



**New Hope For the New Year”  
January 5-February 16.**

As we anticipate what the new year means, 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, Anna, Lydia, and Daniel.

**Sunday February 16**

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

As our sermon series on New Hope for the New Year comes to a close, keep in mind that Hope is always with us! We know this through the teachings in the Bible, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

This Sunday we are reading from the Old Testament, about a woman named Ruth. Ruth is an “outsider”, a Moabite. Yet, Ruth holds a key place in the salvation narrative; she is part of Jesus’ story. God knows what he is doing, from beginning to end. As strange as it may seem, he often chooses to work through the most unlikely of (and ordinary) people and circumstances!

I hope I see you Sunday as we read about Ruth and learn about loyalty, hospitality and, of course, Hope!

Peace be with you!

**Financial Peace University:** 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.

# e-News

February 12, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

**The Week Ahead :**

- Glory Ringers—Mondays @7 PM
- Centering Prayer—Tuesdays at 1 PM in Room 217
- Praise Yoga—Meets Tuesdays at 7pm, Thursdays at 8am
- Confirmation—Sundays at 4:30
- Youth Group—Sundays at 6 pm
- Midweek—Wednesdays at 5
- Lunch Bunch—11:45 am on Tuesdays
- Thursday Circle— cancelled due to weather
- Women’s Bible Study—10 am on 2/13
- Mary Circle—12 on 2/13
- Exec Committee—6 pm on 2/13
- Session Meeting—7 pm on 2/13
- Parish Special Sunday—2/16
- Worship Council—4:45 on 2/18
- Dinner Out Group— 6 pm on 2/18

## TEEN NEWS

**Tonight’s Bible Study:** Tonight we will continue the ScrewTape Letters with an optional craft and gym time as well.

**Sunday:** We will be putting together the College Care Packages so bring items that will fit in a shoebox. For example, microwave popcorn, candy, earbuds, power banks, stress balls, fun pens/pencils.

### Our Church Family

Known to be in the hospital: no one

Sympathies are extended to James Brownold and his fiancé Marie Mack on the passing of her mother Elizabeth Malik.

### Volunteers this Sunday, February 16, 2020

- |                            |   |                                    |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|                            | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>                                  | <b>10:30 a.m.</b>                  |
| <u>Connection Center:</u>  | Tom Sperling and Lynn Sperling                    |                                    |
| <u>Children’s Worship:</u> | Stephanie Young                                   | Pam LeVasseur                      |
| <u>Greeters:</u>           | Kendra Albers                                     |                                    |
| <u>Acolytes:</u>           | Tate Albers                                       | Carter Lakin                       |
| <u>Ushers:</u>             | Al Brooks, Capt.<br>Mark Fumagalli<br>Mark Dykema | Mark Morrison, Capt.<br>Ed Schultz |
| <u>Coffee Fellowship:</u>  | Estella Jurkovich                                 |                                    |
| <u>Sound Room:</u>         | Rich Pool   |                                    |
| <u>Video Screens:</u>      | Aaron Warf  |                                    |

**Sunday, February 16,** Worship with us at either our Traditional Service at 9:00 a.m. or our Contemporary service at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday.

**Tuesday, Lunch Study On Isaiah Has Started,** Our Tuesday, Lunch Study is going again on Tuesday, February 11. 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 have started at Isaiah 40 last Tuesday. Anyone is welcome. It's a great group of people. Bob Haas and I will share in leading class discussions.

**Bathroom Renovation Fund Growing,** We are making progress on our special offering for remodeling our main bathrooms in the church. Thus far we have received \$5,915; 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.

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**Have a Wonderful Time at Our Midweek Family Night Dinners,** I hope to see you, Tonight for a great meal of Chicken Alfredo.



**Sunday, February 9 "Foundations for Making a New Life"**

Daniel 1, Luke 8:22-25

How do you live in times of crisis, great change, a new culture, laws, and religions?

What do you do? How do you adapt? How do you remain true to the Lord God? In one way you live how you always lived; with faith in the Lord your God.

In another way you live as you have never lived before in a strange and different place.

You must now learn to get a double education. You need to understand the new culture and wisdom of the day; the era. Yet you must keep your faith and look for points of contact, commonality between the Lord God and your new circumstances...

And you now must decide what your line in sand is going to be and hold fast to your faith, perhaps even unto death.

As we look at Daniel we find that Living in faith requires:

a **Reliance** upon the Lord.

a **Resistance** to what is not faith,

a **Resolve** to do what is right, good, and true (bravery).

building **Relationships**- making new relationships and keeping old ones.

Daniel **relies** on God and resists what is not congruent with faithfulness to God.

He would not eat the royal food; it would have been consecrated by heathen religious rites; prayed over in honor of the gods of Babylon.

So, for Daniel to eat this food would be to give himself to idol-worship.

It would signify that he was trusting in false gods, willing to worship them, that he was willing to derive his sustenance from gods that were not gods.

This was a line he would not cross and was willing to die for.

He **resists**.

He **resolves** to worship and live for the Lord even if they take his life.

Yet he **builds relationships** not only with people of faith but also with

Babylonians people, advisors, and kings.

Daniel shows us how to live in our post Christian era and society.

**February 9, 2020**

Worship Attendance — 159

**Stewardship Report**

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

**Year to Date Income** \$617,536

**Year to Date Expenses** \$609,446

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$3000

Received for bathroom renovations— \$5915

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card.

Past Sermons are available to hear on our website **and app! Under "Media", then "Sermons"**

<https://www.firstpresjoliet.org/sermons-2/>

**MUSIC THIS SUNDAY:**

First Service at 9:00 a.m. :

Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers

Second Service at 10:30 a.m.:

Worship Band



Introducing  
Parish Council  
**THEME SUNDAYS**

# Valentine Sunday

**B R I N G   Y O U R   O N E**

Enjoy special treats and activities to share with  
family and friends!

**Sunday February 16th**

9 am and 10:30 am Worship Services

**Wear RED or PINK**

John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as  
I have loved you."

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