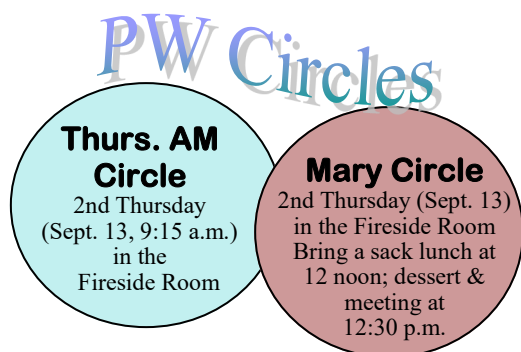
Small Groups & Special Events

2nd Sunday Potluck

Save the date — September 9 — for our 2nd Sunday Potluck. 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. We'll have plenty of time to eat and visit together.

Ladies Night Out Tuesday, Sept. 4

At some point everyone is going to need a little bit of help; that's what they say over at Hands of Hope. Ladies, join us on September 4 for a chance to serve one of Joliet's Christian organizations that is dedicated to fighting local hunger. We will most likely be sorting items of some variety so wear comfortable clothing (there is no a/c) and closed-toed shoes. To car-pool, meet at the church at 5:45 p.m.; otherwise meet at 511 Oakleaf Ct., Joliet at 6 p.m. We look forward to serving with our sisters in Christ!



New Church Keys

We are rekeying the outside doors of the church. Beginning September 1st, if you presently have an outside door key, you may come to the office to receive a new key. You will be asked to complete a key check-out form and will be assigned a new numbered key. The locks will be changed as of October 1st, at which time none of the old keys for outside doors will work.

If you have keys which you no longer use, outside or inside doors, please return them to the office. Perhaps you were an officer and no longer hold that position, or you were issued keys for a class or event that is no longer meeting. Please return the keys. Keys cost up to \$20 each to make. The cost of making more keys adds up. Please help us be good stewards and return any keys you are no longer using.

Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 16, 2018, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to authorize Stewardship Council to spend up to \$22,000 for repair and/or replacement of air conditioning units and equipment, with such expenditures to be made at the discretion of Stewardship Council;
—to authorize the expenditure of funds to obtain copies of the book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, as needed for our fall study.

Intentional love 2018 Ladies Day

John
3:16-17

Retreat

Sat., September 22,
11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
at the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate

Lunch, Workshops, Worship
Amy Logan, guest speaker (author of
"A Girl with a Cape" book series)

Registration is online or by mail
(form available at www.firstpresjoliet.org)
Cost is \$40; Registration deadline is September 16

You are invited to embrace a life of faith and joy

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—Sept. 18, 6 p.m. at Syl's Restaurant, 829 Moen Ave., Rockdale. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—Sept. 28, 6 p.m. at Wild Horse Restaurant, 2314 W. Jefferson St., Joliet. 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, September 1, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.



Feed My Starving Children MobilePack November 2 & 3

We have been focusing all year on raising funds for our FMSC MobilePack Event. The VBS kids mission project and freewill offerings at our Sounds of Summer Concerts have all contributed to bring the MobilePack Event here to First Pres. on November 2 and 3. This year our goal is \$23,000. We will be packing 109,000 meals, which will feed 300 children for an entire year. Beginning later in September, you will be able to sign up on our website for one of our 4 shifts:

Friday, Nov. 2 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3 — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

3 to 5 p.m.

There will also be set-up and clean-up shifts. It’s fun to work as a group, so you might ask your extended family, your neighbors, clubs or sports teams you are involved in, etc. to all sign up for the same shift. We CAN make a difference in feeding the hungry children of the world!

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir	Who:	High School age and beyond
	When:	Sings at the 9 a.m. worship service Rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 5
	Why:	To use the talents God blessed you with in our worship experience together.
	Contact:	Ken Myers, Choirmaster, 815-577-2691
Worship Band	Who:	Singers and Instrumentalists
	When:	Plays at the 10:30 a.m. worship service Rehearses Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.
	Why:	Leads worship + all of the above reasons
	Contact:	Kristina Wilson, Worship Leader, 815-603-8101
Glory Ringers Handbells	Who:	High School age and beyond; need to be able to count (that includes everyone!) (we need just 2 more ringers to ring 3 octaves of bells)
	When:	Rings at the 9 a.m. worship service twice a month Rehearses Mondays at 7 p.m.; starting date TBD

Children's Ministry Up-

Time to unplug and plug in again

Let's face it! Busyness seems to be the speed most of us operate in these days. We run from one thing to another, from a meeting to another, from school to a game, grabbing some dinner on the run, and by the end of the night we are exhausted. Day after day this pattern becomes a reality that affects everybody—kids, teenagers, parents and grandparents. We all are on the run.

As Fall is upon us, so is the call to unplug from that busyness routine and find a time to bask in the God-refreshing oasis, where our soul can find new and refreshing strength for a new day. Part of who we are always desires that connection with God, because it is our source of strength and the place where we find our peace. And that is not just for the adults; kids and teenagers alike are affected just like we adults by this routine.

