



The Servants' Light (USPS 560-720) is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, IL. Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL

"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.



The 2019 Annual Church Picnic will be

Sunday, August 25th

It will be held at the Inwood Pavillion at 3000 W. Jefferson Street in Joliet.

The picnic will begin at 11:30 am with lunch being served at noon.

Expect yummy brats and burgers, Italian pasta salad, chips, sweet corn on the cob, juicy watermelon, and more!

Don't forget to bring your favorite lawn chair, and friends! Remember this is a **FREE** event for our congregation, friends and families!

You are welcome to contribute a dish if you would like, here is the recommendation: By Last name:

A-L : please bring salad

M— Z: please bring dessert



SUNDAY, August 4, This Sunday we celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Come and rest in Christ's presence and accept his invitation to

communion.

The Summer Choir is singing at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. service. We will hear about the Junior High Mission experiences last week.

SERMON, This Sunday, I am preaching on "Choose to Serve" from Mark10:35-45. We are continuing to make our way through the Gospel of Mark as the move into August. We will finish with the Gospel of Mark on Sunday, September 1. Even though Mark is the shortest Gospel we cannot speak to every story and event in Mark. I hope you are reading the chapters each week to prepare for Sunday Worship.

HABITAT HOME BUILD NEWS ,

The Habitat Groundbreaking Ceremony is on Friday, August 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the 1517 North Raynor Ave. lot. Work on the home will begin in mid-September.

Typical hours to volunteer will be Wednesday to Saturday from 8:30 a..m to 2:30 p.m.

Please let Craig or the office know how you would like to help in building a new home.

We've been waiting a long time for this to come together. Now we are getting very close.

OVER THE SUMMER STAFFING CHANGES. If you've

been away or not up to date on what's going on at the church in terms of our staff here's the latest news. Ellen Kientop is our new Secretary-Outreach Assistant and she works Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Mary Lynn

July 28, 2019

Worship Attendance — 191

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 760,935

Year to Date Income	\$243,053
Year to Date Expenses	\$236,724

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 on our website under "Give".

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Keir is serving as our Pastor of Visitation one day a week and usually visits two half-days each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have a new full-time custodian, Jodi Viol, starting work today. Jodi says, "she loves to clean." We are eager for her to join our custodial staff. Pastor Carrie Kapral is preaching every 4-6 weeks in worship and many of you have indicated how much you enjoy her sermons. Pastor Bo has picked up the Night Deacons and Parish Council to his ministry responsibilities. I have added Growth Council to my plate of ministry. There are a lot of good things happening amongst our staff at this time.

I hope to see you in worship this Sunday as we celebrate what God is doing in our midst and in our world.

In Christ,



THE GOSPEL OF MARK SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Here's the August part of the Series as we move closer to finishing our study of Mark.

August 4th: "Choose to Serve: Mark 10:35-45

<u>August 11th :</u> "Palm Branches In August" Mark 11:1—11

August 18th: "Choose to Love" Mark 12:28-34

<u>August 25th:</u> "Choose to Prepare" Mark 13:32 – 36; 14;12—16



Baptized:

July 28 — Reagan Elisabeth Jaworski, daughter of Nick and Anna (Bornhofen) Jaworski

Known to be in the Hospital: Judy Garrison is currently at St. Joe's Hospital

Sympathies are extended to Allen and Jackie Brooks upon the passing of Jackie's mom, Ellen Vaughn, on July 29. A memorial service is being planned for Saturday, August 10, at 11 a.m. here at First Pres.

Congratulations to Brian Zettergren and Brittany McCormick who were united in marriage on July 19th.

Sermon Series on the Gospel of Mark

Just go to the Website to hear any one of these sermons. www.firstpresjoliet.org Click on "Media" then "Sermons".

July 7, 2019:

Mark 6:45-56 (NIV) "I Quit Being Fearful to Follow"

We are told, "Don't be a quitter." But you see, Quitting can be a good thing, a faithful act, a better way of living. From time to time we might just ask, what should I quit, in order to be more faithful? If I quit being afraid, how could I respond in faith? We are afraid. We are afraid of what might happen, And Jesus comes to us saying, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

July 14th, 2019:

Mark 7:1-23 A New Day for Religion

Traditions give us a sense of safety and sometimes pride. And while some tradition are celebrated and meant to unify, the same traditions can have the opposite effect in today's environments. Jesus dealt with the traditions of his time by challenging them with a simple question: What is the motivation behind this tradition? Today is a new day for living out our Christian traditions in a culture that desires to see our lives lived in an authentic way that reflects the Word of God, coming from a heart full of passion for God.

<u>July 21, 2019:</u> Mark 8:27—35 "On the Way"

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ." Peter was correct - but when he said it, he did not truly understand what that meant. It's so easy to find ourselves trying to mold Jesus into the Savior we think he should be, instead of focusing on the Lord and Savior he is. Mark 8-27-25 invites us to examine who we say Jesus and what that means for us. As Bob Goff said, "Following Jesus will cost each of us something different."

