



We Wait In Hope" Advent Series (December 1-29)

"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. There is a time of waiting and then a time of watching in expectation. Once hope begins to take shape we move to preparation. And preparation leads us to praise. Finally, hope is realized and we proclaim and share the Savior, the Hope of the world.

Sunday, December 15

"Prepare in Hope" Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, December 22

"Praise in Hope" I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Christmas Eve Services, Dec. 24

"Proclaim the Hope of the World" Luke 2:8-14

I am preaching on "Prepare In Hope" for this Third Sunday of Advent from Luke 2:22-40. We will think about Simeon and Anna who prepared to see what God was doing in and through the birth of Jesus. How are your preparations going for Christmas? Come join us for worship as we consider our spiritual preparation for seeing what God is doing.

---Craig Herr

December 8, 2019

Worship Attendance — 187

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$491,104

Year to Date Expenses \$479,415

Peace offering received \$303

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.

e-News

December 11, 2019

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org

The Week Ahead :

Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 PM in Room 217

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

Confirmation—Sundays @4:30

Youth Group—Sundays @6pm

Glory Ringers—Mondays @7 PM

Lunch Bunch—12/17 at 12,

Thursday Circle—12/12 at 9 am

Women's Bible Study—12/12 at 10 am

Mary Circle—12/12 at 12 pm

Exec. Comm.—12/12 at 6 pm

Session—12/12 at 7 pm

Christmas Breakfast—12/15 at 9:45 am

Ed Council—12/16 at 6:30 pm

Dinner Out—12/17 at 6 pm

MIDWEEK—Tonight we will continue preparing our hearts for Christmas with a Christmas inspired devotional. If you are following the church's devotional book, you'll be one step ahead! It will be a great night as we think about what it really means to get ready for Christmas.

CONFIRMATION—We're back! We will have a regularly scheduled meeting from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

YOUTH GROUP—It's that time year where we give extra thought, prayer, and attention to those who have experienced loss this year. The church provides one item for each widow and we ask that the students bring TWO items that they love to put in the care package as well. These items can be anything from cookies put in a tin, a baseball ornament, a drawing, etc. Each student will be assigned two care packages where they will place their items, write a note to say hi and explain why they gave those presents, and this year we will take a polaroid again of the students who built each package to send off with it. I look forward to this every year and I am excited to see you all Sunday. If you don't bring anything, don't worry—I still have those needlepoint crosses and yarn for you to make!

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital: no one

Sympathies are extended to Mike and Susan Lee on the passing of Mike's dad Byron Lee on 12/2/19 in Joliet.

Volunteers this Sunday, December 15, 2019

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Connection Center:

Bob Becker

Colin Becker

Children's Worship:

Laura Pritz

Kaleigh Belfield

Greeters:

Acolytes:

Emma Corcoran

Rafe Rogers

Ushers:

Barb Rodgers Capt.

Ed Schultz, Capt.

Mark Dykema

Mark Fumagalli

Coffee Fellowship:

Jon Belfield, Capt

Sue Fordyce

Sound Room:

Cliff Stepina

Join us for a Delicious Midweek Family Night Dinner this evening. We will have a wonderful meal this evening at 5:30 p.m. in Hoffman Hall. Come and enjoy meal fellowship and conversations.

Sunday, December 15, We Wait In Hope and sing praises to the King of Kings as we make our spiritual preparations for Christmas and celebrate the birth of the Christ, once more. Worship with us at the Traditional Service at 9:00 a.m. or the Contemporary service at 10:30 a.m.

Collect and Post a New Worship Art Mural from Sunday Worship, Each Sunday we add a new Advent Mural to our collection in the Narthex/Lobby area as we also use the Mural for our Advent Bulletin Covers. Kim Bolte is creating the Advent Murals for each Sunday of Advent and for Christmas Eve. I encourage you to take your worship bulletins home and cut out the mural picture to place on your refrigerator so you can have your very own collection of these original murals.

Give Our Advent Facebook Ads a Boost, This past week we reached over 5,000 people with our Facebook Ads for the Advent Season. Thanks for your help boosting our Ads! For each Sunday in Advent and for both our Christmas Concert, the afternoon of December 22, and our Christmas Eve Services we are advertising on Facebook. You will see one of the Murals Kim Bolte has painted each week for our Facebook Ads. Please continue to share, like, and boost the Ads to your Facebook network and anyone you wish to invite to First Pres. Thanks for sharing and expanding our message to others during this Advent Season.

Parish Council Christmas Breakfast is this Sunday! Come anytime between 9:45-10:45 a.m. for a breakfast that includes: scrambled eggs, sausage, French Toast, fruit, a juice bar and coffee. You'll enjoy the great food and fellowship. You can worship before or after breakfast at the 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Worship Services.

Craig

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase flowers to decorate the sanctuary, please fill in below and mail to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church—Poinsettias" The deadline for ordering is December 15th.

How many (at \$12/pot):

Our/My Poinsettias are given:

_____ to the Glory of God
_____ to the Glory of God and in
memory of loved ones
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving
memory of



Donor:

(please use exact wording to be printed)

Sunday, December 8- "Watch In Hope" Luke 1:46-56, Psalm 107:1-9

There are times in life when we find ourselves on watch. We watch for the first signs of getting better after an illness or surgery. We watch for the beginning sights of a Sunrise. We watch and anticipate the Wonder of a night time sky. When kayaking, I watch for large rocks in the cascading waters of the rapids as I paddle through surging and splashing waters.

Some watch for the first snow, or new fallen snow in the mountains, and anticipate the exhilaration of skiing or boarding on fresh powder.

We watch for the first lights of Christmas. We watch and enjoy seeing a new little baby. During Advent Season, we are on watch.

We watch in hope for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. While the child Jesus, Son of the Most High, is starting to grow within Mary, she is watching in hope. And she sees the wider purposes of God for all the world. We are invited to watch in hope and participate in the Wider Purposes of God.

We are to go out into the world looking for those who have missed the train of life, ever watching in hope.

We watch in hope and act in hope inviting others to join us in our journey of faith.

Because the world is poor and starving, watch in hope and act in hope

Go with bread.

Because the world is filled with fear,

Go with courage.

Because the world is in despair,

Go with hope.

Because the world is living lies,

Go with truth.

Because the world is sick with sorrow,

Go with joy.

Because the world is weary of wars,

Go with peace.

Because the world is seldom fair,

Go with justice.

Because the world is under judgment,

Go with mercy.

Because the world will die without it,

Go with love of Christ Jesus.

Let us Watch and Act in Hope this season.

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

Traditionally on Christmas Eve, we present a ½ hour concert of Christmas music at 10:30 pm performed by musicians from our congregation. We have had vocal solos, small groups, and instrumental performers participate. If you have a desire to perform in this concert, please contact Ken Myers ASAP (kenmyers54@comcast.net) or leave a message with the church office. We are limited to 7 performers, so first come first served. Thank You!