



# The Servants' Light

March 27, 2019

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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—

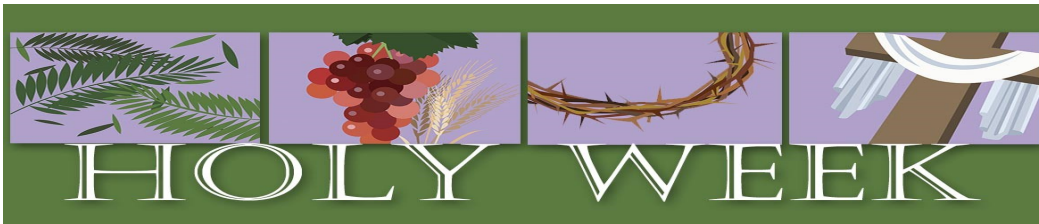
9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

#### Coffee Fellowship—

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

#### Nursery/Preschool Care—

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.



*Palm Sunday, April 14, 9 & 10:30 a.m.*

"Ask, Seek, Knock"

Chancel Choir & Glory Ringers/Worship Band

*Maundy Thursday, April 18*

Dinner at 6 p.m. (Freewill Offering)

(Roast Pork with Apple Brandy Sauce, Garlic Red Potatoes, Broccoli & Carrot Medley, Tossed Salad & Dressings, Rolls & Butter, Desserts)

Worship/Communion at 7 p.m.

"The Golden Rule"

Chancel Choir

*Good Friday, April 19, 6 p.m.*

"The Tree and Its Fruit"

*Easter "Resurrection" Sunday, April 21,*

*9 & 10:30 a.m.*

"The Better Way"

Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers, Brass/Worship Band



**It's this Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

We'll have over 40 vendors selling a variety of items—beauty products, jewelry, home décor, kitchen items, doll clothes, spring crafts, books, vintage items, clothes, accessories, etc. Admission is \$2. A Café will be open for food purchases, and there will be special prize drawings. \$2 admission. Proceeds will benefit FPJ Stephen Ministry and Women's Ministry. Come shop for Easter, Mother's Day, birthdays, or for yourself!



**SUNDAY, MARCH 31.** We continue our “More Like Jesus: Sermon on the Mount” Series as we make our way through the Lenten Season. Each week we journey through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus in Matthew Chapters 5-7.

While these teachings are familiar, they are also very challenging. Jesus presents to us the way of life and faith describing what this looks like in our world. Worship with us this Sunday as we seek to know the way of Jesus that brings life, hope, strength, and even joy.

The Chancel Choir and 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.** This Sunday I am preaching on “Judge Not: Think the Best.” The scripture passage for this week’s sermon is Matthew 7:1-5. We live in a very judgmental culture where severe criticism of others abounds. This is a challenging teaching from Jesus on how to think about others. Jesus understood that it is very tempting to think well of ourselves while being harshly critical of other people.

**SELLING THE 806 BUELL AVE. MANSE.** On Sunday, March 31, the Session has called a congregational meeting to approve putting the Manse up for sale and to elect new officers. The Manse has been a good house for us when one of our staff members wished to live there. It has also helped us to add space to our parking lot behind the church. But now, since we do not have any staff members who wish to live there, it seems best to sell the home and not be in the real estate or rental business. If you wish to talk about this, see

one of our Stewardship members (Rich Johnson, Jim Huey, Ed Schultz) or talk with me or one of our elders.

**“GRATEFUL GIVING” STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESPONSE.** We are seeking to finish up the Stewardship Campaign before March 31. You 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.

**FINAL SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY FOR ANGEL HOUSE MISSION** to Support Bhoke, Rhobi, and Lucia. This Sunday is our last Sunday for receiving our annual special offering to support these three young women. We committed to supporting them through high school. It’s so good to see them growing up at Angel House Mission in a loving and caring place where Christ’s love is shared and education is valued. In effect, they have an extended family through Angel House Mission and through our support. Each year we raise \$4,680 to support Bhoke, Rhobi, and Lucia. So far, we have raised \$2,822.

**SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM and INVITE SOMEONE TO FIRST PRES.** Invite someone to one of the Worship Services or Dinner you see on the front cover of the newsletter. We have many ministries and opportunities throughout Lent to invite and meet new people. One of the best things you can do is invite someone to come with you to a dinner, lunch, fellowship time, worship service, etc. Your inviting presence and enthusiasm are most important in growing the church and extending the caring presence of Christ.

