

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.

"Getting the Scriptures Through Us"
II Timothy 2:14-17

"More Mercy"
Matthew 9:9-13, Micah 6:6-8

"Lean In to the Lord"
Psalm 116:1-10, Philippians 4:4-13

The word of God is a sure foundation of the Christian Life. We turn to the Word of God time and time again to seek counsel, to find strength, and to discover the will of God for our lives. This Sunday I am preaching on 2 Timothy 2:14-17. As we get ready for Sunday Worship, I would encourage you to ponder what is the word of God for you? How do you see the Scriptures in your daily lives? What was the first scripture that stayed with you and helped you see God's grace in your life? Looking forward to sharing with you this Sunday about the joy and peace we find in the Scriptures.

Be blessed, Bo M.

September 15, 2019

Worship Attendance — 149

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$348,092

Year to Date Expenses \$328,074

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

We offer several convenient options for electronic giving. Please visit our website or call Tracy Norris for more information.

e-News

September 18, 2019

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

The Week Ahead

Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 PM in Room 217

Midweek Family Night— Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

Praise Yoga—Thursdays at 8AM and Tuesdays at 7 PM

Confirmation — Sundays at 4:30 PM

Youth Group — Sundays at 6:00 PM

Glory Ringers — Mondays at 7 PM

Chancel Choir — Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Project Linus—9/23 at 9 AM

QUILT GROUP HAS BEEN MOVED. This month only Quilt Group will meet on the 26th instead of the 19th.

Music This Sunday:

First Service : Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Second Service: Worship Band

All are still welcome to join our Handbell Choir the Glory Ringers, and the Chancel Choir.

Glory Ringers meet Mondays at 7PM.

Chancel Choir meets Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, just after our Midweek Family Bible Study Groups!

Volunteers this Sunday, September 22, 2019

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Connection Center:

Don Barnes Ralene Barnes

Children's Worship:

Stefanie Young

Kaleigh Belfield

Greeters:

Acolytes:

Cameron Paul

Sadie House

Ushers:

Al Brooks

Ed Schultz

Mark Dykema

Laura House

Coffee Fellowship:

Sue Fordyce

Sound Room:

Cliff Stepina

Video Screens:

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

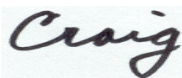
Sunday, September 22, We believe that God speaks to us in and through the scriptures, God's word to us, the Bible. I encourage you to read the sermon passage text for this week, pray through the passage, and come expecting God to speak into your life.

Blood Drive on Sunday, October 6, Sign up this Sunday or the following 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.

10 Year Celebration for Bo, You received a mailing on celebrating Bo's 10 year Anniversary on Sunday, September 29 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 slowly 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. Plan to celebrate Bo's ten years of ministry with us September 29.

The book of Revelation Chapter 1 This Week- The Study on Revelation, is all about Chapter 1 this week, September 24 at Noon in Room 210. Both Bob Haas and I are leading the class. We are using the Kerygma Curriculum- The Book of Revelation: Visions for the Church in Crisis as we prepare for each class session. Our study is on Revelation chapter 1 this coming Tuesday, September 24 at Noon. Bring your lunch or eat before you arrive and come ready for lively discussions, conversation, and caring fellowship. This would be a great week to start this discussion group study.

The Time is Now, Now is the time to register for the September 28, Ladies Retreat. Call the office, register on Sunday! Before you know it, it will be Saturday, September 28th!



MISSION

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 keep on hand. Donations should be of prepackaged goods only, please refrain from donating homemade dishes.

"Bags of Love" are filled with easy-open food donations, socks, and toiletries the last Sunday of the month and taken to MorningStar Mission for distribution. There are bins in the Narthex for your donations. Especially needed are easy open canned meals/entrees.

Sunday, September 15- "Prayer Practice" I Kings 8:22-30, 37-40; Romans 11:33-36, 12:1-2

It's been written by Hitopadesa that,
*"Greatness does not approach the person
who is forever looking down."*

I would suggest that we can lift our sights to greatness. The Practice of Prayer puts us in touch with greatness. Prayer Practice connects us to the living God of the Universe who is great beyond what we can imagine, think, or hope. Solomon recognized, acknowledged the greatness of God in prayer.

*"Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like
you in heaven above or on earth below..."*

Then the Apostle Paul writes,

*"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom
and knowledge of God!*

*For from him and through him and to him
are all things.*

To him be the glory forever! Amen"

Prayer opens us up to the greatness of God...that God's love and grace and faithfulness, truth and justice and more might take up residence in our lives. Arthur Schopenhauer once wrote,

*"Great people are like eagles, and build their
nest on some lofty solitude."*

Prayer enables us to build our lives upon the presence and greatness of God.

Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, a top shelf, exemplary Christian Relief and Development Organization that touches the lives of the poorest of the poor all over the world, made prayer a part of his daily life. He said,

*"I don't ask God to bless what I do. I pray
that he will help me to do what he blesses."*

That's why the redemptive impact of Bob Pierce's life and mission was so exceptional.

How's your prayer life? Listen to this sermon to expand your prayer life.

**Past Sermons are available to hear on our
website and app! Under "Media", then
"Sermons"** <https://www.firstpresjoliet.org/sermons->

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital:
Brian Lynch ; Joan Barnes

FAMILY MIDWEEK STUDIES ARE BACK!