July 28, 2019:

Mark 9:1-13 "Of Things to Come"

We all look for that mountain top experience, when we can be transformed and where things are just amazing. The mountain top is the place that opens us up, to see a new dimension to our faith, but it is the valley that forges that revelation into real faith. Peter's faith was transformed that day on the mountain, but his faith was just about to be tested in the days to come. Is those experiences that took him from believing to living out his faith. As we follow Christ, our journey will be about mountain tops and valleys, about amazing times when we experience God's love but also times of doubt, fear, trial. It is in this journey that our faith is forged into belief. Let us learn to cherish journey.

Adult Education Opportunities

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

This group is open to all women seeking further study of the Bible. Join us for kind company, fellowship, and a continuously growing understanding of the Bible! Meetings have been moved to Thursdays, 8/8 & 8/22 at 10 AM at the group leader's home. For more information contact Mary Lynn Keir.

MIDWEEK MEN AND WOMEN'S STUDY:

Keep your calendar open! Starting September 18th we will be resuming meetings. This is an opportunity for men and women (and not just parents) to meet and study the Bible and strengthen fellowship. This group will meet Wednesday nights at 6:30. Keep an eye out for more information as we get further along in the year.



LUNCH STUDY:

Starting September 17th Bob Haas and Pastor Craig Herr will be leading a Lunch Study on the Book of Revelations. Bring a lunch and your Bible and meet them in room 210 at noon!

The **Session Meeting** was moved from August 8th to August 15th

Praise Yoga

Come, to build strength and balance in your body, to find peace in your heart and mind, and to experience the power of God's transforming grace deep in your heart.

Every Tuesday at 7PM and Thursday at 8AM in the Narthex. Starting again August 6th & 8th.

Keep an eye out for updates on August Fellowship. Karissa will be keeping in touch with the youth.

2nd Sunday Potluck

2nd Sunday Potluck is August 11, 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

HABITAT HOME BUILD NEWS,

The Habitat Groundbreaking Ceremony is on Friday, August 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the 1517 North Raynor Ave. lot. Work on the home will begin in mid-September. Typical hours to volunteer will be Wednesday to Saturday from 8:30 a..m to 2:30 p.m. Please let Craig or the office know how you would like to help in building a new home. We've been waiting a long time for this to come together. Now we are getting very close.

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—August 2, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—August 20, 6:00 p.m.at White Fence Farm, 1376 Joliet Road, Romeoville. Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to make a reservation.

Men's Dinner Group—August 23, 6:00 p.m McBrides on 52, 2727 W. Jefferson St., Joliet.

R.S.V.P with Bob Smietanski (815) 838-7616



Sunday, August 25th at Inwood Pavilion 3000 W. Jefferson St.—Joliet 11:30am—Lunch served at 12 noon. Enjoy Burgers, Brats and Dogs, Chips, Corn on the Cob, Watermelon, Italian Pasta Salad, Kids & Family Games, Bingo and more! Bring your favorite lawn chair

Those <u>wishing</u> to bring a dish to share may do so (suggested : Last names: A-L-Salad M-Z Dessert)

This is a FREE event open to our congregation, friends and family!

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

Help Fill Empty Shelves and Empty 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, and company is appreciated!

The Night Deacons' **Free Pancake Breakfast** is the first Saturday of each month, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on August 3rd to help greet and serve our guests.

School supply shopping? Birthdays coming up? Starting

your Trunk N Treat supply shopping? Getting a head start

on Christmas shopping this year? Just treating yourself

with some online shopping?

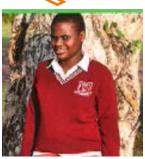


You can contribute to the church by simply making Amazon.com purchases through the web page, "smile@amazon.com." This is a simple way to contribute .5% of Amazon purchases to the church!

Spotlight (

BHOKE MNANKA:

Bhoke was born April 28th, 2001, and has a younger sister also at Angel House. Bhoke enjoys sewing, laughing, and soccer. Her favorite color is



pink. She plans to become a nurse. Bhoke struggles in school and asks for prayers for God to help her in her studies so that she can help others in the future.

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!

Farragut School Fundraiser

On the Sundays of August 4th and 11th expect an envelope in the service bulletin. We will continue raising money to provide school supplies for students at Farragut Elementary.

This is the same mission we raised money for during our ROAR Vacation Bible School. During VBS our generous and loving participants raised

\$ 681. 43!

We appreciate your continued support of our mission to help these children get the education that will give them a brighter future!

Children's Ministry Update

Guess what? It is that time of the year when kids are going back to school and parents life should return to a more steady and even pace. Well at least that is the dream, right? We all know that soon enough the busy summer will be replaced by the busy fall, with parents and kids running from one thing to another. Between school work, and all kind of activities life will get busy, and that is just a fact of life.

