



The Servants' Light

August 28, 2019

The Servants' Light is published monthly by

First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, IL.

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435-6998.

*“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.



**This year we have so much starting in the fall that we
have TWO weekends of Back to Church Sunday!**

ON/STARTING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH :

- The new Fall Sermon Series, "Strength for This Season". We are living in challenging times and are facing troubles and obstacles in our country and in the world. How do we find the strength we need for these turbulent times? We hold onto the God who holds onto us and is still there for us, for the world, and for the church.
- We will Celebrate the Lord's Supper at both services.
- All are welcome to enjoy a potluck lunch in Hoffman Hall at 11:45 a.m.
- Confirmation starts at 4:30 pm, for grades 8 and 9!
- Youth Group will be having their Launch Party and Water Balloon Toss at 6 p.m. This year we are learning about the Holy Spirit referencing The Bible and Billy Graham's book The Holy Spirit.

ON/STARTING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH :

- We study and consider the Practice of Prayer in Worship
- Enjoy a Sunday Brunch between services in Hoffman Hall!
- The Youth Group will be starting their first lesson on the Holy Spirit!
- Tuesday the Lunch Bunch Bible Study Group will begin on the Book of Revelation.
- Midweek Family Night will start on the 18th, A Great Meal Together. This includes Men's Study, Women's Study, and Children's Study.
 - Teen Bible Study will be working with The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe

For more information on the new Sermon series and different programs, read on!



SUNDAY, September 1, This Sunday we finish our Summer Gospel of Mark Series. Mark ends with the great, grand, Good News of Jesus' Resurrection.

There is life after death. Evil does not have the final say. God wins and we win in Jesus. Come and give thanks for new life in Jesus Christ as we worship. Ken Myers is singing at the 9:00 a.m. service. We are going to celebrate the Lord's Supper on September 8 when we start our fall season of ministry and mission.

SERMON, This Sunday, Carrie Kapral is preaching on "Just as He told us" from Mark 16:1-8. Carrie writes, "I can hardly believe summer is winding down! Along with the conclusion to summer, we have reached the end of our walk through Mark's gospel. This Sunday, we will take a look at Mark 16:1-8 as the women go to Jesus' tomb to anoint Jesus' body, and discover that he is not there. Instead, the women are told, "But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:7). Just as he told you! Just as Jesus taught and told the disciples along the dusty roads we read about in Mark's gospel, he is teaching and telling us today. Our task is to listen and learn. I am looking forward to digging into this text with you on Sunday as we are reminded once again that Jesus has not left us alone. Peace be with you!"

MEETING FOR FALL HABITAT HOME BUILD,

There's a volunteer meeting here at First Pres. for all the churches involved on Thursday evening, September 5. We will meet in Room 210. Work on the home will begin in mid-September. Typical hours to volunteer will be Wednesday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Please let Craig or the office know how you would like to help in building a new home.

OUR FALL SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 8,

We begin a new Sermon Series, Youth Group starts up again and we gather for worship, fellowship, renewal, and doing the ministry and mission Christ Jesus calls us to do together. Find way to connect, grow, and serve at and through First Pres. this fall season.

10 YEAR CELEBRATION FOR BO, Can you believe it that Rev. Bo Mircea has been serving in the ministry of First Pres. now for 10 years? We are going to celebrate his ministry on Sunday, September 29 between services. You will receive a mailing with more details. Bo began serving as our Director of Children's Ministry. During those years he was taking seminary courses working on Masters Degree. Once he finished, he wanted to be ordained as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church. Happily he wanted to continue in ministry here as our Associate Pastor of Children's and Family Ministry. Plan to celebrate Bo's ten years of ministry with us September 29.

In Christ,



Baptized:

August 18th Nathan Brown son of Glenn Brown and Kayla Davie, and Kaiden Hunter son of Kelsey Davies.

Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Sympathies are extended to Mindy Stratemeyer on the death of her mother Alice Stratemeyer. A memorial service is being planned for a later date.

Mark Cowgill's Memorial Service will be at First Pres on August 31st. The visitation will be at 2pm with the service at 4 pm.

Sympathies are extended to Lee and Pat Haldorson for the death of Lee's mother Betty Haldorson. Services will be held Saturday, August 31, 2019 at the Elwood Community Church.

