



**First
Presbyterian
Church**

The Servants' Light

May 29, 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.



On September 9, 2018, eight kids met in the Senior High Youth Lounge and began an adventure: Confirmation.

With 30 weeks under their belts our confirmands went on a journey that took them through Presbyterian History, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. They played games, learned historical facts, and most importantly, they asked questions. This group of students started the year with the awkwardness that comes with any group of kids beginning a new study and ended, as Sofie Young says, “creating a family.”

As many of you heard on May 19, our students discovered who God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are to them. For Maria Kaiser "God is a very good and powerful 'man' that we look up to." For Axel Wilson, he knows that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. And the Holy Spirit (probably the most mystifying of all the trinity) is “the presence of God on Earth and within us,” according to Sofie. Bailey Frey reminds us that “the Church is a safe place where people are welcomed.” The Confirmands expressed what sin means to each of them while they navigate their own walks of faith and are still working to figure out what exactly it means to be a Presbyterian.

These young men and women are excited for their faith walk and all have expressed interest to continue to grow. Tait Wilson hopes to follow God for the rest of his life, Axel has begun asking God for help in his everyday life, and Sofie wants to become a bigger part of the church.

These students are the future of The Church and this makes my heart so glad.

The hearts of these students does not end with their Statements of Faith, though. Our 2019 Confirmands live out their love for Jesus as well. The church staff was discussing the idea of getting a cake to celebrate our Confirmands on June 2. I thought about our students and their nurturing hearts and knew they would like the funds for a cake to go elsewhere. Our generous students decided to use the funds that would go towards a cake and stock FPJ's micro-pantry instead.

If you see any of the following students, please be sure to congratulate them on finishing Confirmation and living out the Mission: Bailey Frey, Blake Johnson, Maria Kaiser, Tiffany Trizna, Aaron Warf, Axel Wilson, Tait Wilson, and Sofie Young. Confirmation Sunday is June 2nd!

— Karissa Fleming



SUNDAY, June 2. This is the Seventh Sunday of the Easter Season. We gather in hope because Jesus Christ is alive and present in our world and to each of us. We celebrate the Lord's Supper this Sunday and come together to sit at table with our Lord and Savior. We welcome new Confirmands into our church family at both the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. Come worship and rejoice in the goodness of God this Sunday.

Holly Tomashek and Cameron Paul are both 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 starting a new Sermon Series for the Summer Season on the Gospel of Mark. Each week the Sermon will be from a portion of one chapter as we move through the entire Gospel of Mark. By the end of the Summer we will have focused on passages throughout Mark's Gospel.

This Sunday I am preaching on "Sustaining Life" from Mark 1:29-39. We will study how Jesus sustained his life and ministry, as we focus on Chapter 1 of Mark's Gospel and the sermon text in particular.

SUMMER "ROAR" VBS. NOW is the time to sign up to volunteer in some way for Summer VBS, June 24-28. It's a wonderful, fun-filled week in which to share the love and joy of Jesus Christ with all of the children and families that come to First Pres. that week. It's a great time to bring your children and grandchildren and to invite children from your neighborhood and school. Registration for both volunteers and participants can be done on our website. Look for the VBS Roar Icon Box and click on it.

May 26, 2019

Worship Attendance — 153

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 760,935

Year to Date Receipts \$125,658

Year to Date Expenses \$133,408

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."

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM. The Free Summer Lunch Program starts on Wednesday, June 5. Lunch is from 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to volunteer or ask questions.

HABITAT HOME BUILD STARTING DATE. This Summer we are going to be involved with other local churches in building a new Habitat House at 1517 N. Raynor Ave. The date for breaking ground has been moved to July. We will have an organizational meeting in June for all of the churches. As soon as the June meeting date is chosen we will publish it in the Newsletter and Sunday Bulletin.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR SUOS KHLOTH. Earlier this week I shared with you the sad news that Suos Khloth, our church Sexton, was killed in a tragic car accident. This Saturday, at the Carlson Sayles Funeral Home, there is visitation from 2-4 p.m. with the service taking place at 4:00 p.m. Please come and share your comfort and sympathy with Chanthy and all of the family.

