



The Servants' Light

January 29, 2020

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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.



Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 26TH

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lent season in our Christian tradition. It is a special day as we come for a time of worship, a time to listen and receive the promise of God through the word and also receive the imposition of Ashes in the shape of the cross. This day is a special day when we all are called to reflect on our life in the light of God's promises, past, present and those yet to come.

This year we start the season of Lent by looking at the life of Abraham. Abraham's life was lived in that intersection where God's promises became real and yet they were still to come.

I would like to encourage you to take on his journey starting with:

Genesis 12 to Genesis 22 and also Hebrews 11:8-1.

As the season of Lent begins let us also start a time to reflect on the goodness of God in our lives, let us set time aside to be challenged by His promises.

**Join us on February 26th for dinner at 5:30
and then let us worship together at 6:30.**

SUNDAY, February 2, We continue to live in Hope as we enter the second month of 2020. Our Sermon Series focus is “New Hope For the New Year.” In hope we strive to navigate both the good that occurs this year and the inevitable challenges which will surface. Come worship in hope as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper at both worship services this Sunday. The Chancel Choir is singing and the Glory Ringers are playing at the 9:00 a.m. Traditional service and the Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 Contemporary Service.

SERMON, This Sunday I am preaching on “Return to Faith” from II Kings 22:1-13, 15-20, 23:1-3, 25. We meet a young man, Josiah, who happens to be King of Israel at the age of 26. He leads his people to place their faith in the Lord God and return to their practice of trusting God in all things. It was quite a challenge. This Sunday we will think about renewing and/or reclaiming our faith in Christ.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS, Take a close look at the mailing you received last week on our special offering for remodeling our main bathrooms in the church. We are focusing on the two bathrooms (women’s and men’s) on the second floor and then the two bathrooms (women’s and men’s) on the first floor. The letter contains the details for what we plan to do in the bathrooms. We are beginning to see a response.

January 26, 2020

Worship Attendance — 132

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$589,068

Year to Date Expenses \$590,415
received for bathroom renovations \$2,145

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Bill Locasto, father of Justin Watson, father-in-law to Suzanne Watson. Bill passed on January 24th.

TUESDAY LUNCH STUDY BEGINS IN THE NEW YEAR, Our Tuesday, Lunch Study is going to start up again on Tuesday, February 11th. We gather about 11:40 a.m., eat lunch and study the Bible from Noon to 1:00 p.m. We are going to study the book of Isaiah. We start at Isaiah 40 our first Tuesday. Anyone is welcome. It’s a great group of people. Bob Hass and I share in leading class discussions.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING IDEA EXCHANGE SESSION is meeting at 4 p.m. in the afternoon tomorrow. We will meet this Thursday, January 30 at 4 p.m. and meet in Room 210. Look for the details further on in the Servants’ Light.

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, teens and children. I hope to see you Wednesday!

SEE YOU SUNDAY, Remember, even in the coldest winter weather, the church is warm on Sundays. The parking lots are plowed and salted and ready for you when you arrive. I hope to see you this Sunday. It’s going to be warm and sunny out!

In Christ,

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!

BUYING VALENTINES GIFTS?

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!

Sermon Summary Sunday January 26

"Never Just Ordinary"

Luke 2:33, 36-38 ; Acts 16:12-15

My favorite study Bible has "personality profiles" scattered throughout. These profiles are snapshots of people such as Moses, Rahab, Mary, Paul and many others. What I appreciate about these profiles is that they include both strengths and weaknesses - because the people they are profiling are real, actual people. People with jobs. People with families. People who make mistakes. People who accomplish things. Real people. Ordinary people who, through the power of God and their willingness to follow Him, played a part in Christian history. Some had big parts, some had little parts. None of them had unimportant parts. Although they were ordinary, they were far from "just" ordinary.

This was our focus last Sunday as we took a look at Anna (in Luke 2) and Lydia (in Acts 16). Two very different women, living in very different circumstances. Both ordinary people, living in hope and serving God by using the gifts and talents God has given them. This is what keeps them, and us, from being "just" ordinary. We live in hope because in Christ, we know we are loved and forgiven. God wasn't only present with the people we read about in Scripture. God has not abandoned us, He is still at work in this world, choosing to work through our lives, using our gifts and talents to help others and to share Jesus with them through our words and our actions.

