



The Servants' Light

February 26, 2020

The Servants' Light (USPS 560-720) is published monthly by
First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, IL. Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL
Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Servants' Light*,
805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435-6998.

***“Servants of
Jesus Christ—
Ministering
To One Another,
To Our Community,
And To Our World.”***

805 Western Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

815.727.9259
FAX 815.727.9348
office@firstpresjoliet.org
firstpresjoliet.org

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.



Lent is an invitation to us all to follow the Lord's journey to the cross. As pilgrims in this world we are invited to look at everything we are doing and evaluate our priorities in the light of God's will. As Jesus is getting closer to the cross he prays: "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done." It is that prayer that speaks to us this season, as we are called to empty ourselves of all the things that keep us away from living our faith out each and every day. Lent is not just about transitioning from one season to another, or about giving up chocolate or pop for a few weeks, Lent is our personal challenge to come closer and closer to who we are in God's eyes.

I would invite you to take this journey with us, through prayer, meditation, fasting, and setting time aside for God to speak in your life. You will find lots of things going on at First Pres this season, and I would encourage you to use those opportunities to strengthen yourself in this journey.

Be Blessed,
Bo M.

For more information on Lent pick up a Lent brochure on Sunday morning!

We also have devotionals for Lent available in the Narthex.

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Never worry about money again with *Financial Peace University* (FPU), the nine-lesson course that gives you the proven plan to master budgeting, pay off debt, build wealth, and give generously. The course centers around lessons taught by

Dave Ramsey, Chris Hogan and Rachel Cruze, followed by small group discussions. FPU includes your member workbook as well as one year of free access to Financial Peace Membership, where you'll find tons of online resources to help you start winning with money.

FPU will be Mondays at 7 pm starting March 16th.

The link to register is on the FPJ homepage or can be found at fpu.com/1113271

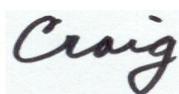
SUNDAY, March 1, This is the first Sunday in the Lenten Season. As we make our spiritual journey through Lent, we are seeking to understand the will of God. We strive to pray Jesus' prayer "Not as I will, but as you will," in our daily lives. This Sunday we celebrate the sacrament of Communion at both worship services. The Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers are singing and playing at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Worship Band is playing and singing at the 10:30 a.m. service. Come worship in the Joy and Hope of the Lord Jesus Christ with your friends in Christ.

SERMON, This Sunday I am preaching on "Sharing Hope: God's Will and My Inadequacy." The sermon scripture texts are Mark 1:1-7 and Matthew 11:1-10. John the Baptist could be very certain and sure of what God wanted and then he had times when he wondered how God was working in the world. He wondered if Jesus was the true Messiah.

MORE FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THE BATHROOM RENOVATION, We have received over half the amount needed for remodeling our main bathrooms in the church. We have been given \$7,625; our goal is \$15,000. 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 all congregational letter you received has the details on what is going to be done. Envelopes are available in the pews.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU), Please note that the Dave Ramsey sessions which cover the best elements of personal financial planning and budgeting from a Christian perspective will begin on March 16 at the church, running for a total of 9 meetings. These sessions contain some of the most effective financial planning material in use today. The instructors, David and Sandi Zang bring extensive experience to the Ramsey material. FPU will meet on Monday nights at 7 p.m., beginning March 16th. Materials are available online and you can register online at : fpu.com/1113271

In Christ,



February 23 2020

Worship Attendance — 169

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$638,668

Year to Date Expenses \$641,243

received for bathroom renovations \$7,625

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

Known to be in the hospital: No one

Financial Peace University (FPU),

Please note that the Dave Ramsey sessions which cover the best elements of personal financial planning and budgeting from a Christian perspective will begin on March 16 at the church, running for a total of 9 meetings. These sessions contain some of the most effective financial planning material in use today. The instructors, David and Sandi Zang bring extensive experience to the Ramsey material. FPU will meet on Monday nights at 7 p.m., beginning March 16th.



