

### NEW FALL SERMON SERIES

#### "Strength for This Season" Series (September 8-October 27)

An Eight Week Series

We are living in challenging times and are facing troubles and obstacles in our country and in the world. How do we find the strength we need for these turbulent times? We hold onto the God who holds onto us and is still there for us, for the world, and for the church. Here's where we will begin this series.

#### Sunday, October 6- "Lean In to the Lord"

Psalm 116:1-10, Philippians 4:4-13

10/13- "Real Peace" Romans 5:1-5

10/ 20- "Seek the Most Good" II Timothy 3:10-17

10/ 27 "Live More" Colossians 3:12-17

This Sunday I am preaching on "Lean In to the Lord." The scriptures for the sermon are **Psalm 116:1-10 and Philippians 4:4-13**. The Psalmist writes, "I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy." We have a wonderful God who hears us when we pray and in Christ Jesus gives us strength. Worship with us and Lean in to the Lord with God's people this Sunday.

---Craig

#### **September 29, 2019**

Worship Attendance — 196

#### **Stewardship Report**

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

**Year to Date Income** \$367,326

**Year to Date Expenses** \$359,994

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$3,000

We offer several convenient options for electronic giving. Please visit our website or call Tracy Norris for more information.

# e-News

October 2, 2019

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

### The Week Ahead

#### **Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:**

Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 PM in Room 217

Midweek Family Night— Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

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

Confirmation — Sundays at 4:30 PM

Youth Group — Sundays at 6:00 PM

Glory Ringers — Mondays at 7 PM

Chancel Choir — Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Lunch Bunch—Tuesdays at noon

Men's Breakfast -- 10/4 at 7:30 am

Pancake Breakfast—10/5 at 8 am

Blood Drive—10/6 at 8 am

### Music This Sunday:

*First Service* : Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers

*Second Service*: Worship Band

All are still welcome to join our Handbell Choir the Glory Ringers, and the Chancel Choir.

Glory Ringers meet Mondays at 7PM.

Chancel Choir meets Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, just after our Midweek Family Bible Study Groups!

### **Volunteers this Sunday, October 6, 2019**

**9:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

#### Connection Center:

Sue Mueller Jill Strimel

#### Children's Worship:

Kaleigh Belfield

Kaleigh Belfield

#### Greeters:

#### Acolytes:

Suzanne Penhale

Trevor Lakin

#### Ushers:

Barb Rogers

Ed Schultz

Mark Dykema

Laura House

Roger Hileman

#### Coffee Fellowship:

Al Brooks

#### Sound Room:

Keith LeVasseur

THE PASTOR'S CORNER...Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

**Sunday, October 6**, We celebrate the Lord's Supper this Sunday at both services. We acknowledge our dependence on the extravagant grace of God in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise God for such amazing love given to us.

**There are some Time Slots Open for the Blood Drive**

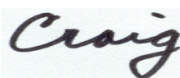
**This Sunday**, Sign up now. The Versiti blood drive personnel will be in the back of Hoffman Hall to take blood from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Plan to give the gift that will help someone else receive the healthcare they truly need. Go online and sign up for a time slot with the link on our website.

**IT'S TRUNK'N TREAT TIME!**, It's October already! And it's time to think about how you will help make this exciting community event at our church happen again! You can help in any of the following ways: set up, clean up, service food, greet, decorate a trunk. Just call the church or see Bo or me and let us know. You can also sign up on our website. Anticipate MUCH FUN and take part in it all!

**Financial Planning Idea Exchange**, Join us on Tuesday, evening October 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 210 to discuss ideas relating to finances, saving for college, retirement, budgeting, tax savings etc. If you have any questions call Ken Graham (630-297-5632) or Jim Huey (815-953-8422). It's an opportunity to help us all be better stewards of our financial resources.

**The Book of Revelation Study, Meets Each Tuesday at Noon in Room 210.** Both Bob Haas and I are leading the class. Bring your lunch or eat before you arrive and come ready for lively discussions, conversation, and caring fellowship.

May you experience the strength, presence, and joy of Christ Jesus this week.



I want to say how grateful I am to you all for the special celebration of my 10 years of ministry here at First Pres. Thank you for your love and support along the way and for making this past Sunday a special and meaningful day for me. Looking forward to serve and minister along with you in the years to come.

Blessings, Bo M.

**Sunday, September 29- "More Mercy"**  
**Matthew 9:9-13, Jeremiah 22:13-17,**  
**Micah 6:6-8**

Look out across the world today and throughout our society, and you see too much hostility and too much hatred. There's a disdain for others, and an inability to civilly disagree. There's a disconnect in understanding and an alarming inattention to our common humanity. We could use some More Mercy and some More Justice.

Jesus comes saying, *"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Matthew 9:13)

Jesus in his ministry is Lavish and Extravagant in loving people. Jesus is sensitive to suffering, an indignation for injustice.

Napoleon once said: *"Charlemagne, Caesar, Alexander, and myself have conquered great empires by force. Jesus of Nazareth by love. And countless 1000's willingly follow him."*

And there will always be those who rule by force of might. Jesus rules by mercy. He comes still, not to call the righteous, but sinners. *"The long arm of the Lord bends toward justice."* Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Dream of God for us, for community, for the world is that the will of God would be done on Earth as it is in heaven. What would life be like in this world if God was Ruler? Jesus reveals to us that we need more mercy and more justice in our world.