August 25, 2019

Worship Attendance — 170

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 760,935

Year to Date Income \$279,454

Year to Date Expenses \$273,212

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received - \$3,000

Please call Tracy Norris if you wish to use electronic giving through your bank. We also have online giving on our website under "Give".

Sermon Series **“Strength for This Season”**

All sermons are available on our website under “Media”.

August 4th, 2019:

Mark 10:35-45 (NIV) “Choose to Serve”

Into this time of High Life Satisfaction for the Disciples, Jesus begins a three part sermon on service, sacrifice and suffering. We find 3 predictions of the going to the cross followed by the 3 failures of the Disciples to understand, and then 3 teaching sessions by Jesus. Jesus invites the Disciples and us as well, to serve, sacrifice and suffer for the Gospel.

August 11, 2019:

Mark 11:1-11 “Palm Branches in August”

Mark 11:1-11 is a traditional Palm Sunday text; yet even outside of Palm Sunday, this text is a powerful reminder of who Jesus is and what it means when Jesus is our Lord and Savior every day of the year. We can always shout, "Hosanna!"

August 18, 2019:

Mark 12:28-34 “Choose Love”

In our world, right now, we are bombarded by the cacophony of hatred. Here’s what matters. “Love your neighbor as yourself...” . The Bible says our neighbors are Other Christians, our Enemies, and Anybody in Need. What if we got rid of the illusion that there’s a “them” and acknowledge that there’s only an “Us”? What matters? Love God with your All and Love your neighbor as yourself. That’s all we need to understand to navigate life in any time.

August 25, 2019:

“Choose to Prepare” from Mark 13:32-36, 14:12-16

When we prepare for the way of God we align ourselves with the plan of God in the world. "In youth, because I could not be a singer, I did not even try to write a song; I set no little trees along the roadside, because I knew their growth would take so long. But now from wisdom that the years have brought me, I know that it may be a blessed thing to plant a tree for someone else to water, or make a song for someone else to sing." Speaking on his return, Jesus said, “But about that day or hour no one knows... only the Father... You do not know when that time will come” (Mark 13:32-33). When we faithfully follow him we need not be afraid.

Adult Education Opportunities

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.

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 are Thursdays, 9/12& 9/26 at 10 AM at the group leader’s home. For more information contact Mary Lynn Keir.

LUNCH BUNCH BIBLE STUDY

Starting September 17th Bob Haas and Pastor Craig Herr will be leading a Lunch Study on the Book of Revelation. They will be using the Kerygma Curriculum- ‘The Book of Revelation: Visions for the Church in Crisis.’ Bring a lunch and your Bible and meet them in room 210 at noon!

NEW FALL SERMON SERIES **“Strength for This Season” Series** **(September 8-October 27)**

We are living in challenging times and are facing troubles and obstacles in our country and in the world. How do we find the strength we need for these turbulent times? We hold onto the God who holds onto us and is still there for us, for the world, and for the church. Here’s where we will begin this series.

“Focus on The Finish Line”

I Corinthians 9:24-27, Hebrews 12:1-4

“Prayer Practice”

Romans 11:33-36, 12:1-2

“More Mercy”

Matthew 9:9-13, Micah 6:6-8

“Lean In to the Lord”

Psalms 116:1-10, Philippians 4:4-13

“Training for the Most Good”

II Timothy 3:10-17

2nd Sunday Potluck

2nd Sunday Potluck is September 8th, 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. We always have great food and a wonderful time of fellowship. Join us!



More information and registration forms are available on the website or in the Office!

The Thursday Morning and Mary Circle wish to invite all women of the congregation to a presentation on Israel given by Susan Fleming (Doris Alderson's daughter). It will be on September 12th at 11 am in the Fireside Room. Please bring your own lunch, but coffee and dessert will be provided. RSVP with Andrea at (815) 630-4201 by September 10th.

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—September 6, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—September 17th, 6:00 p.m. at Thayer Brothers (cash only), 753 Ruby, Joliet

Men's Dinner Group—September 27th, 6:00 p.m. at Anthony's Restaurant and Pub, 3151 Voyager Lane, Joliet

Call Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to RSVP

MIDWEEK

Midweek is not only for parents! While adults (parent or not) are studying we will have child-care available in the nursery and a curriculum and activities for children! Midweek will be meeting Wednesday nights, dinner at 5:30, class from 6:30 to 7:15 starting September 18th!

