

# 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 UN-DECORATING

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am**

Free Pancake Breakfast at 8:30pm, then stick around to help take down decorations for the new year.

## CHRISTMAS WITH FIRST PRES

**Christmas Eve Services at 4 PM and 11 PM**

There's nothing quite like the sense of comfort a Christmas Eve service brings, capturing the true essence of the holiday. On December 24th, we invite you to join us for two worship services: one child-friendly, and for all ages at 4 PM (*nursery care available*) and a traditional candlelit service at 11 PM.

Our own talented musicians offer their gift to the New Born King at the Christmas Musicale at 10:20 PM. Come together as we celebrate the birth of Jesus through carols, scripture readings, and a heartfelt message that embodies the spirit of the season. Everyone is welcome at this meaningful time of worship and community.

## NEW YEAR- NEW SERMON SERIES

As we start the new year, we will walk through the church hallways, where we will get familiar once again with those things that speak to who we are here at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. When you look in the Sanctuary you will be met by 8 banners that capture the heart and vision of our church. We'll delve into these values beginning 1/18.

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## 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

# SESSION NOTES AND PRAYERS

The last couple months have brought lots of things to do for our elders and deacons.

- An Adhoc Security Committee is working on proposing some immediate measures to improve our worship experience in the near future.
- The Stewardship Council, with the help of Building and Grounds, are working on next years budget, taking in consideration the things needing to be addressed in the next year when it comes to building maintenance. It is no surprise to any of us, that an older building needs a little more care.
- Special thanks to the Graduating Class of Deacons and Elders. Each part of this church's ministry is better off because of your love and service.
- Please pray for love, guidance, and creativity for those that said yes to the mantle of Christian leadership in the new year.

## 2026-2028 Elders

**Church Growth Council:** Jasmine Keir, Karol Boyd, Kari Endres

**Education Council:** Judy Garrison '26, Jeff Pritz, Tiffany DeNieuwe, Kathy Cawley, Dale Endres, Matt Blaser

**Human Resources Council:** David Steinberg, LuAnn Stepina, Dave Zang at large, Don Caisley at large

**Mission Council:** Hasen Qi, Sue Fordyce, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

**Parish Council:** Mike House, Michael Krueger

**Stewardship Council:** Bill Penhale, Drew Penhale, Ed Schultz, Steve Boyd at large

**Worship Council:** Sarah Randolph, Bev Adelman, Joan Schultz

## 2025 -2028 Deacons

**Night Deacons:** Jason Guthrie, Jeff Lundeen, Maddox Lundeen, Lynn Kosowski, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz, Pat Haldorson, Laura House, Reed Mott, Barb Rodgers, Ed Schultz, Joe Boyd, Nola Boyd, Rich DeNieuwe, Sue Fordyce, Estella Jurkovich, Jasmine Keir, Scherrie Sanchez, Jon Belfield, Allen Brooks, Mark Dykema, Mark Fumagalli, Dee Mullen

**Day Deacons:** Carol Kline, Diane Milosevich, Joe Milosevich, Jen Gabl, Judy Bartels, Helen Steinberg, Dee Mullen

**The church office will be closed  
Thursday 12/24 after noon,  
12/25, and 1/1/26.**

## 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.*

Soar High and Midweek will be on a break for Christmas and New Years 12/24 & 12/31. There will be a Parent Soar High Idea Meeting 1/7 from 5:30-6:10pm, with dinner and Bible Study to follow.

## 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.

## PROJECT LINUS

**January 26th  
every 4th Monday of the month  
9am**

Join together to make blankets for kids in need in our community. All you need is to be able to tie a knot. There is plenty of time for chatting while we work.

## SPRING FEVER CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

**May 14th  
Forms submitted by March 5th**

CALL FOR VENDORS  
Vendor spaces \$50 each  
First come first serve **Pre-approval REQUIRED**  
815-258-8617 or tkkhay@yahoo.com

# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Presbyterian Giving Catalog

The mission of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog is to connect people as neighbors with others experiencing needs, supporting projects and friendships that grow gardens and generations, bring water and watch for corruption, share education, tools and training, and link each of us, more closely with one another and with God.

As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation and peace.

Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

Gifts through the Giving Catalog include, but are not limited to: sewing machines, various livestock, school supplies, agricultural tools, heat, food, emergency assistance, clean water tools, hygiene and health services, access to education, and faith experiences. This mission is dedicated to responding to need when and where it is most needed, nationally and internationally.

### How do we help?

First Presbyterian Church of Joliet has a proud tradition of ministry through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Over the past several years First Pres has purchased many gifts through the Giving Catalog to help ease suffering around the globe. A non-exhaustive list of gifts include Mzuzu drills for clean water access, Moringa tree seeds which are nutritious and drought-resistant, various livestock, famine relief food vouchers, refugee food baskets, and emergency life packs.

### A Prayer for this Mission:

When you created the world, Lord, you said it was good. As we try to serve you today, Lord we ask for that good to be evident as we reach out to our neighbor. We ask for good to come alive as we partner with people around the world. As we plant the seeds of love and faith, may those seeds bloom in the lives of many that receive it, and their lives be changed for good. Help us Lord, to serve the world in the way of Jesus.  
Amen



# SERVANT VALUE BANNERS

Joyfully serving Jesus Christ together in our lives of faith, our values of servanthood are being developed daily and expressed through our life together as we serve in ministry to our community and world. Our eight servant values, forming the acronym S.E.R.V.A.N.T.S., are as follows:

**S**pirit Filled  
**E**mpathy  
**R**enewal  
**V**isibly Seeking Out  
**A**ll Together  
**N**earing God  
**T**eaching  
**S**ubmission

SPRIT-FILLED



EMPATHY



RENEWAL



VISIBLY SEEKING OUT



ALL TOGETHER



NEARING GOD



TEACHING



SUBMISSION

