



First
Presbyterian
Church

The Servants' Light

September 25, 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.

TRUNK N TREAT

OCTOBER 23RD

TRUNK N TREAT

is a fun and safe alternate Halloween tradition! Our church parking lot will be filled with cars all decorated with wacky and spooky themes, and most importantly, trunks full of **CANDY**! We will be welcoming families to take their kids through, **COSTUMES** welcome of course, and collect all the candy they can carry, all in a safe environment. We will also be supplying yummy **WARM FOOD**, a **BOUNCE HOUSE**, and a **PETTING ZOO**! So mark your calendars and start a fun new Halloween tradition! You can sign up for a lot space by contacting the church office or the form on our website!

Here are some fun trunk theme/costume ideas!

- ◆ Detectives ◆ Wizards ◆ Superhero ◆ Musician
- ◆ Monsters ◆ Royalty ◆ Safari ◆ Cartoons
- ◆ Decades ◆ Sports ◆ Pirates
- ◆ Animals



Craig Herr, Senior Pastor



SUNDAY, September 29, This Sunday we reach the midpoint of our “Strength for This Season” Sermon Series. We live in challenging times and the scriptures speak about holding onto the God who holds on to us through life.

We will celebrate Bo’s 10 year anniversary of his ministry. The Chancel Choir is singing at the 9:00 a.m. service and “Water Within”, contemporary Christian Band will also sing and play. “Water Within” will be leading worship music at the 10:30 a.m. service.

SERMON, This Sunday, I am preaching on “More Mercy” from the following scripture passages, Mathew 9:9-13 and Micah 6:6-8. In tough and difficult times when our world cries out for mercy it makes a great difference when God’s people live and show mercy. Come worship with us as we think about the mercy of God impacting our lives so that others will see and receive that mercy.

BLOOD DRIVE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, Sign up this Sunday to give blood on Sunday, October 6. The Versiti blood drive personnel will be in the back of Hoffman Hall to take blood from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Plan to give the gift that will help someone else receive the healthcare they truly need. Go online and sign up for a time slot via the link on our website.

“THE WAY” SMALL GROUP, Early Christians were not known as Christians, but as those who practiced The Way. Led by the Holy Spirit, they supported each other physically, psychologically, and spiritually, and were known for the way they loved. We will use recent understanding of the spirituality underlying this way of life Meet in the narthex with Chuck Tomashek, Sunday September 29 between services, to explore forming this Small Group.

10 YEAR CELEBRATION FOR BO, This is the Sunday to celebrate! You received a mailing on celebrating Bo’s 10 year Anniversary on this Sunday, September 29 between services. Plan to be with us to celebrate between services. Bo began serving as our Director of Children’s Ministry. During those years he was taking seminary courses at a pace of one or two a year and slow-

ly but surely working on a Master’s Degree. Once he finished, he wanted to be ordained as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church. It is so good that he wanted to continue in ministry here as our Associate Pastor of Children’s and Family Ministry.

IT’S TIME FOR TRUNK’N TREAT! Yes, it’s time to think about how you will help make this exciting community event at our church happen again! You can help in any of the following ways: set up, clean up, service food, greet, decorate a trunk. Just call the church or see Bo or me and let us know. Also for convenience a form is available on our website to sign up. Anticipate MUCH FUN!

May you know the grace, peace, and strength of the Lord as you journey through this week and always.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig".



Known to be in the Hospital:

Brian Lynch ; Joan Barnes

“I would like to thank everyone for the meals, cards, and prayers as I recovered from surgery.”

-Judy Garrison

September 22, 2019

Worship Attendance — 158

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$361,799

Year to Date Expenses \$338,222

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".
come" (Mark 13:32-33). When we faithfully follow him we
need not be afraid.



As we read the Scriptures we are faced with
the question:

How do I view the Scriptures for my life?

