



**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 9

“Foundations for Making a New Life” Daniel 1-3.

Sunday February 16

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

This Sunday I am preaching on “Foundations for Making a New Life.” The scripture passage for the sermon is from Daniel 1:1-21. We find Daniel having to start over in a new place. He is carried off, after a time of war, to a foreign land and is forced to live in Babylon. We will study how his faith sustained him and influenced the decisions he made there. We will think about our foundational purposes.

--Craig

MUSIC THIS SUNDAY:

First Service at 9:00 a.m. :

Chancel Choir

Second Service at 10:30 a.m.:

Worship Band

Our Church Family

Known to be in the hospital: Emma Sticklen
Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Joan Barnes who passed away 2/1/2020. A funeral service will be held 2/7/2020 at 10am at Blackburn Funeral Home with a visitation on Thursday 2/6 from 3-7.

e-News

February 5, 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
- Men’s Breakfast—7:30 am on 2/7
- Parish Council— 11:45 am on 2/9
- Lunch Bunch—11:45 am on Tuesdays

TEEN NEWS

Tonight's Bible Study: Letter 13: Personal Pleasure. Screwtape doesn't understand joy and even the simple pleasures of enjoying a walk in the beach are things that can bring us closer to God--which Screwtape does not want. What kind of simple pleasures do you enjoy and often find yourself distracted from by life's stressors.

Confirmation: We'll watch a Bible Project Video on Job to help us understand that deep level of suffering. We will also look at the story of Esther, a beautiful woman who was born for such a time as this.

Youth Group: Bo is on the mend! He'll be sharing his personal experience with the Holy Spirit: how he knew the Holy Spirit was prompting him, how he interacts with Holy Spirit today, and more!

Fellowship Event on the 11th: Movie times are not listed yet for Tuesday. Please keep an eye out in the Newsletter, Remind, and even Sunday morning announcements.

Volunteers this Sunday, February 9, 2020

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Connection Center:

Dave Cavanaugh Sharon Cavanaugh

Children's Worship:

Bo Mircea

Greeters:

Dan Kline

Acolytes: Suzanne Penhale

Sadie House

Ushers:

Jen Beck

Ed Schultz

Mark Dykema

Misti Lakin

Coffee Fellowship:

Jaime Manjarez

Sound Room:

Cliff Stepina

Video Screens:

Matt Blaser

Sunday, February 9, This Sunday we will explore our foundation of faith from which we find purpose, hope, and strength. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be our living foundation for life and faith? 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, Our Tuesday, Lunch Study starts once 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 start at Isaiah 40 our first Tuesday. Anyone is welcome. It's a great group of people. Bob Haas and I will share in leading class discussions.

Bathroom Renovations, We are making progress on our special offering for remodeling our main bathrooms in the church. Thus far we have received \$4,210; 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.

Have a Wonderful Time at Our Midweek Family Night Dinners, We have delicious meals and great conversations on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in Hoffman Hall. If you just want to join us for dinner you are welcome and will not be disappointed. After dinner we have classes and discussion groups for men, women, and children. I hope to see you, Tonight and on Wednesday, February 12.

See You On Sunday, Remember, even in the coldest winter weather, the church is warm on Sundays. The parking lots are plowed and salted and ready for you when you arrive. Come worship with us this Sunday.



February 2, 2020

Worship Attendance — 167

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$605,108

Year to Date Expenses \$604,886

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$4,210

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

Sunday, February 2 "Return to Faith"

II Kings 22:1-5, 8-20; 23:1-3, 25

Mark 6:1-6; 10:47-48, 51-52

Here we read about God's people finding the book of the Law of Moses; that's the Old Testament, which is their Bible. Thus we see that they had lost the Bible. How in the world do you lose the Bible in the temple of the Lord?

On one level it hilarious, how could you do that? But on another level it's very serious; a grave mistake. Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith in his home town. Here God is astonished, upset at such grievous unbelief.

Now the reason they lost the Bible seems clear, when you study the context. The leaders, priests, and people had wandered away from the Lord their God. It happened over generations. Josiah's great grandfather, Hezekiah was a leader, a king, who loved the Lord. Exhibiting great faith, Hezekiah prays to God to protect them from invasion by the Assyrians, their army melts away.

A prophet told him old it was his time to die, and to get his house in order, Hezekiah prays to God and God extends his life another 15 years. But then the slide started with other leaders and Hezekiah's son, Manasseh that's Josiah's grandfather; abandoned his faith. He did what was evil... And he built places of worship to idols and the gods of other nations. Then Manasseh's son, Amon, the father of Josiah was an unbeliever.

He took this unbelief even further all across the nation. For two generations there was a movement away from the Lord. What filled the vacuum, that space in their lives, in their hearts? That empty space was occupied by other gods. Idols, other gods from other lands captured their thoughts and imaginations. In fact, as they lost track of the Bible and they set up idols in the Temple.

They became eclectic in worship adding all kinds of gods, and a little from this religion and some things from another religion. We know better, we will build a better religion; our own religion. All of these ideas and idols and images of gods were allowed to occupy the temple, their thought life, their conversation and their behavior. The Result was abandoned faith.

Forgetting about the Bible, losing the Bible created a downward trend. It was a huge cultural change; it was the post Yahweh era. This sounds sort of like the post-Christian era in Europe, the U.S.

That's how they lost the Bible and lost their faith.

Check out this sermon to see how to return to faith. God still loves to rescue lost, wandering and sinful people.

We see this clearly in Jesus' ministry.

Past Sermons are available to hear on our website **and app! Under "Media", then "Sermons"**
<https://www.firstpresjoli.org/sermons-2/>



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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