In Christ,



Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Just Born:

William O’Brien Schultz (Jan. 31)  
Son of Scott & Amanda Schultz

Baptized:

Dominik Lee Golembiewski (Feb. 24)  
Son of Daniel & Samantha (Parratore) Golembiewski

**March 24, 2019**

Worship Attendance — 193

**Stewardship Report**

2018-2019 Budget: \$799,852

**Year to Date Receipts** \$733,390

**Year to Date Expenses** \$744,498

Angel House Offering Received — \$2,822

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$18,000

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.”

## Adult Education Opportunities



### “More Like Jesus: Sermon on the Mount” Sermon Series for Lent

We continue our study of the Sermon on the Mount. We will journey through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from Matthew, Chapters 5-7. As we study these passages, we will relate them to the events surrounding Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. In the process, our worship services will reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith in this special and sacred season.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 31 | “Judge Not” Matthew 7:1-5   |
| April 7  | “Build on Rock” Matthew 7:24-27   |
| April 14 | <u>Palm Sunday</u><br>“Prayer...Does It Make a Difference?”<br>Matthew 7:7-11 |
| April 18 | <u>Maundy Thursday</u><br>“The Golden Rule” Matthew 7:12                      |
| April 19 | <u>Good Friday</u><br>“The Tree and its Fruit”                                |
| April 21 | <u>Easter</u><br>“The Better Way” Matthew 5:6, 6:19-21,<br>7:13-14            |

### Tuesday “Lunch Bunch” Bible Discussion Group

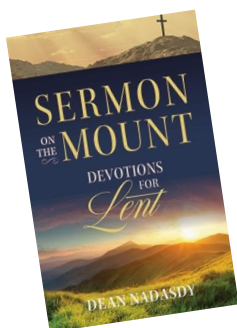
During Lent we are focusing on the Revised Common Lectionary passages. Bob and I are picking two passages for focus; and for those who participate, we hope and pray you will bring some insights from the other two passages to share with the group. So join us in Room 210 on Tuesdays at 12 noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy a Spirit-ed discussion together. As a planning note, we conclude this study on April 16th.

— Pastor Dale

### C4 Men’s Bible Discussion Group

This Lent season we are looking at one godly man, Simon Peter—one with flaws but one with courage and faithfulness also grounded in Jesus. All men of First Pres, and any friends you might want to bring with you, are invited to gather in Room 210 on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for a Spirit-ed discussion about being godly men in this tough world today. As a planning note, we conclude this study on April 10th

— Dale



Devotions for each day of Lent, by well-known preacher Dean Nadasdy, powerfully reveal that the cross itself becomes the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey through this sacred season.

Devotionals are available in the Narthex.

### Women’s Discussion Group

Lisa Haldorson is facilitating the Women’s Discussion Group which meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. During Lent we will be studying 12 women from the Bible and how they relate to us now in our lives.

### 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. This year brings together experts in leadership and organizational health to help attendees master the art and science of developing and leading healthy teams. Featured speakers include Andy Stanley and Gayle King. Registration forms are available on our website.

### Ladies Night In — Craft Night April 23, 6:30 p.m.

Spring is officially here! Well, on the calendar at least. Let's embrace this new season of life and growth by decorating our own terra cotta pots! We will let our creativity take over and release the stir crazy tension we've been feeling all winter. Not creative? No problem! We'll show you an easy splattering technique that will turn anyone into Jackson Pollock! It'll be a great night of laughter, prayer, and play! We can't wait to see you April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

### 2nd Sunday Potluck

Join others from your FPJ family for food and fellowship on Sunday, April 14 following 10:30 a.m. worship. Bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, etc.), drop it off in the kitchen and head to worship. If you attend first service you can enjoy an extended coffee fellowship or have time to run out and pick up some goodies. There's always great food and great fellowship!

### Meal Fellowship

**Men's Breakfast**—Apr. 5, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

**Dinner Out Group**—Apr. 16, 6:00 p.m. at McWethy's Tavern (Mistwood Golf Club), 1700 Renwick Road, Romeoville. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616, to make a reservation.

**Men's Dinner Group**—Apr. 26, 6:00 p.m. at Village Pub, 20631 Renwick Road, Crest Hill. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

## Small Groups & Special Events

### Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 14, 2019, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

—to allow an environmental study of our church building area affected by the possible installation of a cellular antenna on the bell tower;

—to hold a Congregational Meeting on March 31, 2019, to elect officers who have been nominated since the last meeting and to allow the Stewardship Council to proceed with the sale of the Buell Street Manse;

—to allow "You Are Now Entering the Mission Field" signs to be placed in the church and/or on church property to remind parishioners of everyone's duty to support mission projects;

—to use the Presbyterian USA 403B Retirement plan exclusively.