For me:

1. The Scripture is the Inspired of God: 40 authors over 1,500 years inspired by God wrote a unique and perfect book that contains the Story of God for the whole world.
2. The Scripture is as true today as in the days it was written. The Bible transcends time and cultural boundaries, and its message has the power to transform us today and challenge the modern world to live out in God's grace.
3. The Scripture is Truth. In the pages of the Bible we find the truth about humanity with all its ugliness but also the beauty of the redeemed creation. This truth will set us free indeed. As we learn about who we are in the light of God's world we can live out our lives in a way that reflect God's light in us.

Read, Trust, Believe Share this precious gift.

Blessings, Bo

Adult Education Opportunities

MIDWEEK MEN AND WOMEN'S STUDY:

This is an opportunity for men and women (and not just parents) to meet and study the Bible and strengthen fellowship. This group meets Wednesday nights at 6:30, dinner at 5:30! Teen and Child study groups are included, as well as childcare so the whole family can come, no need to worry about a babysitter!

PERSONAL/FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING

MEETINGS

Scripture encourages families to have financial plans and actions. Tithing and the Parable of the Talents are two examples. Since spring of this year a conversation about finances at the family level has been growing within the church. We plan a meeting in which we learn from each other on topics such as saving for college and retirement, budgeting, and tax savings. Our first meeting will be Tue, Oct 12 in Room 210, beginning at 7 PM. Conversation will last no more than 1 and 1/2 hours. We will learn from each other questions we may then explore within the privacy of our families. No one will be asked to disclose personal information during the session, though some may volunteer to do so. If you have further questions and comments, please contact

Ken Graham (630 297-5632)

kengraham8@msn.com or

Jim Huey (815 953-8422) hueyjim@comcast.net

Please leave a message if you call.

LUNCH BUNCH BIBLE STUDY

Bob Haas and Pastor Craig Herr lead a Lunch Study on the Book of Revelation. They use 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 continue this series.

"More Mercy"

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

"Lean In to the Lord"

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

"Seek the Most Good"

II Timothy 3:10-17

"Real Peace"

Romans 5:1-5

"Live More"

Colossians 3:12-17

Small Groups & Special Events

2nd Sunday Potluck

2nd Sunday Potluck is October 13th, 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!



Versiti will be hosting a **Blood Drive** in the back of Hoffman Hall on Oct.6 from 8-12. You can sign up at https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5577298 or call Mary at (815) 302-9563

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.

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—October 4th, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—October 15th, 6:00 p.m.

Men's Dinner Group—October 25th, 6:00 p.m.

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 childcare available in the nursery and a curriculum and activities for children! Midweek is meeting Wednesday nights at 5:30.

Session Notes

- released Jane (Sather) McCaffrey from membership per her request
- A group led by Pastor Bo will be creating an Advent Devotional for our many small work and study groups here at FPJ
 - Session fully supports this effort unanimously
- Lily, the Center Dog (a housebroken therapy dog) will be allowed in Hoffman Hall only (no carpeted areas) and only during Center Hours
 - unanimously approved

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. 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!

"The Way" Small Group

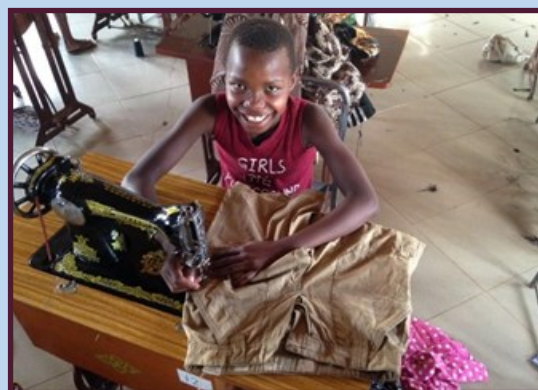
Join us in exploring an early Christian path. The early Christians were not known as Christians, but as those who practiced the way. Led by the Holy Spirit, they supported each other physically, psychologically, and spiritually. They were known for the way they loved, particularly each other. We will use some recent understanding of the spirituality that underlies this way of life. Please join us for a meeting on Sun 9/29 in the back of the Narthex after first service to explore the formation of such a group at First Pres.

