

THE SERVANTS' LIGHT

Monthly publication from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 21st

Continuing tradition FPJ will be hosting a Christmas Breakfast Sunday morning, featuring French toast, scrambled eggs, and ham.

CHRISTMAS WITH FIRST PRES

Christmas Eve at 4pm and 11pm

Faith family joins together in candlelit worship of the Lord in the comfort of our church. Two worship services will be held on December 24th, one at 4pm (nursery care is provided), and another at 11pm. Enjoy music of the season prior to worship at the 10:20pm Christmas Musicale. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with carols, scripture readings, and a heartfelt message that resonates with the true spirit of the season. All are welcome to share in this special time of worship and community.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

**November 29th
at 9am**

More hands make less work, so come lend a hand decorating FPJ for Christmas.

HARVEST ARTS CONCERT

Saturday, November 29th at 7 PM

Join us for the next event of FPJ's Concerts and Cookies series, featuring Harvest Arts. This talented group of musicians is returning to First Pres to help us celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. The Harvest Arts Chamber Ensemble will perform classic Christmas music, filling the air with holiday cheer. This event is totally free and a wonderful chance to invite a friend and share in the joy and warmth of First Pres.

SUNDAYS WITH FIRST PRES JOLIET

Life Group:

Young adults and up, Sundays 9-9:45am in Hoffman Hall

Nursery Care:

opens 9:00am through worship. Facilities are open use as well.

Worship Service:

Each Sunday @ 10am and Online anytime

Children's

Worship:

After Time with Children Sunday (ages 3 to 11)

Coffee

Fellowship:

Coffee before and after worship, snacks after

Thank you to all the Soar High kids who gave us such a beautiful performance, and showcase of what they've been learning each Wednesday!



HARVEST ARTS
Behold Your King
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Performed by the Harvest Arts Chamber Ensemble.

Saturday, November 29 | 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church of Joliet
805 Western Ave, Joliet, IL, 60435

The church office will be closed
Thursday 11/27 and Friday 11/28
to celebrate Thanksgiving.

SOAR HIGH/MIDWEEK

**Wednesdays 5:30-7:25pm
through April 29th**

5:30-6:10pm: MUSIC
6:15-6:45pm: DINNER
6:50-7:25pm: BIBLE

No registration required for dinner or the adult Bible study.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS

If you were not able to be here to have your photo taken you may submit one for the directory for a \$15 fee. Photo must be digital or original print. Photos should be close up - from waist or chest up, no full body. **A required form is on our website, and in the office.** Deadline submission is January 20th.

DEVOTIONALS

Advent begins Sunday November 30th and FPJ has a gift for you! Adults will receive a special Advent devotional in this mailing, and kids will be receiving one via mail soon as well, to help us all be prepared for the season.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

November 25th at 6:30pm

FPJ is holding a special Thanksgiving Worship Service, with an open invitation to the whole community. We will be collecting donations of canned soup for our free community Micro Pantry. *Nursery care available.*

CONCERTS AND COOKIES

November 29th at 7pm

This month we will be hosting Harvest Arts once again for a celebration of Christmas music, starting the excitement and celebration of the Advent season. Cookie reception to follow. *Nursery care available.*

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Volunteers of America's Hope Manor

Hope Manor Joliet is one of the first large scale, supportive housing developments specifically designed for Veterans with families. The need for services to all Veterans struggling with unemployment, mental health challenges and homelessness continues to grow. Hope Manor Joliet provides a comprehensive response to the challenges facing all Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness – especially female Veterans and Veterans with children. Hope Manor Joliet is a campus-style community that provides a flexible continuum of housing and supportive services to individual Veterans and Veterans with families through unique combination units.

As the name implies, Hope Manor Joliet is about much more than simply providing housing for Veterans who are struggling – the goal is to help Veterans change and improve their lives over the long-term by promoting self-sufficiency, building new skills, creating strong support networks and integrating Veterans more positively into community life.

Residents live in fully furnished units, there are community resource centers with access to computers and a library as well as a playground, and program events and activities.

How do we help?

Working together our Mission Council and Oasis Women's Ministry will be collecting donations for the residents at Hope Manor. The items requested are everyday necessities such as: toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, toothpaste, mouthwash, body wash, lotions, deodorant, candy/chocolate, and snacks (chips, granola bars, breakfast bars, crackers, fruit rollups). You can drop off these items at the church until December 17th. Our support of this mission comes, in part, in honor of longtime friend of First Pres. Kevin Breitbarth who found support and a home at Hope Manor. Thank you for your contributions and loving support.

A Prayer for this Mission:

Lord Jesus, in a world where hope is hard to come by at times, we pray for this place, that it will always be a beacon of hope and love for the ones that need a reminder that their sacrifice is not going to be forgotten. We pray that each resident, present and future, will know your love, your comfort as they find Hope Manor to be their home. Bless them and keep them safe, heal their wounds and listen to their prayers.
In your name we pray, Lord Jesus,
Amen.

FPJ Member Spotlight



Making Music at First Pres with Ken and Karen Myers

Over 60 years ago, at the First Christian Church in Torrance, CA, there was a tenor sitting next to a soprano in the youth choir. The tenor's father was the youth minister and the soprano's father, the senior choir director. Their friendship evolved into the currently 58-year marriage of Ken and Karen Myers. Ken is the oldest of three boys, and Karen has a younger brother. They have two daughters, two sons-in-law, four grandchildren, two cats and a sheltie dog.

They moved to Illinois 39 years ago from Dansville, a small town in western New York. Ken had taught music at Canandaigua and Dansville public schools at the Jr and Sr high levels for 17 years. He had served several churches in upstate New York for over 20 years including the Dansville Presbyterian Church for 11 years. Karen sang in those choirs too and loved being a part of those church families. Karen had also worked as an administrative assistant for Instructor Magazine and SUNY Geneseo. They both had participated in a community theatre group which each year put on productions that helped to fund the summer youth theatre program that both their daughters enjoyed. Music has been a constant force in their lives together.

When they moved to Naperville, Ken worked in Chicago and later served as choir director for Knox Presbyterian Church. Karen sang at Knox too and also worked for a local attorney, and together they put two kids through college. They moved to the Joliet area 21 years ago to be closer to their daughters who were both living there and attending First Pres. with their families.

When Ken and Karen started attending First Pres, they felt at home enjoying the music of the choir, and bell choir as well as the beautiful pipe organ being expertly played by Bev Adelman. They also got to know more members and grew into a new church family. That first summer, Ken had the opportunity to direct the Summer Choir in place of the retiring director, Linda Haeger. Soon after, he applied for the position and was hired by Session.

They both are proud to belong to such a beautiful, loving church. They love the people and the choir family. Karen is an Elder having served on Worship Council. She loves decorating the church, making it inviting for members and visitors to attend. She has also helped distribute food at St. Johns Food Pantry. Ken enjoys working with the choir, Beth, and Bev to make the music come alive.

Through the years, they've watched their grandchildren grow up in the First Pres. family being involved in all of the choirs, the musicals, children's worship, youth groups, and mission trips. There are too many memories to count, but they have loved the few times their family has sung together as one group, and they always look forward to the Christmas Eve service.

Being a church musician is a unique experience that is felt with everyone around you as you sing from your heart to worship and praise God. Ken and Karen have experienced a lifetime of making music and worshipping God. Ken says, "Being a part of a church choir is an opportunity to grow together to share God's word in one collective voice." Ken and Karen encourage all musicians High School age and up to come and join the choir, bell choir, and/or worship band. First Pres is a great place to worship, make friends, find fellowship, build community and grow your family roots.