



The Servants' Light

November 27, 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.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!

Parish Christmas Breakfast

On December 15th , 9:45 a.m. Parish Council will be hosting a Christmas Breakfast! Join us and enjoy gourmet coffee, fresh fruit, a juice bar, scrambled eggs, sausage, and more delicious food! Mark your calendars!

Christmas Concert

On Sunday December 22nd at 3:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Christmas Concert! Come join us for a lovely afternoon of Christmas music performed by our Chancel Choir, strings, and Glory Ringers Handbell Choir.

Christmas Eve Services

"Proclaim the Hope of the World"

Our Christmas Eve Services will be held at:

3p.m. and 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

At 10:30 there will be a half hour of wonderful Christmas music

Childcare will be available in the nursery for children 2 years and younger during the 3 pm and 7 pm services.



SUNDAY, December 1, Advent Begins! Advent is a time of waiting, watching, preparing, and praising in hope, the hope of who God is and what God does in the Christ Child. Come antici-

pate and celebrate the hope God has for us. The Chancel Choir is singing at the 9:00 a.m. Traditional service and the Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 Contemporary Service.

WE WILL INTRODUCE TWO NEW SONGS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP; one at each worship service. At the 9:00 a.m. service, with Bells and the Chancel Choir we will sing, "We Wait In Hope" by Joel Raney. At the 10:30 a.m. service, with the Worship Band we will sing, "King of Kings" by Hillsong.

SERMON, This Sunday Bo is preaching and writes about his sermon. This Sunday I am preaching on Luke 1:26-32! I would like to invite you to start your advent season with the following question: What am I waiting for? For Mary the answer to that question was something that was bigger than she could ever imagine: You are waiting for a son, that will be the King of King, the Son of the Most High. In that moment, when the angel spoke to her, the promise of God for the ages was within reach, and Mary will get to hold it in her arms. What am I waiting for? What do you Hope for this season? Come Sunday and let's find together the promise of God for this season.

Be Blessed, Bo M

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

MIDWEEK FAMILY NIGHT DINNERS ARE THE BEST! We have wonderfully delicious meals and great conversations on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in Hoffman Hall. If you just want to join us for dinner you are welcome and will not be disappointed. After dinner we have classes and discussion groups for men, women, and children. I hope to see you, Wednesday, December 4th.

STILL ROOM ON THE BUS FOR BROOKFIELD ZOO TRIP, We have arranged for group rates for the Holiday Magic Season at the Brookfield Zoo. We are going on Sunday, December 8th, leaving the church at 3 p.m. and returning at 8 p.m. We also have a bus for going up and back together. There's still room for more people to go. Don't miss they great time. Call the office to Get On The Bus!

In Christ,

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Known to be in the Hospital: no one

Baptized: : Hasen Qi,

November 24, 2019

Worship Attendance — 230

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$459,619

Year to Date Expenses \$470,482

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

Online giving is available on our website under "Give". Also by texting (815)205-3044, or talking with Tracy Norris in the church office.

Sermon Summary
Sunday November 24
"Being a Role Model" Teen Take Over
1 Timothy 4:12

All sermons are available on our website under "Media".

God made us to be in community. When Paul sent Timothy to Ephesus, he did not send him without direction or help. 1 Timothy 4:12 reads,

"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead be an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and purity."

Paul encouraged Timothy to be an example for others in the church—not necessarily the outside world. Likewise, we are called to be examples for each other. Following Jesus is tough and we need help from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May we remember the great resource that is our church body, while always keeping our hearts in a place of gratitude for the grace given to us.

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

NEXT MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

Scripture encourages families to have financial plans and actions. Since spring of this year a conversation about finances at the family level has been growing within the church. No one will be asked to disclose personal information during the session, though some may volunteer to do so.

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!

Advent Sermon Series

"We Wait in Hope" Series is from The Joel Raney Advent Choral Series Format. We wait in hope for the Lord Jesus' birth as we make our way through the Advent Season and seek the Savior.

<u>Sunday December 1</u>	<u>"Wait in Hope"</u>
<u>Sunday December 8</u>	<u>"Watch in Hope"</u>
<u>Sunday December 15</u>	<u>"Prepare in Hope"</u>
<u>Sunday December 22</u>	<u>"Praise in Hope"</u>
<u>Tuesday December 24th</u>	<u>"Proclaim the Hope of the World"</u>

NOTE: on Sunday December 29 we will have only one service at 10:30 a.m.