Midweek will be every Wednesday night, with only a few holiday interruptions. A dinner will be provided starting at 5:30 PM each Wednesday, and studies will run from 6:30 to 7:15 each evening. All are welcome, you do not need to be a parent to participate in these great study opportunities!

WOMEN

The women of First Pres will be studying *Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes* a Bible Study by Jennifer Cowart. “Every life gets messy at times. Sometimes these messes are literal, but sometimes they are intangible messes.” “In this six-week study, Jennifer Cowart helps us dig into the lives of biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways.”

MEN

The men of First Pres will be studying *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. This book addresses the big topics that are attached to the church, and answers questions asked by people both Christian and not. In a relatable and inviting way this book discusses often misunderstood themes of the Bible and leads readers to a personal and deeper understanding and appreciation of the word of God. Expect to consider, discuss, and learn about questions such as:

Did Jesus really teach that everyone who is not a Christian will be assigned to hell? Why would Paul command women to “keep silent in the church?” Is the book of Revelation really about the end times? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? Is the Bible ever wrong?

TEENS

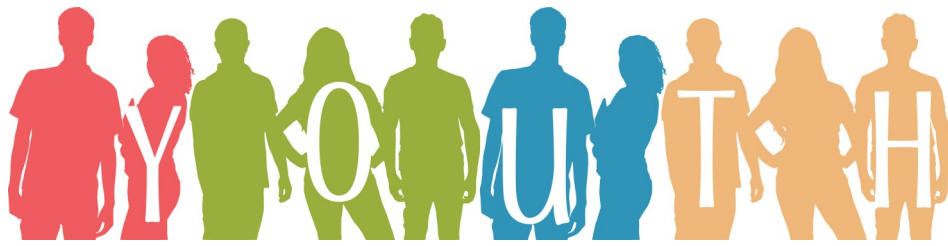
Tonight we will begin our Fall Season of Family Midweek, which means our Wednesday night Teen Bible Study is back! This year we will go through *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. Each night we will have dinner as a church family with everyone else, watch a bit of the Disney movie of the same title, then read parts of the novel and discuss how they relate to us as Christians today. We will explore topics such as temptation, sin, redemption, God’s grace, and Jesus’s sacrifice. Bet you didn’t know all that was in *The Chronicles of Narnia*!

KIDS

Children ages 3 to 5th grade will be having weekly lessons and related activities while their parents enjoy their own studies! We will be doing fun holiday crafts, and teaching kids the importance of faith, fellowship, and study in their lives. Autumn is quickly approaching, and soon the weather will become cooler and the leaves will change. Over the next few weeks we will be following a series called *Autumn Leaves*, as we learn that God makes all things beautiful, as the changing leaves remind us of. Tonight we will begin with the first lesson in this series: *Orange Leaves*. Orange is usually a warning to slow down, to take notice of construction workers, and to be safe. In a world where fads and trends come and go, Psalm 81 serves as a warning to us to put God first in our lives.

Childcare will be available for children aged two years and younger in the nursery.

DINNER THIS WEEK IS PIZZA!



CONFIRMATION:

This Sunday we will continue to examine Presbyterian History & Doctrine by going through the Presbyterians' beliefs on The Sovereignty of God as well as Sin and Human Nature. The topic may seem daunting, but as a group I know we will pull through and come out with a better understanding of some hard topics to grasp.

WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP:

This week we are going to look at Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit came to Earth! In Acts it is a wild affair with fire, wind, and people speaking different languages. It was probably quite a sight to see! Join us as we talk about what the Bible says, how we feel about that 2,000 years later in America, and what does the Holy Spirit coming to Earth mean for us now? Youth Group meets from 6:00pm-7:30pm and students in grades 6th-12th are welcome. Each night includes a lesson, small groups, a snack, and a group game!

FRIGHTFEST!:

As part of a restored tradition, the youth group is going to Six Flags during Frightfest! We are going on **October 19**. The calendar given by Karissa says we will be leaving at 8am, but upon reflection of Six Flags open hours we will be leaving First Presbyterian at 9am. We will get home around 11:00pm. Tickets will cost \$40 to students. We need a group of at least 15 to get this pricing! If you, your teen, and your teen's friend are interested let Karissa know!



"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 either Sun 9/22 or Sun 9/29 in the back of the Narthex after first service to explore the formation of such a group at First Pres.



For more information on the Ladies' Retreat and the registration form check our website, there is a link on the home page! Printed registration forms are also available in the office.

SAVE THE DATE:

Versiti will be hosting a Blood Drive in Hoffman Hall on Oct.6 from 8-12

FINANCIAL PLANNING:

The first meeting will be held 10/15 at 7p.m. in room 210. These meetings will be for all of us to learn more about financial planning from each other. No one will be asked to disclose personal information. For more info, 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.

◇ TRUNK N TREAT ◇

Save the Date! October 23rd from 6 PM to 7:30 PM here at First Pres! You can sign up now for a parking spot with the form on our website, by emailing office@firstpresjoliet.org, or calling the office at (815) 727-9259. Please include your name, your theme if you know it, your preferred contact info (phone/email), and if you will need electricity for inflatables, lights etc.