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!

TUESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Will be starting up again on February 11th Craig Herr and Bob Haas lead a lunch Bible Study each Tuesday at 11:45. The Study will be from 12 to 1. Bring some food and come and study Isaiah, starting with Isaiah 40. Anyone is welcome!

"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

"New Hope for the New Year" Sermon Series Continuation

We look with Hope at what 2020 will bring! We understand that there will be New Hopes realized and New Challenges presented as the year 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.

"Return to Faith" II Kings 22-23

"Foundations for Making a New Life"
Daniel 1-3

"Hospitality, Loyalty and Hope"
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

"Sharing Hope: Eagerness"
II Corinthians 8:1-9

Then Lent will begin!

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—February 18th, 6 pm at Cheddar's Casual Café in Bolingbrook

Men's Dinner Group—February 28th at 6pm at LaMex in Joliet

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

MIDWEEK

Come for the dinner and stay for the classes! We have classes for women, men, teens and children and childcare for the little ones! Everyone is invited and more than welcome to even just join us for fantastic homecooked meals every Wednesday night, dinner starts at 5:30. Midweek goes until April 22, join us anytime!

BUSY BEE CRAFT FAIR

Saturday April 18th, from 9 am to 2pm we will be hosting a Craft/Vendor Fair! Over 30 crafters and vendors are expected on site! We will also be running a café for snacks and lunch. Food proceeds will go to the Boys/Girls Club of Joliet. There is a \$2 admission donation. Vendor registration forms and payment information are available on our website.

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 February the meeting will be on the 24th at 9 A.M. in Hoffman Hall.

Please bring your sewing scissors!

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. Praise Yoga will resume on January 7th. Keep In touch with Emma Sticklen for further updates.

Session Notes

- Session reviewed a summary of this year's ministry plans and accomplishments
 - The Councils were encouraged to continue working on unfinished ministry plans and to form new plans to address issues that may need attention in 2020
- a Craft & Vendor fair will be held 4/18/2020. A motion was made by Kris Hayden to donate the proceeds from the fair's Snack Shack to Boys/Girls Club of Joliet, and to use vendor participation proceeds to support this year's Women's Retreat. Unanimously approved.
- Next Year's Stewardship Campaign theme will be "Sharing Hope"

PERSONAL/FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING MEETINGS

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN APRIL

Scripture encourages families to have financial plans and actions. We received multiple requests to try a daytime session toward the end of the day. Since spring of last year a conversation about finance 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.

Servants of Jesus Christ —

Ministering to One Another, to Our Community, and to Our World



Since the inception of this ministry in October 2005, about 4,400 meals have been provided to members of our church family through your assistance. Helping Hands would like to thank the following people who have provided meals, rides, and other services to members of our congregation over the past six months. We can always use additional people to help! If you would like to be a part of this vibrant ministry, know someone who can use some temporary help, or would like more information about Helping Hands, please contact Betty Jones at 815-729-0349, Dave Steinberg at 779-234-6413, or the church office at 815-727-9259.

Matt Blaser
Marvin Balsley
Bob Becker
Al and Jackie Brooks
Don and Mary Caisley
Pat Costion
Dale Endres
Carla DeYoung
Kyla Fris
Jen Gabl

Carolyn Gheorghiu
Amy Gibson
Pat Haldorson
Kris Hayden
Mike and Laura House
Rich & Mary Jane Johnson
Judy Jordan
Chet June
Mary Kessling
Dan and Carol Kline

Diane Milosevich
Bo Mircea
Sue Mott
Donna Nelson
Joan Pocius
Sarah Randolph
Barb Rodgers
Martha Sayles
Carolyn Schaeffer
Emma Sticklen

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 non-perishable, non-expired 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 January 4th 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.

Thank you to the following people who helped take down and store away the Christmas decorations.