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

Our second quarterly potluck will be on Sunday, 3/8/2020, right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring a dish to share, drop it in the kitchen and head to worship. Items can be kept cold or warm if necessary. If you attend the first service you can run out after coffee hour to pick something up or just stay and have additional time to visit. We always have delicious food and great conversation, so come and enjoy time connecting with your church family.

Growing in Christ—

Sermon Summary Sunday February 23 "Sharing Hope: Eager to Excel" II Corinthians 8:1-9

Sometimes I wonder why. Do you ever wonder why?

-drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy pop and candy right in the front?

-we buy hotdogs in packages of 10 and the buns in packages of 8?

-it is that Doctors call what they do practice?

-it is that to stop a Windows PC Computer you have to click on Start?

-if flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Do you ever wonder why there are Stewardship Sermons? I do, they never told us about them in Seminary when I went.

Why are there Stewardship Sermons?

Why? Because God is gracious and generous and wants to bless us. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Why? God is generous and wants us to be generous. God loves a cheerful giver.

God, who is exceedingly gracious, generous in grace wants us to be eager to excel in the grace of giving.

Jesus said, "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

He reminds us that "where our treasure is, there our heart will be also."

Let's excel in the grace of giving...

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

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**. Anyone is welcome! This class is expected to go until April 7th.

"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

LENT BEGINS : "Thy Will Be Done" Sermon Series

We make our way through this Lenten Season with a simple, yet profound prayer. "Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our daily lives. Through that prayer we will draw near to Holy Week when we observe Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. Each week we will think about God's will through the life of one of God's people in the Scripture.

"God's Will and My Inadequacy"

Mark 1:1-7, Matthew 11:1-10, John the Baptist

"God's Will and My Response"

Peter and Andrew, James and John

"God's Will and My Dreams"

David and Jesus the Good Shepherd

"God's Will and My Worldview"

Acts 17:16-34 or Acts 9:1-19

"God's Will and My Identity"

Mary

BUSY BEE CRAFT FAIR

Saturday April 18th, from 9 to 2. 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.

Meal Fellowship

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

Dinner Out Group—March 24th, 6 pm at Tom Kelly's in New Lenox

Men's Dinner Group—March 27th at 6pm at Red Robin in Bolingbrook

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

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

April 4th we will be hosting our Easter Egg Hunt. Families are welcome to come and share food with us, listen to a telling of the Easter story, get pictures with the Easter Bunny, and of course enjoy an Egg Hunt! Look for more details on the Children's Ministry Page!

MIDWEEK

We have classes for women, men, teens and children and childcare for the little ones!

Everyone is invited, 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!

Chancel Choir

Meets Wednesday nights at 7:30 ! This is a great opportunity to use your gifts in worship. Come early for Midweek dinner and classes and stay to sing!

PARISH SPECIAL SUNDAY

Keep an eye out for a Special Sunday each month sponsored by Parish Council! In March look forward to a "Grow in Faith" Sunday on March 15th! Wear Green!

PERSONAL/FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING MEETINGS:

The next meeting will be April 30th at 6:30 pm. Keep an eye out for more information in the eNews in March.

SESSION NOTES

- Don Caisley was elected as Clerk of Session, Chris Wise as Assistant Clerk of Session, and Tracy Norris as Treasurer for 2020
- Reviewed the 2020-21 Stewardship Campaign "Sharing Hope"
- Reviewed the 2020 Budget. The main budget change for the fiscal year will be 3% raises for staff. The motion was unanimously approved.
- While we remain open to the community for non-member weddings we need to recover costs for such events. The Sanctuary Use Fee for non-members has been raised to \$1000 from \$700. Unanimous approval.
- Video cameras will be installed in the North and South hallway entrances to document persons entering or leaving the building should the need arise.
- The house at 806 Buell has been sold, and the sale will be completed when all city requirements regarding the plat of the property are in order.
- Mission Council spent \$2695 from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to provide things like sewing machines, water pumps, fishing nets, beekeeping supplies, livestock and a plow to those in need around the world to allow them to become more self-sustaining.
- Soup/Chili Movie nights have had very low attendance so Parish will be thinking of replacements to bring parishioners out. Theme Sundays will begin once a month.