I would like to challenge you this time of the year to do something different than the back to school routine. Set up a list of priorities for your family as a whole. And as you look at everything on that list I would like to encourage you to consider the following:

- 1. Where and when does God come in?
- 2. Where and when does family time come in?
- 3. When and where do we teach a servant heart?

Over the years I have learned that one of the things we value in our western culture is the ability to pick up and go whenever we want, we love flexibility in our schedules, or in making decisions. Sometimes when we are faced with decisions we look for things that will keep the kids engaged and soon parents find themselves in a situation where everything is running from one thing to another. It is here that I would like to challenge you to do a little heart search and set up a different set of priorities.

Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." is the base of faithful living for many of us, and it should be the filter we use when it comes to setting priorities for our lives too. What if God's time is a permanent fixture in our calendar? How will that effect our lives?

What if every night after dinner, your family gathers for 5 minutes to give thanks to God for a great day, to ask in prayer help for the days ahead? What if Sunday morning 1 hour is permanently booked with the most important appointment of the week - Spend Time with God's family? What if a Saturday morning once a month is reserved to Serve God and His People? What if?

I have heard it said many time: Kids learn from the examples set by the adults in their lives. I want to pray for you and your family as we start a new school year, that you will find time for yourself, a time where your own life is refreshed by spending time with God, where your spiritual life is a refreshment for the whole family, and where kids can learn what it means to love the Lord. Looking forward to see what God can and will do in our lives as a faith community this year. Be Blessed,

Bo M.

LOOKING FORWARD!

Back to Church Sunday! : September 15th Midweek Family Nights starting September 18th! Activities for ALL AGES!

Trunk "N' Treat will be October 23rd! Get those costume ideas flowing!



On July 6 at 11:00pm 6 kids ready to serve the Lord and two adults who felt the call to say "yes" to be with them hopped into a big van and headed to Pocahontas, VA. We drove through the night, arrived at our home base and were introduced to a group of people that would be our family that week! In just seven days 150+ teens finished 19 home improvement projects that ranged from painting, ramp building, deck building, gutting and redoing an entire living room, and more! It was a great experience and ask the kids all about it!



For three days the junior high students at First Presbyterian came together to serve the Joliet area. First they helped visited the Spanish Community Center and learned that not only does the SCC help with immigration, but they offer so many other services like housing, legal help for families, free Zumba classes, citizenship classes, and language classes (both English and Spanish!). For three hours the students worked hard to create a bilingual library in memory of a 20 year old man who died suddenly but wanted his beloved books to be shared with children. We organized books by language, reading level (that was quite a task for the books we couldn't read!), and even dedicated a cabinet for reference books and games. On the second day we headed over to the Salvation Army and learned that they provided services that go beyond scheduled pick-ups of donated items. They are first and foremost a church providing day programs, Bible studies (for teens, men, and women), a shower program for the homeless, and a food pantry! Their founder came up with the three S's back in 1865: Soup, Soap, and Salvation. The biggest lesson the kids took away from this visit? God does not discriminate. As part of our service for this wonderful organization we helped prepare a craft for their upcoming VBA by cutting out wings and scraping the labels off donated 2L bottles! On Friday we were each given two emergency backpacks that hold essentials and were challenged to keep them in our car to hand out to someone in need the next time we see them. Curious to know what we did for fun? Find a Junior Higher and ask them! I promise you, there was plenty of laughter!

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 Ellen Kientop—Outreach Ministry Assistant & Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for reserving space in the August 28

Servants' Light is <u>August 10</u>. Please e-mail to office@firstpresjoliet.org.

August Daily Devotional Blog

8/1	Receiving All the Glory	1 Co 10:31	
8/2	Worthy of Praise	Psa 18:3	
8/5	Loved by God	Jhn 3:16	
8/6	Forgiven	Col 1:14	
8/7	Confessing the Lordship of Jesus Over Our Lives	Phl 2:11	
8/8	Saved by Grace through Faith	Eph 2:8	
8/9	Loving God with All of our Hearts, Souls, and Minds	Mat 22:37	
8/12	Born Again Children of God	Rom 8:16	
8/13	Delivered From the Powers of Darkness	Col 1:13	
8/14	Redeemed from the Hands of the Enemy	Psa 107:2	

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

8/15	Called with a Holy Calling	2Ti 1:9
8/16	Created in His Image	Rom 8:29
8/19	Not of This World	Jhn 17:16
8/20	Of God's Household of Faith	Gal 6:10
8/21	In Love with God	1Jo 4:19
8/22	Seeking First His Kingdom & Righteous- ness	Mat 6:33
8/23	Abiding in His Love	1Jo 4:16
8/26	Healed by His Stripes	1Pe 2:24
8/27	Free from Fear	1Jo 4:18
8/28	Crowned with His Loving Kindness & Tender Mercies	Psa 103
8/29	Redeemed from the Curse of the Law	Gal 3:13
8/30	Free from the Law of Sin & Death	Rom 8:32