Project Linus

Join us and help make no-sew fleece blankets for children in need, especially with the colder months creeping up on us. Project Linus meets the last Monday of each month. In September the meeting will be on the 26th at 9 A.M. in Hoffman Hall. Please bring your sewing scissors!

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. 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.

The Night Deacons' **Free Pancake Breakfast** is the first Saturday of each month, 8 to 10 a.m. Come on October 5th 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!

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?

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!

BAGS OF LOVE

These 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. This is a great way to help those in real need especially with the harsher winter months creeping back in. Pictured below is Kendall Fris and some of her hard work packing our Bags of Love!



Children's Ministry Update

Plan To See

This last week I preached on the importance of the Word of God in our lives. The Scripture is at the center of our lives, and it has been the one thing that each generation of believers turned to to discover the love of God. I remember as a kid, all the books I had read, the fairytales, the adventures, and still today I can recall some of them in great detail. I was fascinated by Jules Verne and his incredible descriptions in *The Journey to the Center of the Earth*. My imagination lit up when I read it, and I thought about it for days. As a kid that spirit of inquisitiveness and dreaming and imagination helped me ask questions, and look for different things that would help me understand more about the Earth. I wish I had the same spirit when it came to the Bible. I did not read the Bible until late in high school, and I feel like I lost a lot of that childlike enthusiasm when it came to discovering God's word.

This month we are celebrating Bible Sunday, a tradition that has been part of the reformed faith for hundreds of years. I love Bible Sunday, because it captures the heart of the Church and its desire to share the word with a new generation. It ignites that fire of understanding and opens the world of a child to a new way of seeing the world, of questioning and imagine the divine.

I Love this Sunday.

And yet, without each one of us cultivating the habit of opening the Bible, and sharing the stories, we might fall short of this great commission that God has for us. I would like to encourage you to tell your story of faith to your kids, to share the Bible stories with them and open a new world to them. Faith starts with that little seed of the word planted in their hearts. While it might be Fall outside, it is always planting season in God's season.

Be Blessed,
Bo M.

Coming Up!

TRUNK AND TREAT -

we need your help with lots and lots of trunks! So please go to the website and sign up. Other volunteer positions are available as well Trunk N Treat is on Oct 23rd!

23RD BIBLE SUNDAY -

October 27th - please watch your mail for communication regarding Bible Sunday!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE -

Nov 26 Details to follow

TEEN TAKEOVER -

November 24, get excited!

1ST PRES AT THE ZOO -

This year we will decorate a tree for the Zoo and we will also plan a trip on Sunday December 8th. Watch the bulletin for more Information.



Hello my FPJ Fam!

September was a great month and the Youth of First Pres are back in action! We've met a few Sundays for Youth Group—especially enjoying a water balloon toss where Evan and his dad, Jeff, took home the prize for furthest toss!—and Confirmation has dedicated students who are excited to learn more about God and befriend one another.



Just last week we began our Midweek Teen Bible Study where we dove into the magical world of Narnia in C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This is a mixed study where we first engage by watching the film to a certain scene, then take a look at the written version in the novel, and finally compare how these scenes were influenced by Biblical texts. At the very end, we discuss how the situations and characters in the Bible and the *Narnia* story relate to us. It's a great time!



In October, the Youth Group is going to Six Flags Fright Fest as part of a revived tradition! If your student is interested, contact me ASAP. Tickets will be \$40. We will leave the church at 9:00am and be back around 11:00pm.

It's going to be a great
month!
Blessings,
Karissa

Newsletter Deadline—

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

October Daily Devotional Blog

"Walking Through the Books of Wisdom"

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