



# e-News

March 11, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
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## LENT: "Thy Will Be Done" Series

We make our way through this Lenten Season with a simple, yet profound prayer. "Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our daily lives. Through that prayer we will draw near to Holy Week when we observe Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. