



# The Servants' Light

June 26, 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.



## July is a big month of service for our youth!

The senior high students will be leaving in the early hours of Sunday, July 7, to begin a journey to Pocahontas, VA. Pocahontas is close to the lowest per-capita income of any part of the nation. Group Mission Trip says, “this hard working community struggles to make ends meet. They need to know they are not forgotten.” Students who attend this trip will serve this community in a variety of ways, including: building wheelchair ramps and handrails, weatherizing homes and trailers, reconstructing sagging porches, significant painting projects, and interior and exterior carpentry, as well as other home repair projects that the homeowner cannot otherwise complete.

Part of this trip will require we bring our own tools. We have seven students attending and I have included a list of the items each student is required to bring. If you feel so led to donate any of these items, we would be so very grateful.

### **EACH YOUTH SHOULD BRING:**

- ☐ Safety goggles
- ☐ Work gloves
- ☐ N-95 disposable mask
- ☐ Tool pouch, bag or bucket
- ☐ Hammer
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Paintbrushes: variety of sizes
- ☐ Paint roller
- ☐ Paint roller cover
- ☐ Paint tray
- ☐ Paint scraper and/or wire brush

This July the junior high kids will also have an opportunity to serve at a local mission trip. We will stay at the church for three days (two nights) and serve the Joliet community. The local projects include helping create a bilingual library at the Spanish Community Center, serving with the Salvation Army, and working with Jeff Eberhard to create and distribute backpacks to the homeless community. Wednesday and Thursday nights will also include fun evening activities. This local mission trip will be July 24-26. If you would like to help with the junior high kids, we would greatly appreciate food donations: cereal and milk for breakfast, loaves of bread for lunches, chips, fruits, and vegetables. Wildfire Youth Group is excited to serve! Keep your eyes open for when these serving students give the focus at church to share their experiences!

Many Blessings and Thanks,  
Karissa



**SUNDAY, June 30.** This is the Third Sunday after Pentecost. We see the Holy Spirit alive and active, working in our church this week as we share the love, grace, and hope of Christ Jesus with all

the children and their families. I am grateful to all the volunteers sharing their faith, time, and enthusiasm with all of the children.

Kristina Wilson is singing at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. service. Our VBS Children will be singing, too.

**SERMON.** This Sunday, Carrie Kapral is preaching on “Jesus Amid the Crowd.” The sermon text is from Mark 5:21-43. In chapter 5 we see the compassion and healing power of Jesus at work in his ministry.

**SUMMER “ROAR” VBS IS UP AND GOING STRONG!** Just take a look at the next page of the Servants’ Light to see how this exciting week is going! It’s great!

**VERIZON BOOSTER CELL ANTENNAE POSSIBILITY.** We are exploring the possibility of a Verizon Booster Cell Antennae Site on the church. The Stewardship Council with the guidance of the Session has been having a conversation with Verizon about adding a cell booster antennae site on the Church Bell Tower. Some equipment would be housed on the top of back side of the Hoffman Hall roof. Cell antennae would be added to the Bell Tower and the Bell Tower would be made 10 feet taller. This Sunday you can see pictures and plans on a table in the Narthex area and a table in Hoffman Hall. This is

a long process and we have not yet agreed to a lease with Verizon. We are in the discussion stages. Verizon is submitting a plan for permitting the project to the city of Joliet should we decide to move forward with the project. However, at this time we are not in agreement on the draft lease proposal. Please take a look at the plans and let us know what you think.

**VOLUNTEER FOR OUR FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM.** The Free Summer Lunch Program runs Monday—Friday, 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Call Barb Rodgers at 815-439-3747 to volunteer or ask questions.

**CELEBRATE SHERRY BUFFINGTON’S MINISTRY THIS SUNDAY!** Sherry Buffington has served in our Church Office for nearly 30 years and is retiring this week. Sherry has given us all the gift of wonderful and faithful ministry for so many years. She has served in a secretarial capacity and for many years as our “Outreach Ministry Assistant.” We are going to have a cake and breakfast type foods reception for her between services on Sunday, June 30. You are also invited to contribute toward a gift for her. See you this Sunday to celebrate.