As we approach this Seventh Sunday of Easter we remember that Jesus still raises the dead to eternal life. Come, worship, and give thanks for the Risen Christ and ask for his strength and guidance each day.

In Christ,



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Baptized:

Peyton Rose Palmer (May 26)
Daughter of Aaron & Meredith (Zang) Palmer

Passed to Life Eternal:

Robert DeYoung (April 27)
Suos Khloth (May 26)

The Memorial Service for Suos Khloth will be Saturday, June 1, at the Carlson Holmquist-Sayles Funeral Home. Visitation is 2 to 4 p.m., with the service at 4 p.m.

Sympathies are extended to Ron & Mahryha Iwema and family on the passing of Ron's father, Bonne Iwema, on May 20.

Growing in Christ—

New Sermon Series on the Gospel of Mark starts this Sunday, June 2

Over the summer, from June 2 to September 1, we will go through a 14-week study of the Gospel of Mark. I encourage you to start reading the Gospel of Mark, the shortest Gospel, in preparation and throughout the summer. Most weeks you can read one chapter and come prepared for the Sunday morning sermon and worship.

Gospel of Mark Series (June 2-September 1)

June 2	Mark 1:29-39
	“Sustaining Life” — Pastor Craig
June 9	Mark 2
June 16	Mark 3
June 23	Mark 4
June 30	Mark 5
July 7	Mark 6
July 14	Mark 7
July 21	Mark 8
July 28	Mark 9
August 4	Mark 10
August 11	Mark 11
August 18	Mark 12
August 25	Mark 13-14
September 1	Mark 15-16

As you can see, for the final two weeks we will look at two chapters. I will begin the series this Sunday and Pastor Bo and Carrie Kapral will also be preaching in this series on the Gospel of Mark.

I encourage you to begin to read a chapter of the Gospel of Mark each week. You could read short passages each day or read a chapter in one sitting and then review portions of the chapter as you go through your week. This is an opportunity for us all to get on the same page with the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Craig



Please consider sharing your musical talents at a worship service this summer; there are two dates still available — June 16 and June 30. Soloists, small vocal groups and instrumentalists are all welcome.

Just call the office to schedule a date. Share your talents and help enhance our worship with the gift of music this summer!

Adult Education Opportunities

Summer College Bible Study

Life post high school is difficult, college feels like it's never going to end, and life after college hits you like a ton of bricks. If you are in any of these stages of life, you are invited to join us on June 5 in room 206 at 7:30 p.m. to begin not only a study on *TwentySomeone* by Craig Dunham and Doug Serven, but to really build a community that reminds us we are not alone. Hebrews 10:24-25 speaks about community when Paul writes, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”

TwentySomeone by Craig Dunham and Doug Serven is a book made for those who are in their 20's. They subtitled the book “Finding yourself in a decade of transition.” After high school, throughout college and the years following, life is filled with changes. Young adults can so easily fall into the trap of trying to answer important, stressful, and maddening questions like: What will I do? Who will I love? Where will I live?

The book is filled with personal experiences from the authors and will help you discover who God is calling you to be.

This began as an idea for college ministry, but the book is directed toward all those in their 20's. We are inviting everyone who has graduated from high school this spring to those who are 29!

You will need to purchase the book *TwentySomeone* by Craig Dunham and Doug Serven and bring a notebook! I am so excited to see you all there!

— Karissa

Coming this Summer — Teen Sunday School

Beginning June 9 all students entering grades 6-12 this fall are invited to Summer Sunday School! We will meet in the Youth Lounge at 10:05 a.m. every Sunday (enough time for you to grab a donut or coffee!) and explore the names that Jesus is called in the Bible. If you participated in the special art project at Wildfire this past year, you already have a taste of what this study will look like! For the students that attend second service, don't worry! We will be finished by 10:30 so we can head into service. I'm looking forward to seeing you then!

— Karissa

Ladies Night In June 25, 6:30 p.m.

It's Game Night! But these aren't just any games, they're Karissa approved games, which means they are guaranteed to be unusual, challenging and fun! Come take a break from the everyday and do something different. Bet you'll go home with a smile on your face!