So Back to Church! Back to the Oasis! That is my invitation to you and your family this Fall. Come and plug in, connect with God, connect with your friends. Yes! Sunday worship will always welcome you, Wednesday Family Night will have dinner ready, there will be lots of things for the kids to do, and the same for your teenagers; parents and grandparents will have a place to connect with their friends. But even more than that, each one of those opportunities will give you a chance to plug in your soul—a time where you can build your faith, a time to encourage a friend, to discover God's promises and to grow. Matthew 11: 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." That is the invitation to disconnect from the busyness of life and find the strength that comes from God.

Looking forward to seeing you and spending time with you; discovering what God has in store for us this fall!

Bo M

For your Calendar:

*Sept 12 —Wednesday
Family Night—dinner, kids'
choir, fun stuff for kids to do*

Oct 24—Trunk 'n' Treat

*Nov 2 & 3 —Feed My
Starving Children*





August has been a wonderful month. The Youth Group had the best pool party (special shoutout to the Pritz's for hosting) and those kiddos were kind enough to celebrate my birthday! I may or may not have mentioned something on Facebook about liking birthday cake ice cream...but nevertheless, I am happy to say birthday cake ice cream was provided and I was one happy Youth Director!

This past Sunday we also enjoyed a chance to get together and enjoy each other's company while reviewing our summer. We thought back on our tie-dying experience, bonfire, pool party, and our two mission trips! Plus, we played games, sang a song, and even looked at a cool year book from last year's Wildfire Youth Group.

Onward now to Fall 2018! What can we all expect? On Wednesdays we will have a Teen Bible Study as part of Family Mid-Week. We will be reading through *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis and discussing how the devil uses temptation to draw us away from God.

On Sundays we will go through a rotation of lessons, service projects, and testimonies beginning on September 9th with a Kick-Ball Kick-Off! This will be a Youth vs. Parents game—so be in prayer for the parents, they will need all the help they can get! Each month I have also included an opportunity for fellowship outside of the usual Sunday gathering.

Also beginning on Sunday, September 9, will be Confirmation. If any 8th graders or 9th graders who did not attend last year are interested, please contact me ASAP. This is a great opportunity to truly dig deep and explore our faith together. Confirmation will meet 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays (right before Youth Group, which will work out perfectly to stay!).

I am excited for the Fall season and looking forward to another year filled with Jesus, growth, and Everlasting Hope.

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

YOUTH GROUP 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 9
Kick Off
Youth vs. Parents
Kickball**

**Sept. 23
Service Sunday**

**Sept. 29
Pumpkin Fest**

**Sept. 30
Youth Group
Carol Randolph
Live Testimony**

**CONFIRMATION
Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
4:30 to 6 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
 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 Sept. 26 *Servants'*
Light is **Sept. 10**. Please e-mail to
sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

September Daily Devotional Blog

9/1	Isaiah 39	Sng Sol 4:9-16	Heb 3
9/2	Day of Reflection: God as Deliverer		
9/3	Isaiah 40	PS 106:1-24	Heb 4
9/4	Isaiah 41	Sng Sol 5:1-8	Heb 5
9/5	Isaiah 42	PS 106:25-48	Heb 6
9/6	Isaiah 43	Sng Sol 5:9-16	Heb 7
9/7	Isaiah 44	PS 107:1-23	Heb 8
9/8	Isaiah 45	Sng Sol 6:1-5	Heb 9
9/9	Day of Reflection: God as Protector		
9/10	Isaiah 46	PS 107:24-43	Heb 10
9/11	Isaiah 47	Sng Sol 6:6-13	Heb 11
9/12	Isaiah 48	PS 108	Heb 12
9/13	Isaiah 49	Sng Sol 7:1-5	Heb 13
9/14	Isaiah 50	PS 109	James 1
9/15	Isaiah 51	Sng Sol 7:6-13	James 2

9/16	Day of Reflection: God as Eternal		
9/17	Isaiah 52	PS 110	James 3
9/18	Isaiah 53	Sng Sol 8:1-7	James 4
9/19	Isaiah 54	PS 111	James 5
9/20	Isaiah 55	Sng Sol 8:8-14	1 Peter 1
9/21	Isaiah 56	PS 112	1 Peter 2
9/22	Isaiah 57	PS 113	1 Peter 3
9/23	Day of Reflection: God as Kindness		
9/24	Isaiah 58	PS 114	1 Peter 4
9/25	Isaiah 59	PS 115	1 Peter 5
9/26	Isaiah 60	PS 116	2 Peter 1
9/27	Isaiah 61	PS 117	2 Peter 2
9/28	Isaiah 62	PS 118	2 Peter 3
9/29	Isaiah 63	PS 119:1-8	1 John 1
9/30	Day of Reflection: God as Goodness		

Sng Sol = Song Solomon; PS = Psalm;
 Heb = Hebrews