Come, worship, and enjoy a time of conversation, good food, and thanksgiving for Sherry Buffington’s ministry this Sunday.

In Christ,



**June 23, 2019**

Worship Attendance — 176

### **Stewardship Report**

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 760,935

**Year to Date Receipts** \$167,608

**Year to Date Expenses** \$166,504

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](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org), and click on “Giving.”



Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Baptized:

Jakob Michael Strimel (June 23)  
Son of Michael & Jill (Mueller) Strimel

The hospitals will no longer call to tell us who is there, so please let us know if you are admitted and when you go home.

## Sermon Series on the Gospel of Mark- NOTES

Just go to the Website to hear any one of these sermons. [www.firstpresjoliet.org](http://www.firstpresjoliet.org) Click on “Media” then “Sermons” or Click on this Link to go right to the Sermon Area. <http://www.firstpresjoliet.org/sermons-2/>

Sunday, June 2 “Sustaining Life” Mark 1:29-39  
Jesus, in his ministry, sought out Safe Places, Still Places, Special People Place, and Servant Places. These were an intentional part of the pattern of life and ministry. We need these places in our lives as well. “I do not know what life has in store for you. But one thing I do know:...,the only ones who will ever be truly happy will be those who earnestly seek, and find, the best way in which to serve others” (Albert Schweitzer).

Sunday, June 9 “F.R.I.E.N.D.S.” Mark 2:1-12  
The friends of a paralyzed man bring him to Jesus. That says a lot about this hurting man’s friends. \*Friends work for the good of their friend. \*Friends are willing to sacrifice to meet a need, even in the middle of the night. \*Friends become a voice for those that do not have one. \*Friends challenge us to be the best, they remind us of who we are in God. \*Friends share in our sorrow but also rejoice with us in our victories. \*Friends stick around even when we fail, and extend grace and truth so we can get up again. \*Friends help us renew our faith .

Sunday, June 16 “The Shape of the Kingdom” Mark 6-15, 35  
We see the Kingdom of God, which Jesus brings into our world in his ministry. We find four characteristics when the Kingdom of God is present here on earth in a fallen world. We see Proclamation, Push-Back (Opposition), People Connected in Community (the Church), and Purposeful Mission in the world. We begin by praying, “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We say, “Make up there come down here. May I be a kingdom doer. Not just a kingdom pray-er, that too, but also a kingdom doer in my life” (John Ortberg).

Sunday, June 23 “What God Does and What We Can Do” Mark 4:26-29  
We sow and scatter the good seed of the Gospel. But it is God who makes it grow. The church needs to get back to—keep coming back to—sowing the seed of the Gospel. We carry Jesus with us as he is always present. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.” We carry Jesus with us in our lives, words, and deeds. He is not far off. Once we realize that, we can share him wherever we go.

## Adult Education Opportunities

### Summer College Bible Study

We are continuing our discussion on the book *TwentySomeone* by Craig Dunham and Doug Serven. 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.

All who have graduated from high school this spring to those who are 29 are welcome to come—the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

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

### Teen Sunday School

All students entering grades 6-12 this fall are invited to Summer Sunday School! We are meeting in the Youth Lounge at 10:05 a.m. every Sunday (except July 7 & 14 when we are on the mission trip). If you participated in the special art project at Wildfire this past year, you already have a taste of what this study looks like! For the students that attend second service, don’t worry! We finish by 10:30 so we can head into service.  
— Karissa



### July Hymn Sings

Come 10 minutes early to the 9 a.m. service every Sunday in July for our annual Hymn Sings. We’ll sing some of our favorite hymns and maybe even learn some new ones!