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

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 March 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.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

First Pres is currently raising money to renovate the bathrooms on the first and second floors. A running total of the money that has been generously donated is included in each week's newsletter. The goal to be able to renovate the women's restrooms on the first and second floor, and the men's restrooms on the first and second floor is to raise \$15,000. Donations can be made with the envelopes that were mailed out, by marking money for the bathroom renovations on Sunday, and online through our website we have a fund designated as "bathroom renovations".

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!

Spring Birthdays to Shop For? Spring Cleaning and need supplies?

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!



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 March 29th, distributing the next day. For more info and dates check out the Bags of Love page on our website! Or

contact Kendall Fris at bagsoflove@firstpresjoliet.org for more info.

Children's Ministry Update

Easter at First Pres.

Easter, for many of us is the best Sunday of the year! It is the reason for our faith, for our devotions and for our hope. For a moment picture your faith without the resurrection. It is impossible! Can you remember your childhood Easters spent with your family? For me those are some of the best memories I have when it comes to family traditions.

For the past few years, First Pres has made The Easter Egg Hunt one of those traditions that brings the miracle of resurrection and faith to life for so many young kids and their families. Yes there are lots and lots of plastic eggs, crafts and food but even more so there is the story of Jesus that comes to life. April 4th is about that, about bridging the story of Jesus to our lives in a way that will create a life long impact.

Come join us and find Jesus among all the fun stuff we have planned for you!

Join us April 4th at 9 am for crafts, food, Easter story, photos with the Easter Bunny, and of course an Egg Hunt! Bring your own basket to enjoy this FREE springtime event!



**COMING
UP AT
FPJ**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

SUNDAY KIDS SCHEDULE

MATTHEW 5:1-9
JOHN 12:1-8
JOHN 13:1-17
MARK 14:12-26



WILDFIRE YOUTH G R O U P



The Screwtape Letters (Teen Bible Study):

This month we are going to explore 3 different ways in which the devil tries to trip us up. We are going to talk about God's unconditional love for us and how the devil doesn't understand that, the idea of entitlement, and finishing the month with learning about how easy it is to be arrogant as a Christian because we aren't "those people."



Confirmation: This month we will dive into the Four Gospels, introduce the students to Paul, learn about the flourishing Early Church and look at three of Paul's letters: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians.

Wildfire Youth Group: The time has come for us to put all that we've learned about the Holy Spirit into action! We will begin a series on the Fruits of the Spirits. March will include: Love, Joy, Peace, and Patience. Each lesson will include an activity and/or real life application to see how these fruits can be seen in our lives.



Interested in the High School Mission Trip to Green Bay, WI with a fun day at an indoor waterpark?
Contact Karissa immediately!

(814) 954-3047

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CALLING ALL GAMERS

March 29: Fifth Sunday of the month means fellowship day!

We'll spend the whole time playing games that'll range from gym time, Wii Mario Kart racing (unless someone wants to bring in their own system with E rated games), Werewolf, Gaga Ball, and anything else you kids want! Bring a friend and enjoy games and snacks!

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

March Daily Devotional Blog

3/2	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43
3/3	Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48
3/4	Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13
3/5	Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21
3/6	Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12
3/9	Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5
3/10	Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11
3/11	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
3/12	Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40
3/13	Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4

3/16	Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17
3/17	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24
3/18	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10
3/19	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32
3/20	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
3/23	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14
3/24	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18
3/25	Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79
3/26	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12
3/27	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24
3/30	Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35
3/31	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31