#### Thurs. AM Circle

2nd Thursday  
(Apr. 11, 9:15 a.m.)  
in the  
Fireside Room

#### Mary Circle

2nd Thursday (Apr. 11)  
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.



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



### SHARING RESOURCES CHANG-

On Easter Sunday, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Our offering helps support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Presbyterian Committee for the Self Development of People. Prayerfully consider your contribution to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

### 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, April 6, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on out and help us serve and welcome those in our community who are hungry.



God's grace, given to us, in Christ Jesus is wonderful and transformational;... sustains, shapes, and strengthens us. God's grace covers all of our failures, shortcomings, and sins. Jesus is God's "Amazing Grace" to us.

Our lives are, in a sense, a living response to God's grace. Through the "Grateful Giving" of ourselves, we can respond in many, many ways—serving, giving, loving, hoping, believing, praying, worshipping, surrendering, forgiving, building, striving, challenging, creating...and more.

Our "Grateful Giving" 2019 Stewardship Campaign gives everyone of us the opportunity to make our own response to God in terms of "Grateful Giving." **Envelope boxes will be available this Sunday.**

### Angel House Special Offering

This Sunday we will again receive a special offering for Lucia, Bhoke and Rhobi, the three young women we are supporting at Angel House Mission in Tanzania. Each year we raise \$4,680 (\$1,560 for each girl) to support their education, housing, and food for the entire year. This continues to be a wonderful and exciting mission for our church. Special offering envelopes will be in the Sunday bulletins. Or, you can give online by going to our website, [www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org), clicking on "Give" at the top, then either using the "Quick Give" option or register to give. You can click on General Budget and choose Angel House Mission.



### Join our Team of Sunday Morning Greeters!

Give the gift of your smiling, welcoming face this Easter Sunday! We are looking for smiling faces to greet guests and members arriving for Sunday morning worship. We have greeters at both church entrances, Western Ave. and the back parking lot, at both Sunday services. You may be asked for directions to the sanctuary, but usually duties are just to open the door as people arrive and to greet them. Anyone recognized as a visitor should be led to the Connections Table in the narthex.

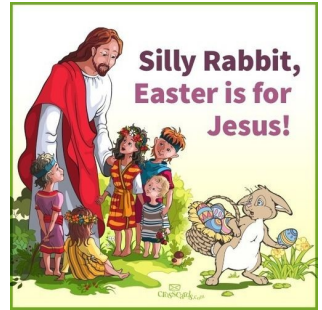
Greeters should arrive 20 minutes prior to the start of services. To cover both entrances at each service, we need 4 greeters every Sunday; or a couple may want to serve together at one entrance.

If you can commit to one Sunday a month (i.e., the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday) that would be ideal. If you have to miss a Sunday and can't find a replacement, we can help you. Just contact Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 or [barbrodgers1945@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbrodgers1945@sbcglobal.net) and let her know you want to be a part of this important ministry!

# Children's Ministry Update

## Easter is Coming!

Recently I came across a silly little cartoon about Easter. Silly Rabbit, Easter is for Jesus! It made me laugh at first, but then I got caught up in the reality of the message in it. Every year we come around and we get ready to celebrate this bright Sunday in spring, when we remember the life, death and resurrection of Christ. And every year, we put on our Sunday Best, make plans to see and be with family and go to church and then have family dinner together. All those are great things; God's love is meant to bring people together and, on Easter Sunday, we rejoice in it. And yet, somewhere in the celebration we miss the meaning of the day.



We make a big deal of the Easter Egg Hunt, of the Easter Bunny that spends a whole night hiding eggs around the back yard. Kids get excited about the candy, the crafts, the new clothes and so on, and yet they might still have a question: Why are we doing all this on Jesus' day?

I would like to encourage you to look with great anticipation towards Resurrection Sunday, to all the plans that you have made; and also encourage you to tell the story of Jesus as you sit at the dinner table, or maybe you can hide one empty egg that will help you tell that story. Make time to bring Jesus into the celebration, it is in many ways, His day in the spring!

Wishing you a Happy and meaningful Easter,  
Bo M.

## The Little Hot Chocolate Stand



A few weeks back, Bernie and Matt Blaser set up a project to help Creighton learn more about serving, so they came up with the idea of setting up a Hot Chocolate Stand. So on a Sunday, Crey and his helper served hot chocolate in Hoffman Hall, and he raised over \$1,000 for his project. Then last Monday, he went to deliver all the toys that were bought with that money. I am so happy to see faith that leads to action. Because of it, as a church we were encouraged to give and to help, and a little boy learned a lesson about serving. It is those lessons that will help kids grow in their faith, so I want to encourage you to find your own little project this year, involve the kids, the family and the church. God has great things in store for you!