On July 23, at 6:30 p.m., women are invited to join us for our fellowship event at Happy Daisy Art Studio, located at 202 Liberty St. Morris, IL, as we paint wine glasses! For \$35 you will be given 4 wine glasses to paint. Buying a ticket to this event is a must. You do so either online by going to the Happy Daisy Art Studio website and scrolling through her parties until you find the party on July 23 (four trees are painted on the glasses for the advertised photo): <https://happy-daisy-art-studio.myshopify.com/> Or you can call the studio and process payment over the phone by calling: (630) 448-2278. The default glasses available have stems, but there is a stemless option! Just let Jillian know! PS: This is the same artist gem who helped create our first ever paint night at FPJ last June! We look forward to seeing you there! Access to the direct link is available on Facebook and on the homepage of the church website.

### 2nd Sunday Potluck

2nd Sunday Potluck is July 14, 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!



## Small Groups & Special Events

### Session Notes

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 13, 2019, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- to move the August 2019 Session meeting from August 8th to August 15th;
- to approve Quilt Group's request to sell tickets for a Christmas quilt drawing to benefit the Angel House sewing education program; tickets would be sold from September 8th to November 10th with the drawing to be held on November 17th;
- to authorize Stewardship Council, as Church trustees, and Pastor Craig to prepare and sign a letter to the City of Joliet to authorize Verizon, at its own expense, to make application to the City for land use approvals and building permits for the church bell tower project.

### Meal Fellowship

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

**Dinner Out Group**—July 16, 6:00 p.m. at Route 52 Roadhouse, 5255 State St., Manhattan. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616, to make a reservation.

**Men's Dinner Group**—July 26, 6:00 p.m. at Backroads Pub & Grill, 13717 S. Route 30 Suite 101, Plainfield. RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.



Save the date —  
All-Church Picnic!  
Sunday, August 25

10:30 a.m. worship at Inwood Park;  
Church Picnic immediately following.

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

### 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 on July 6th to help greet and serve our guests.



### Lucia Joshua

Lucia, one of the 3 young women we support at Angel House Orphanage in Tarime, Tanzania, is 17 years old and is a student in Form 4. She enjoys school and being with her friends. Lucia’s dream is to become an accountant. She asks for prayers for her studying so she can achieve her dreams.



### 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!



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



Since the inception of this ministry in October 2005, about 4,200 meals have been provided to members of our church family through your assistance. Helping Hands would like to thank the following people who have provided meals, rides, and other services to members of our congregation over the past six months. We can always use additional people to help! If you would like to be a part of this vibrant ministry, know someone who can use some temporary help, or would like more information about Helping Hands, please contact Betty Jones at 815-729-0349, Dave Steinberg at 779-234-6413, or the church office at 815-727-9259.

Tari & Dale Ambler  
Matt Blaser  
Marvin Balsley  
Don & Raelene Barnes  
Bob Becker  
Allen & Jackie Brooks  
Russ Brown  
Pat Costion

Kyla Fris  
Jen Gabl  
Judy Garrison  
Amy Gibson  
Pat Haldorson  
Kris Hayden  
Mike & Laura House  
Rich & Mary Jane Johnson

Mark Kapral  
Carol Kline  
Diane Milosevich  
Emma Sticklen  
Carolyn Schaefer  
Holly Tomashek



# We're Having a Great Time At ROAR VBS!



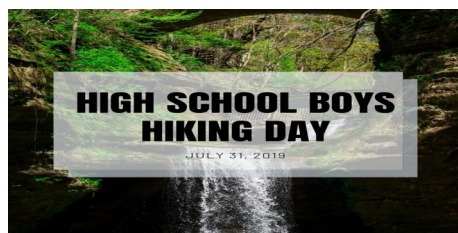




At midnight on July 6/7 the senior high kids will load into a van and head for Pocahontas, Virginia, where we will spend a week working and worshipping. We will have an opportunity to show Christ's love to an underprivileged community by working on home repairs all week during the day then fellowshiping with over 200 other Christian teens at night. It's going to be an amazing week that we finish with a trip to King's Island in Ohio on our drive back!