2nd Sunday Potluck

2nd Sunday Potluck is June 9, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Bring a dish to share, drop it off in the kitchen (it can be kept warm or cold if needed), and head to worship. If you attend the first service, you can stay for an extended coffee hour, or run an errand and then come back. We always have great food and a wonderful time of fellowship. Join us!



Mary Circle meets Thursday, June 13, 1 p.m. at the home of Andrea Warren; then will take a summer break.

Thursday Morning Circle is taking a summer break; not meeting June, July or August.

Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of May 9, 2019, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- To allow the transfer of ashes from our columbarium to the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery pursuant to a family's request and pursuant to notarized copies of the families' agreement, said transfer to be conducted by a funeral director;
- to receive this year's Confirmation Class—Bailey Frey, Maria Kaiser, Aaron Warf, Axel Wilson, Tait Wilson and Sofie Young—into membership of First Presbyterian Church;
- to receive Anthony and Cindy Warf into membership of First Presbyterian Church.

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—June 18, 6:00 p.m. at Cookies' Restaurant & Lounge, 103 Mondamin, Minooka. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616, to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—June 28, 6:00 p.m. at P.J. Mulligans (Prairie Bluff Golf Club), 19433 Renwick Rd., Lockport.. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.



Check out the Graduates' Board in the hallway between the Narthex and Hoffman Hall for our Graduates' school information, activities and plans for next year and the future. "Oh, the Places They'll Go!"

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!

Help Fill Empty Shelves & Stomachs!

There are several opportunities at First Pres. to help those in our community who are food insecure—

Our Micro Pantry offers canned and packaged food to those in need. You can help by bringing food or by offering to check the pantry one day a week and filling it with food we have on hand.

“Bags of Love” are filled with easy open food donations the last Sunday of the month and taken to MorningStar Mission for distribution. There are bins in the Narthex for your donations.

The Free Summer Lunch Program is offered Monday through Friday, June 5 through August 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help the kids open their boxed lunches, etc.

The Night Deacons’ Free Pancake Breakfast is the first Saturday of each month, 8 to 10 a.m. Come help greet and serve our guests.

Free Summer Lunch Program

June 5 To August 15
Monday through Friday
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be served a FREE nutritious boxed lunch. Transportation to and from First Pres. is NOT provided. This program is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The meals come boxed; volunteers are needed to help distribute the lunches and help the children open their lunches. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to offer your help.

We’ll also have a special activity each day, 12 to 1 p.m.

Mon. - Basketball Clinic

Tues. - Reading Circle

Wed. - Recipes with Kids

Thurs. - Games & Puzzles

Fri - Crafts



With Summer vacation now upon us, it’s easy to stay current with your pledge in support of the life, mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Here are the guidelines for On-Line Giving and Text Giving.

For on-line giving, just go to our website—firstpresjoliet.org— and click on the On-Line Giving box on the home page. You can plug in your user e-mail address and set up a password, then follow the instructions.

For Text Giving, text an amount to 815-205-3044. The first time you text a donation, you will be prompted with a one-time registration screen. This will assign your mobile number to First Pres., and allow you to select what account from which your text donation is withdrawn.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

You can contribute to the church by simply making Amazon.com purchases through the web page, “smil@amazon.com.” This is a simple way to contribute .5% of Amazon purchases to the

More than a summer break!



Summer is here! School is out for the kids and their teachers are heading for a much-deserved time off. I remember with great joy that last bell before the summer vacation; it brought so much joy as I was looking forward to all the trips my parents had planned for us, and also as it gave me a chance to discover new adventures in the books I had waiting for me each summer. Oh, it was great being a kid! I loved that time off from school.

As we all look towards that summer break, I would like to encourage you to enjoy every moment of it. Before you know it, you will be busy running from one thing to another, and you might discover that you are busier than you had hoped to be. And that is ok. But before you fill your summer calendar I want to ask you to do one simple thing: Put Sunday Church on your calendar. Kids, Parents and everyone need that Sunday morning connect! It keeps us grounded, and connected to each other and with everything that God is doing in our community of faith. Have a great Summer and see you in church on Sunday!