POTLUCK SUNDAYS CHANGE

2nd Sunday Potluck is changing from a monthly to a quarterly event. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it: the next potluck will be Sunday, January 12, 2020 following 10:30 a.m. worship. See you next year!

MIDWEEK

While adults (parent or not) are studying we will have childcare available in the nursery and a curriculum and activities for children and teens! Midweek is meeting Wednesday nights starting with a delicious fresh cooked meal at 5:30. After dinner we break into groups (Men, Women, Teens, and Children) for our studies! Groups go until about 7:30 pm. All are welcome to come, even if you just stay for the delightful dinner and the company!

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 December the meeting will be on the 30th at 9 A.M. in Hoffman Hall.

Please bring your sewing scissors!



BROOKFIELD ZOO CHRISTMAS TREE!

FPJ is sponsoring a Christmas tree at the Brookfield Zoo this year! A church-wide trip is happening on December 8th but you are encouraged to go see our tree anytime this December, it is located on the Main Way near the Carousel, and labeled for FPJ. Thank you to everyone who contributed lovely ornaments for our Community tree!

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—December 17th, 6 pm at Fox's Restaurant in Plainfield on Route 30

Men's Dinner Group—December 27th, 6pm at Larry's Diner in Plainfield

Call Jean or Bob Smietanski, 815-838-7616 to RSVP

Small Groups & Special Events

Session Notes

- Advent Worship will be guided by the theme "We Wait in Hope" Facebook and Google Boost ads will be used in the Joliet area to advertise our advent services, the choral concert on December 22, and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.
- Kim Bolte will create artistic Advent mural posters announcing each Advent Sunday.
- The women's bathrooms and men's second floor bathroom will be remodeled in the new year. New fixtures and dividers will be installed with some updating of floors and walls. Stewardship Council made a motion to spend up to \$15,000 on this project.
- As required by Joliet Regulations, a plat of the house and yard for Buell Ave house was completed so that the house can be sold.

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 known for the way they loved, particularly each other. We will use some recent understanding of the spirituality that underlies this way of life. Meetings are now Wednesdays during Midweek, in room 217/219

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



RHOBI MNANKA:

Rhobi was born October 1st, 2003. She is Bhoke's little sister. She is one of the top seamstresses at Angel House and her favorite subject is math. She asks for prayers for her brother who had to stay with their ill mother to take care of her. She would also like you to pray that God helps her in her classes and that she can achieve her dream of being an accountant. Rhobi is one of the individuals who will be benefitting directly from the donation from our FPJ Quilt Groups Raffle Fundraising!



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 December 7th to help greet and serve our guests.

Our **Bags of Love** are filled with donations (collected in the Narthex) of food and hygiene items. These are then packed together once a month and donated to the local MorningStar Mission to be given to homeless individuals.

GET THOSE LAST MINUTE PRESENTS AND GIVE A GIFT TO FIRST PRES!

With Black Friday and Cyber Monday coming up always remember you can contribute to the church by simply making

Amazon purchases through the web page

"smile@amazon.com." This is a simple way to contribute .5% of Amazon purchases to FPJ!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!

Stars of Hope!

You can select a star (or more!) from MorningStar Mission. These stars have a list of either Wants or Needs for a specific child in need in our community. These are a minimum of a \$50 gift. The items can be purchased and wrapped and **dropped off at First Pres by December 1st.**

These stars are now in limited numbers and available through Kris Hayden until Friday November 29th .

Help us help our local children in need this Christmas!

BAGS OF LOVE

There is only the 10:30 service on December 29th so come early, drink some coffee, and help pack some bags of love! 10 a.m. in Hoffman Hall all helping hands are welcome. Please come help us make the lives of individuals in need a little easier this harsh winter. These bags of necessities will be given to those in need at the local MorningStar Mission.

Children's Ministry Update

Christmas! Oh what a blessed time of the year!

One night that changed the world. A moment in time when the whole world came to a stand still. When humanity and divinity met in a little town in the country side of Israel, forever left an imprint in the history of human kind. I like to revisit that place as I read my Bible, as I enter the season of advent. I want to rush to the manger in Bethlehem, and delight in the beauty of the scene. Where the star is shining bright, where the angels sing, where shepherds, all kinds are welcomed in the presence of God. I would like to run to that stable, and leave behind all my worries and cares.