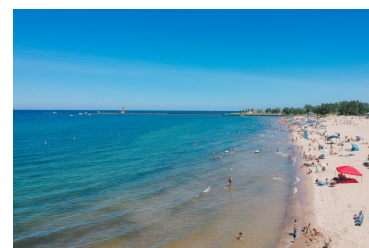
On July 19 all girls entering 9th-12th grade are invited to attend a fellowship event at the beach! We will leave FPJ at 8 a.m. and head to Silver Beach in St. Joseph, MI. All students attending must have their release forms filled out from last September. Forms will be available for students who have not filled one out yet. Bernie Blaser will be our second chaperone and it's sure to be a great day!



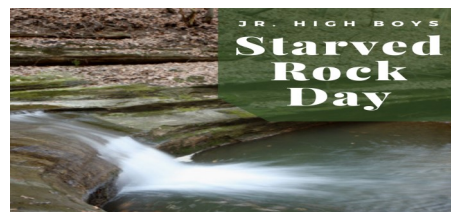
On July 31 all boys going into grades 9th-12th are invited to attend a day of nature walking/hiking at Starved Rock! We will be leaving FPJ at 8 a.m. All students attending will need their liability release forms completed and we will have extras available for students who don't have one. Be sure to pack a lunch and wear the right shoes! Matt Blaser will be the second chaperone and we are excited to spend time together in God's beautiful nature!



July 24-26 students going into 6th-8th grade will be on a local mission trip where we stay at FPJ and spend the day helping Joliet based nonprofits. We will be working with the Spanish Community Center, the Salvation Army, and Jeff Eberherd's emergency backpack kits. In the evenings we will be attending local outdoor activities including an outdoor movie in New Lenox on Wednesday and an outdoor concert in Joliet on Thursday. This will be an eye opening experience for youths to see how everywhere around them is a mission field and that they can be missionaries in their own backyards!



On July 17 all girls entering 6th-8th grade are invited to attend a fellowship event at the beach! We will leave FPJ at 8 a.m. and head to Silver Beach in St. Joseph, MI. All students attending must have their release forms filled out from last September. Forms will be available for students who have not filled one out yet. Danielle Corcoran will be our second chaperone, and it's sure to be a great day!



On July 29 all boys going into grades 6th-8th are invited to attend a day of nature walking/hiking at Starved Rock! We will be leaving FPJ at 8 a.m. All students attending will need their liability release forms completed and we will have extras available for students who don't have one. Be sure to pack a lunch and wear the right shoes! Ed Shultz will be the second chaperone and we are excited to spend time together in God's beautiful nature!

## 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 July 31 *Servants' Light* is **July 10**. Please e-mail to [office@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@firstpresjoliet.org).

TO:

## July Daily Devotional Blog

We continue with our theme, "Our God Is..."

7/1	Our Healer	Isa 53:5
7/2	Our Deliverer	Rom 11:20
7/3	Our Resurrection	Jhn 11:25
7/4	Our Justification	Rom 3:26
7/5	Our Strength	Phl 4:13
7/8	Our Righteousness	1Co 1:30
7/9	Our Peace	Eph 2:14
7/10	Our Advocate	1Jo 2:1
7/11	Our Faithful High Priest	Hbr 9:11; 10:21
7/12	Our Bridegroom	Mat 9:15
7/15	Our Hope of Glory	Col 1:27
7/16	Pleased to Give Us the Kingdom	Luk 12:32

7/17	Equipping Us	Eph 4:11-16
7/18	Giving Us Revelation Knowledge	1Co 2:10-13
7/19	Giving Us the Keys to the Kingdom	Mat 16:19
7/22	Giving Us His Name	Mar 16:17-18
7/23	Giving Us the HOLY SPIRIT	Luk 11:13; Acts 2:38-39
7/24	Anointing Us for Service	1Jo 2:20
7/25	Filling Us With Wisdom & Spiritual Understanding	Eph 1:17
7/26	Giving Us His Armour	Eph 6:10-18
7/29	Faithful to Complete the Work He Began in Us	Phl 1:6
7/30	Rich in Mercy	Psa 136
7/31	Saying Well Done My Good & Faithful Servants	Mat 25:21