



**“New Hope for the New Year”
(January 5– February 9)**

As we anticipate what the new year means, we look with Hope at what 2020 will bring. We understand that there will be New Hopes realized and New Challenges presented as the years unfolds to us. This sermon series is about navigating life in the hope of Christ Jesus and finding strength for the inevitable challenges that surface. We will seek wisdom from the lives of God’s people and parables in the Bible such as David, Rahab, the Prodigal Son, Josiah, Mary, and Daniel.

“From Shepherd Boy to King” 1 Samuel 16-18

This Sunday I am preaching on King David - from Shepherd to King. King David is remembered as a man after God’s own heart. As we read his life's story, we discover a life well lived, with lots of faithfulness and also a lot of backsliding, with many moments of great leadership but also seasoned with times of doubt and falling off grace. The start of a new year is a great time to take inventory of our lives in the light of God’s grace, and embrace the Hope we find in being forgiven, given a new chance to make things better and live as people after god’s own heart. I would encourage you to read 1 Samuel 16-18 as an introduction to who David is, and Psalms 8 or Psalm 18 as they give us an insight in his spiritual journey. It is also Communion Sunday!

-Bo

The first 2nd Sunday Potluck of 2020 is January 12th, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring a dish to share and drop it off in the kitchen, or run out and pick something up during coffee hour. Enjoy fellowship with your church family and get to know others better. There is always delicious food and great conversation!

e-News

January 1, 2020

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

The Week Ahead :

- Men’s Breakfast– 1/3 at 7:30 am
- Pancake Breakfast–1/4 at 8 am
- Day Deacons Meeting–1/6 at 10 am
- Glory Ringers–Mondays @7 PM
- Centering Prayer–Tuesdays at 1 PM in Room 217
- Praise Yoga–Tuesdays at 7 pm Thursdays at 8 am
- Stewardship Council–1/8 at 3:30

From the Treasurer’s Office:

Annual statements of your 2019 contributions to First Presbyterian will be mailed within the first few weeks of January. To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2019 income tax return until you have received this written acknowledgment of your contributions.

WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP:

We are still enjoying a holiday break so we will not meet on 1/5/20 for Confirmation OR Youth Group. We will be having an **All Youth Lock-In on Jan.3** from 9pm to 7am. All Junior and Senior High students are welcome as well as their friends! There will be snacks, games, movies, open gym, and more!

Christmas Decorations Take-down We’ll meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 11 to take down the decorations at church and store them away until next Christmas. The more people that help, the quicker our task will be completed! Please consider coming to lend a hand.

Volunteers this Sunday, January 5, 2020

	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Connection Center:</u>	Sue Mueller	Jill Strimel
<u>Children’s Worship:</u>	Laura Pritz	Sarah Lundeen
<u>Greeters:</u>		
<u>Acolytes:</u>		
<u>Ushers:</u>	Colin Becker Jasmine Keir Lilly Dunbar	Ed Schultz Mark Morrison
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u>	Al Brooks, Capt.	Lilly Dunbar
<u>Sound Room:</u>	Rich Pool	
<u>Video Screens:</u>	Aaron Warf	

Happy 2020! As we start the new year, I pray that this year will be a great time for us to grow in Christ, to discover the goodness of God in everything we do and to be able to share God's love any chance we have.

As we start the New Year, we are also starting a new sermon series: "New Hope for the New Year", 6 weeks of sermons based on finding hope even in the most difficult life moments.

This Sunday I am preaching on King David - from Shepherd to King. King David is remembered as a man after God's own heart. As we read his life's story, we discover a life well lived, with lots of faithfulness and also a lot of backsliding, with many moments of great leadership but also seasoned with times of doubt and falling off grace. The start of a new year is a great time to take inventory of our lives in the light of God's grace, and embrace the Hope we find in being forgiven, given a new chance to make things better and live as people after God's own heart. I would encourage you to read 1 Samuel 16-18 as an introduction to who David is, and Psalms 8 or Psalm 18 as they give us an insight in his spiritual journey. It is also Communion Sunday!

2019 has been a great year for ministry here at First Pres and we have seen so much being done to help the homeless, or through the food pantry. I would like to encourage you to keep these ministries in mind as we are starting the new year, since the winter months can be very taxing on the people that benefit from Bags of Love and the Food Pantry.

Midweek Family Night is starting up again on January 15th at 5:30. If you love a good meal and some great people around the table you have to come and see what this all about. Kids, parents and grandparents everyone is welcome to come and share a meal and then find some time for spiritual growth in one of the classes we offer. The Ladies group are continuing their study on Messy people and the Men's Groups is looking at the Book of James.

Movies and Chili Night is around the corner - January 25th. Mark your calendar and get ready for some competition and great chill. We have reserved some great movies to share with you: Peanut Butter Falcon, A Dog's Journey, Breakthrough, Downton Abbey, and the 2019 Dumbo remake.

I wish you a Happy New year and May God bless us all this year!

Bo M.

**Sunday, December 29-
"When Hope Enters In" Luke 2:8-20**

The Hope we find in Christ, is transformative, it leads from good intentions to actions, it challenges our behavior, and becomes a beacon for the world.

And yet we are challenged to keep that hope alive even as the glory of Christmas day fades away. How will we keep the joy, and the hope of Christmas alive in our lives?

The answer might be as simple as celebrating what God is doing in our lives at this time, about finding meaning in the things that surrounds us, about letting that build faith in us that will have us celebrate and share that hope.

So as we are getting ready to start a new year let us set one lofty goal for the new year:

I will celebrate Hope!

Past Sermons are available to hear on our website and app! Under "Media", then "Sermons"
<https://www.firstpresjoliet.org/sermons-2/>

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital: no one

December 29, 2019

Worship Attendance — 96

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$540,103

Year to Date Expenses \$553,182

Christmas Joy \$1,435

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

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card.