Think about what you can do to bring some mercy and justice into your corner of the world.

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

**Our Church Family**

**Known to be in the Hospital:**

Brian Lynch is at Holy Family in Des Plaines  
Joan Barnes is at Saint Josephs in Joliet

**Sympathies** are extended to Nancy Schelkopf on the death of her granddaughter, Valerie Murphy on Sept. 25 in Chicago.

**Please Pray-**

Joyce Miner asks for your prayers for her son Dan Miner. Dan is battling cancer of the esophagus right now. Dan grew up at First Pres. and many of you know him personally. The family covets your prayers at this time. Dan is receiving treatment at John's Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland and will be undergoing surgery soon.

# FAMILY MIDWEEK STUDIES ARE BACK!

Midweek will be every Wednesday night, with only a few holiday interruptions. A dinner will be provided starting at 5:30 PM each Wednesday, and studies will run to 7:30 each evening. All are welcome, you do not need to be a parent to participate in these great study opportunities!

## WOMEN

The women of First Pres are studying *Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes* a Bible Study by Jennifer Cowart. "Every life gets messy at times. Sometimes these messes are literal, but sometimes they are intangible messes." "In this six-week study, Jennifer Cowart helps us dig into the lives of biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways."

## MEN

The men of First Pres are studying *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. This book addresses the big topics that are attached to the church, and answers questions asked by people both Christian and not. In a relatable and inviting way this book discusses often misunderstood themes of the Bible and leads readers to a personal and deeper understanding and appreciation of the word of God. Expect to consider, discuss, and learn about questions such as:

Did Jesus really teach that everyone who is not a Christian will be assigned to hell? Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church?" Is the book of Revelation really about the end times? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? Is the Bible ever wrong?

## TEENS

Tonight's lesson gets into the nitty gritty details of the Land of Narnia. This week will explore the sacrifice of Aslan that mirrors the sacrifice of Christ. This week's study is called "It will be harder than you think" and talks about how we, as humans, often take for granted (or don't even realize) the true sacrifice that was made in order for us to be brought back together with Jesus. Each lesson is finished with watching parts of the film!

## KIDS

Children ages 3 to 5th grade are having weekly lessons and related activities while their parents enjoy their own studies! We will be doing fun holiday crafts, and teaching kids the importance of faith, fellowship, and study in their lives. Autumn is quickly approaching, and soon the weather will become cooler and the leaves will change. Over the next few weeks we will be following a series called *Autumn Leaves*, as we learn that God makes all things beautiful, as the changing leaves remind us of. So far we have learned to be cautious in life, to remember that God has a plan, and not to idolize material things such as phones or tv or clothes.

Childcare will be available for children aged two years and younger in the nursery.



### **CONFIRMATION:**

Can you believe we are already on our 5th lesson!? We will be going of “The Word and Response” because... what does that *actually* mean?

### **FRIGHTFEST!:**

We are officially in October! Parents, I need to know if your kiddo is going to Frightfest on October 19. I am buying the tickets **October 11** and will automatically get 15 for group pricing—but if those 15 sell and out and your kiddo decided to go I cannot promise you that \$40 pricing. We will be leaving the church around 9:00am and be back to church around 11:00pm. Parents will be texted as soon as we get in the car. We *highly* recommend packing a lunch and something for dinner because food prices at the park are insane. It’s going to be so much fun!

### **WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP:**

The Holy Spirit is not only present all around us, but did you know he has different names? Sometimes the Holy Spirit is called wind or breath. In fact, the Holy Spirit’s helps God bring life way more than I’m sure you’ve ever realized—I know it’s more than I realized! Join us Sunday at 6:00pm to learn more.

**Coming Up at FPJ!**

### **“The Way” Small Group**

Join us in exploring an early Christian path. The early Christians were not known as Christians, but as those who practiced the way. Led by the Holy Spirit, they supported each other physically, psychologically, and spiritually. They 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. Please join us for a meeting on either Sun 9/22 or Sun 9/29 in the back of the Narthex after first service to explore the formation of such a group at First Pres.

### **BLOOD DRIVE:**

Versiti will be hosting a Blood Drive in Hoffman Hall on Oct.6 from 8-12 . You can sign up at [https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/5577298](https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5577298) or call Mary at (815) 302-9563. This link as well as tips to prepare are available on our website homepage!

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING:**

The first meeting will be held 10/15 at 7p.m. in room 210. These meetings will be for all of us to learn more about financial planning from each other. No one will be asked to disclose personal information. For more info, 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.*

### **◇ TRUNK N TREAT ◇**

**Save the Date!** October 23rd from 6 PM to 7:30 PM here at First Pres! You can sign up now for a parking spot or to help volunteer with the form on our website, by emailing [office@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@firstpresjoliet.org), or calling (815) 727-9259. For **trunks** please include your name, your theme if you know it, your preferred contact info (phone/email), and if you will need electricity.

**The First Pres. quilt group is raffling off a beautiful Christmas quilt!** All of the funds raised from ticket sales will be donated directly to the Angel House Tanzania sewing & tailoring education curriculum. through November 10<sup>th</sup> a member of the quilt group will be selling drawing tickets in Hoffman Hall between services. Tickets cost \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. We will draw the winning ticket on November 17<sup>th</sup> between services and announce the winner at that point. If you have questions feel free to contact Michelle Gier at 815-922-7695.