I want just like the newborn infant, to find that place of comfort and joy.

I want to run to Christmas Eve! And yet there is a long way to the stable. There is a lot to be done before the arrival of God's promise! For Mary and Joseph there was uncertainty, a trip that was tiring and yes there was excitement but even more so there was a sense of unknown. For the wise men, it was a search for something more than a new king was being born, something that will bring peace and fulfillment to their own search for meaning. For the shepherds it was discovering the amazing moment when God's love chooses them to witness the birth of the promise of ages, while they were taking care of their flocks.

For me that is the magic of this season, the time before, the time when God nudges us towards comfort and joy out of our own comfort. This season of Advent is about finding God along the way, as we search for our own meaning, for our own place of peace. It is that journey that has so much meaning for each of us when we take the first step towards Bethlehem. And yet we rush to manger, we rush to the Christmas night.

This season I want to encourage you to pause your search for the perfect gift, or the unending chores that come with Christmas, and enjoy the journey to the manger. As a kid I grew up making so many memories of the season, getting the Christmas tree, singing carols and decorating, helping mom around the house to get the place ready for guests. All those things were meaningful to me and they still are today. I would like to encourage you to focus on the journey to Christmas day, open yourself to the people around you, invite them on this Journey. Kids and even youth, one day will get to appreciate all those little stops in the journey to Christmas Morning, it will help them discover the depth and the true beauty of this season.

So come and get your hearts ready for Christ!

Be blessed,
Bo M.

Special invitation to all

On Dec 18th for Midweek, we will have a special evening to celebrate Christmas at church.

We will have a lovely dinner, followed by a time of carols with plenty of cookies and hot chocolate, and lots of things for kids and youth to do. Bring Christmas a little early this year. **See you on the 18th at 5:30 pm.**



1st Pres is going to the zoo on Sunday 12/8! For more information see the Church Life page, our website, or contact the office!

Come see the tree you helped decorate for First Pres, at Brookfield Zoo!



No Formal Confirmation or Youth Group:
12/1, 12/8, 12/22, or 12/29

All Church Holiday Magic Zoo Trip—In place of a formal Youth Group on December 8, we will be heading to the zoo with our church family! This will also be fellowship event for December (which means no indoor waterpark this month). We will meet at FPJ at 3pm, ride a bus together, visit the zoo (and FPJ's tree!), and be back by 8pm.

Confirmands, you are required to go with your sponsor.

December 15—We will again be making Christmas packages for the people in the church who have lost loved ones this year. While we began this for widows, we have since expanded to spread love among people who have lost other close relatives. For this evening, bringing TWO of the same items that represent something you like: If you like baseball, bring a baseball ornament; if you like baking, bring a cookie mix in a jar; if you enjoy video games, bring an ornament with that video game. ANYTHING. Remember, we will write notes to those getting these gifts explaining why we gave what we did. The hope is, we share what makes us smile hoping it will bring a smile to them as well.

December 22—Youth Group Christmas party! Come to FPJ in the afternoon for the Christmas concert then head home to put on your favorite Christmas jammies and head to Karissa's mom's house for a Christmas party! We will have cookie decorating, a white elephant game (bring something from your house wrapped, please don't spend money!), and more! The party will be 5:00pm-7:00pm at 1595 Bellevue St Rockdale IL 60436.

Newsletter Deadline—

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

December Daily Devotional Blog

"Advent"

11/1	Proverbs 26
11/4	Proverbs 27
11/5	Proverbs 28
11/6	Proverbs 29
11/7	Proverbs 30
11/8	Proverbs 31
11/11	Ecclesiastes 1
11/12	Ecclesiastes 2
11/13	Ecclesiastes 3
11/14	Ecclesiastes 4

11/15	Ecclesiastes 5
11/18	Ecclesiastes 6
11/19	Ecclesiastes 7
11/20	Ecclesiastes 8
11/21	Ecclesiastes 9
11/22	Ecclesiastes 10
11/25	Ecclesiastes 11
11/26	Ecclesiastes 12
11/27	Psalm 69
11/28	Psalm 86
11/29	Psalm 106