Blessings, Bo

Roar VBS is coming

June 24-28. Did you register for VBS already? If not, registration is open on our church website! Please pass the word about it and encourage kids to sign up and also to volunteer. We always need a lot of volunteers to help us run a smooth and safe VBS. See you @Roar!

Sunday School

This Summer during Sunday School kids will explore the early church in Jerusalem and learn about Abraham and Sarah on their way to the Promised Land. Christian Life is about relationships, about discovering our love for God and for His people. So come, and discover God's love as we explore these wonderful lessons of faith.



May was a quick and wild month!

Pictures say a thousand words, so I've included a few pictures!

First we were delighted to hear from the Will County Child Advocacy Center and make capes for them out of old t-shirts. If you remember, this is the same center that our very own Creighton did the hot chocolate stand to help support! Then we ended the month and school year with the annual Jell-O fight.

It was a great month of service and friendship!

Keep checking your Mailchimps and keeping your eyes open for summer Wildfire fellowship opportunities.

Blessings,
Karissa

Upcoming Events

June 2: Confirmation
9:00am and 10:30am
services

June 9: Teen Sunday
School Begins!
The Names of Jesus:
Immanuel
10:05am in Youth Lounge

June 16: Teen Sunday
School
Names of Jesus:
Light of the World
10:05am in Youth Lounge

June 21: Fellowship Event
Details to be determined

June 23: Teen Sunday
School
Names of Jesus: Child
10:05am in Youth Lounge

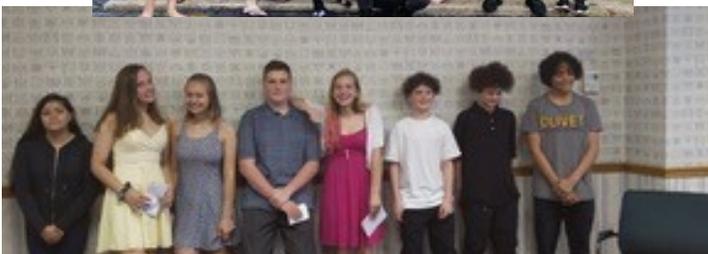
June 24-28: Vacation Bible
School!

June 30: Teen Sunday
School
Names of Jesus:
Bread of Life
10:05am in Youth Lounge

Making Capes for Will County
Child Advocacy Center



Jell-O
Fight



Confirmation Class

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Craig M. Herr—Senior Pastor
 Bo Mircea—Associate Pastor of Children’s Ministry
 and Family Ministry
 Karissa Fleming, Dir. of Youth Ministry
 Jen Gabl—Administrative Ministry Assistant
 Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &
 Newsletter Editor

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Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the June 26 *Servants’ Light* is **June 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

June Daily Devotional Blog

We continue with our theme, “Our God Is...”

6/3	Watching Over His Word to Perform It	Jer 1:12
6/4	A Rewarder of Those Who Diligently Seek Him	Hbr 11:6
6/5	No Respector of Persons	Act 10:34
6/6	The True Light	Jhn 1:9
6/7	The Author & Finisher of Our Faith	Hbr 12:2
6/10	Mediator of the New Covenant	Hbr 9:15
6/11	The Truth	Jhn 14:6
6/12	Working in Us	Hbr 13:21
6/13	Greater in Us Than He That is in the World	1Jo 4:4
6/14	Unto Us Wisdom, Sanctification & Redemption	2Co 1:30

6/17	For Us	Rom 8:31
6/18	Never Leaving Us or Forsaking Us	Hbr 13:5
6/19	Always Leading Us in Triumph In Christ	2Co 2:14
6/20	Faithful Over His House	Hbr 3:1-6
6/21	Ruler of the Kings of the Earth	Rev 1:5
6/24	Our Lord & Our God	Jhn 20:28
6/25	Our Life	Jhn 11:25-26
6/26	Our Savior	Luk 2:11
6/27	Our Redeemer	Isa 48:17
6/28	Our Teacher	Mat 28:18