Session Notes

- September Communion has been moved from the first Sunday to the second Sunday, the 8th, due to Labor Day.
- Approved the transfer of membership request received from the First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, Florida, to transfer the membership of Robert and Pat Pierson.

GLORY RINGERS

SO, YOU SAY YOU CAN'T SING ?

Well then, you need to join the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir. You don't even have to know how to read music – you just have to be able to count! Glory Ringers rehearse on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., beginning Monday, September 9th and we would love to have you join us! We ring for two Sundays per month plus special services such as Christmas, Easter, etc. Anyone from high school age on up is welcome. This is a different kind of music ministry that I'm sure you will enjoy. Feel free to talk to one of the members of Glory Ringers and find out how exciting ringing can be. We need **YOU** to be a part of the Music Ministry of First Presbyterian Church!

Praise Yoga

Come, 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.

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

The First Pres. quilt group has created a one of a kind quilt that you can win!

Working together, we created a wonderful Christmas quilt that we are selling drawing tickets for. This quilt is a perfect way to decorate your home for the holidays, or give as a treasured Christmas gift. All of the funds raised from ticket sales will be donated directly to the **Angel House Tanzania** sewing & tailoring education curriculum. As you know, one of the young ladies our church sponsors, Bhoke Mnanka, is participating in this program and we were moved to find a way to support her and the other students. Beginning September 8th and continuing through November 10th a member of the quilt group will be selling drawing tickets in Hoffman Hall between services. The quilt will be on display each week and we'll be glad to answer your questions as well. Tickets cost \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. We will draw the winning ticket on November 17th between services and announce the winner at that point.

If you have questions feel free to contact Michelle Gier at 815-922-7695.



Thank you in advance for your generous support of our fundraising effort to help Angel House!

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 Night Deacons’ **Free Pancake Breakfast** is the first Saturday of each month, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on September 7th to help greet and serve our guests.

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

Through our special offerings and Vacation Bible School collections our loving and generous congregation and VBS participants helped raise

\$2,772!

With this money we are purchasing composition books for all of the students in the Farragut Elementary school, here in Joliet.

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

Birthdays coming up? Starting your Trunk N Treat supply shopping?

Getting a head start on Christmas 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!

Children's Ministry Update

Faith That Grows!

Today, as I sat down to write my article for the newsletter, I started thinking about all the things that happened in the past year here at First Pres. and I am sure you can agree with me that there has been a lot of change. As I was thinking about all that change I was reminded of a Bible Verse from Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

I like that reminder very much, because for me it means grounding, it is a great reminder that life comes with change but at the end of the day it is faith that keeps us going and helps us stay the course.

Faith is what the church is about. Faith is what we are about at First Pres. And faith is the thing that brings us together every time when we walk in the front door. Growing in faith as a community has always been the life force of the church. Each one of us, no matter how old or young, no matter how long we have been on this faith journey, are called to come and grow in our faith. And that is the invitation I have for all of us this Fall. This is not about 'Back to Church', this is not about starting anew after the last rays of summer. This is about your faith, about igniting and stoking that fire that God has put in your heart. For families with young kids and youth, is about planting a seed of faith that one day will help a young woman and a young man live their lives in such a way that will make a difference.

I want to really encourage you to make a dedicated effort to grow your faith. If that is on Sunday morning or on Wednesday night during Family Night, or in a small group, no matter where that is please set time aside to do just that. This fall as we come back to Family Night on Wednesdays at 5:30, we will have dinner together, and then kids, youth and adults will have a chance to be part of a group to study the Scriptures. (For the men's group we will start with a book study by Adam Hamilton: Making Sense of the Bible. Watch out for more information regarding the Women's Group.) For kids, as always, we will have a time for music, learning and activities but also a time to run around and play, and get a blast of energy for the rest of the week.

Looking forward to seeing you in church this fall!

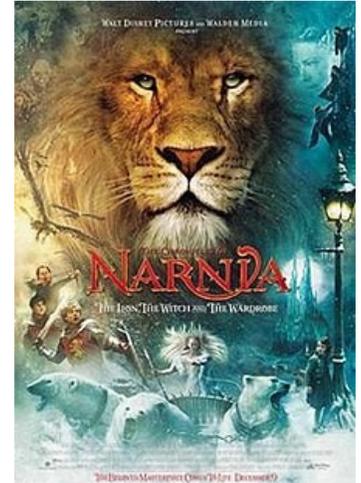
Blessings,
Bo M.