## Things to Come!

April 10 – We will celebrate another year of Midweek Family Night with a great dinner and Pinewood Derby!  
SO.... plan on being there. It will be fun!

April 13 – Easter Egg Hunt – Invite your friends and family to come and hear the story of Easter, and enjoy a great breakfast followed by lots of activities for kids. It all starts at 9 a.m.



March was a month filled with learning and fellowship! We began the month with a fun art project that taught the students many of the names that Jesus is called in the Bible, along with the context in which he is called these names. We were delighted to have Betty Jones share her love of Helping Hands and worked tirelessly to learn needlepoint so that Betty and Dave could give hand-made prayer crosses to those they visit. These small yarn crosses are a reminder to not only pray for those who receive them, but a reminder that they are loved by the youth of FPJ. We had a real conversation about Jesus being the only way to Salvation and why it is so important to spread the Gospel in our lives. We were excited to have Matt Pritz share his testimony and what Youth Group meant to him growing up, and will end the month with another honest talk of how to respond when someone else says, "Is Jesus really the only way?"

During the month of March we also began to concentrate on being fully present by surrendering our phones for the hour and half that we are together. In the last few weeks, we (myself and the advisors) have seen the impact of surrendering our phones and being fully present in the moment.

1. Students are participating in the opening game more.
2. Students are not distracted during lessons and guest speakers.  
Not only are the students being more respectful toward our speakers, but they are absorbing more of what is being said!
3. Students are engaging with each other more.

We are offering our students an 1.5 hour break from the noise of the world and reminding them of the importance of the moment, the importance of being fully present with those that they are with.

Important Details for Parents to know:

- 1) I will keep my phone in my back pocket for emergencies. My number is 815-954-3047. Bob Becker will also have his phone with him; his number is: 815-666-5243.
- 2) Our other advisors (Matt Pritz and Laura Wakefield) participate in the surrendering of the phones to show unity with the students.
- 3) Phones are collected in a bin and kept in a locked room.
- 4) Phones are taken at the beginning of the evening (6:05 p.m.) and given back when students leave (7:30 p.m.).

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me! I would love to talk about the freedom gained by surrendering the cell phones for just 1.5 hours. We look forward to the month of April and remembering that Hope is alive and He has risen indeed!

\*Game was rescheduled from March 31 to April 7 to finish the Series *Who is Jesus?* more effectively with less time between lessons.

With many blessings and much love,  
Karissa

## Upcoming March Events

**April 5-6:**  
**Ignite Chicago**  
**Student Leadership**  
**Conference**  
**(Invitation Only)**

**April 7:**  
**Fellowship Evening:**  
**Game Day!\***  
**6 to 7:30 p.m.**

**April 14:**  
**Watching *Passion***  
**of the Christ as a**  
**Youth Group**  
**6 to 8:15 p.m.**

**April 21:**  
**No Youth Group**  
**Happy Easter!**

**April 28:**  
**Live Testimony—**  
**Mikayla Nelson**  
**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  
Diane Uden—Administrative Ministry Assistant  
Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &  
Newsletter Editor

**Newsletter Deadline**—The deadline for reserving space in the April 24 *Servants' Light* is **April 10**. Please e-mail to [sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org).

TO:

## April Daily Devotional Blog

The theme for this month is "Our God Is..."

4/1	A Miracle Working God	Gal 3:5
4/2	The Creator of the World	Jhn 1:3
4/3	Calling Things That Be Not As Though They Were	Rom 4:17
4/4	Infinite	1Kgs 8:27
4/5	All Powerful	Jer 32:17
4/8	All Knowing	1Jhn 3:20
4/9	Ever Present	Psa 139:1
4/10	Unchangeable	Num 23:19
4/11	Jehovah	Psa 83:18
4/12	A Covenant Marking God	Heb 10:16
5/15	The Everlasting Father	Isa 9:6

4/16	A Father of Lights	Jas 1:17
4/17	A Father of Mercies & God of All Comfort	2Cor 1:3
4/18	The Author of Salvation	Heb 2:10
4/19	Full of Power	Rom 13:1
4/22	A God Who Raises the Dead	2Cor 1:9
4/23	A Quickening Spirit	1Cor 15:45
4/24	Mighty to Save	Isa 63:1
4/25	Our Maker	Isa 54:5
4/26	Our Heavenly Father	Matt 6
4/29	The Justifier of the One Who Has Faith in Jesus	Rom 3:26
4/30	Meeting Our Needs Through Jesus	Phil 4:19