Jana and Bob Rudisill
Gregg Kessling
Jeff Lundeen
Dave and Sharon Cavanaugh

Pat Costion
Reed Mott
Kris and Todd Hayden
Jennifer Garlitz

Sue Fordyce
Duke Barnes
Sue Lee

BAGS OF LOVE

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. The next packing day is February 23rd, distributing the next day. For more info and dates check out the Bags of Love page on our website! Or contact Kendall Fris at kendallmax99@gmail.com for more info.

Children's Ministry Update

At the beginning of each year I spend some time in prayer asking God for direction and his lead for all the things that we do here at 1st Pres. For me it is a great time to reflect of the ministry over the years, of the new challenges we face, and how we can best serve your family and the community around. It has been my belief over the years, and still is that faith grows when church can come alongside the family life and provide both the little ones and the parents with tools and programs that will inspire faith not just in the kids but for everyone. 1st Pres Children's Ministry vision is built on 3 principals:

We want every child to:

KNOW CHRIST

KNOW A PLACE TO BELONG

KNOW A PLACE TO SERVE

Every class, every program from Sunday morning to VBS or even the Easter Egg hunt are about finding faith in Christ, learning the promises of God and finding your place in God's story as one grows up. And here is our challenge for the year ahead: how can we make room in our lives for the faith to come in?

The answer to that might start with a short prayer before dinner, or a time to read the scriptures before bed time, discovering the power of Sunday worship as a family and even finding ways to serve along side your church. It is surely a big challenge for all of us, and I pray that when we get to the end of this year we can reflect back and take pride in what God has done.

Be blessed,

Bo M.

COMING UP

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars!
June 22nd through 26th
we will be having a fun rail-
road themed VBS

EASTER EGG HUNT!

April 4th! Save the Date!
***We will have pictures with the
Easter Bunny, crafts, a bible
story, and food!***

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE SCHEDULE

DEBORAH: *JUDGES 4:4-16*

DAVID: *1 SAMUEL 16:1-23*

SERVANT GIRL: *2 KINGS 5:1-19*

JOSIAH: *2 KINGS 22:1-23:23*

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

NO CONFIRMATION OR YOUTH GROUP

Enjoy the Superbowl with your family and friends!

Youth Group Fellowship Event! With the hopes that Dolittle does well in theaters and is still in theaters on February 11, we will go to the Cinemark Joliet Theater (in the mall). Tickets are only \$5.50! If Dolittle is no long in theaters we will postpone to February 18 and see Sonic. Please, keep an open eye out for information regarding this event. Remind will be the most active place for information, but the E-News and Wildfire Weekly emails will also have information. If you are not subscribed to either, please let me know ASAP!



Confirmation: This month we will finish learning about the Old Testament as we learn about Job and Esther. Then, we will begin the New Testament by learning its background and about Jesus!



Youth Group: This month we will continue our meetings on learning about the Holy Spirit! We will be reminded how the Holy Spirit is talked about in the Bible, we learn what it means to be “filled” with the Holy Spirit, and we will be making care packages for college students! While bringing supplies I want to put in a reminder: we will be sending these packages in boxes the size of a shoe box so keep the goodies small!

**THE
SCREWTAPE
LETTERS**

BY
C.S. Lewis



Wednesday Night Teen Bible Study: In February we will continue our reading of *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. This month we will be reading Letter 16 (which looks at how the devil uses “church hopping” as a way to take us away from God), Letter 17 (which deals with gluttony), and Letter 19 (which looks at God’s unconditional love for us and how the devil does not like it). Then, on February 26 we will enjoy an Ash Wednesday service as a church family.

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

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Address Service Requested

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Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the February 26th *Servants' Light* is **February 10**. Please e-mail to office@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:

February Daily Devotional Blog

2/3	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14	2/17	Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12
2/4	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7	2/18	Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22
2/5	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	2/19	Psalm 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:23-31
2/6	Psalm 148; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8	2/20	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Sirach 24:1-12 Psalm 147:12-20
2/7	Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12	2/21	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12
2/10	Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew 18:1-14	2/24	Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21
2/11	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18	2/25	Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:14-25; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
2/12	Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18	2/26	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9
2/13	Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19	2/27	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a
2/14	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6a	2/28	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31