Trunk "N' Treat will be **October 23rd!** It is not too early to consider reserving a spot, and picking a super fun theme for your car and costumes! Maybe you're a family of wrestlers, mad scientists, detectives, wizards, superheroes, or maybe even super villains! Even if you don't bring a car full of candy, this is a safe alternative Halloween tradition!



The summer is officially OVER. I hope everyone enjoyed the sunshine, days off of school, and a season meant to restore some peace!

Family Mid-Week's Teen Bible Study: Family Mid-Week is beginning again on **September 18** at 5:30! This semester the teens will be taking a look at C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. We will begin the study by watching the film on September 18. We normally eat with our church family on Wednesday nights, but due to the run time of the film we will be grabbing a plate and heading to the teen lounge for a viewing party! Why *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*? C.S. Lewis had written *The Chronicles of Narnia* as a way to bring faith to life for young people. The story is filled with temptation, redemption, and a beautiful sacrifice. Reading the book isn't required—we'll be reading sections of text together and looking at how the story mirrors humanity's journey with Christ.



Confirmation: On September 8th at 4:30pm we will begin the 2019/2020 confirmation journey! Students in 8th or 9th grade are invited to join us! A schedule will be handed out on September 8 so parents and students can keep an eye out for a few days we don't meet (Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks). Students will be welcomed to the class on the 8th where we will make up a name to call ourselves, go over what Confirmation is, and talk about a confirmation sponsor: Who can it be? What is expected? Confirmation is a great opportunity for students to dig into their faith, ask those tough questions, and receive a little more individualized attention. It's going to be a fantastic year!

Wildfire Youth Group: Beginning on September 8th at 6:00pm we will have a Youth Group launch party! We will go over required forms, a code of conduct, and end with a competitive water balloon toss! Guardians/Parents are required to attend this first meeting. The winner of the balloon toss will receive a \$25 gift card to Cinemark, which if used on Tuesday will pay for a family of four to go so a show in Joliet! This year in youth group we will be learning about the Holy Spirit. Students will be provided with a journal and questions that help them dig deeper. Journaling opportunities will be provided in large group after the lesson and then students will have a chance to discuss their answers in small group. Games are a must at youth group and play is a promise each week as well. This upcoming year is going to be fantastic!



Newsletter Deadline—

The deadline for reserving space in the September 25 *Servants' Light* is **September 10**.

Please e-mail to office@firstpresjoliet.org.

It fills up fast!

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

September Daily Devotional Blog

We begin a new theme, "We Are..."

9/2	Heirs of Eternal Life	1Jo 5:11-12
9/3	Heirs to the Blessings of Abraham	Gal 3:14
9/4	Heirs of God & Joint Heirs with Jesus	Rom 8:17
9/5	Blessed with All Spiritual Blessings	Eph 1:3
9/6	His Workmanship Created in Christ Jesus	Eph 2:10
9/9	Strong in the Grace That is in Christ Jesus	2Ti 2:1
9/10	In Right-standing with God	2Co 5:21
9/11	Established in Righteousness	Isa 54:14
9/12	Living in His Kingdom	Col 1:13
9/13	Humbling Ourselves, Casting All Cares Upon Jesus	1Pe 5:6-7

9/16	Getting Our Needs Met by Jesus	Phl 4:19
9/17	Able to Be Partakers of the Inheritance, Giving Thanks to the Father	Col 1:12
9/18	Studying to Show Ourselves Approved of God	2Ti 2:15
9/19	Awakening to Righteousness & Sinning Not	1Co 15:34
9/20	Commended to God & the Word of His Grace Which is Able to Build Us Up	Act 20:32
9/23	Believing God's Word	Mar 13:31
9/24	Blessed Because We Hear the Word of God and Keep It	Luk 11:28
9/25	Abiding in Jesus & His Words Abide in Us	Jhn 15:7
9/26	Always Meditating on God's Word	Jos 1:8
9/27	Living by Every Word That Proceeds from God	Mat 4:4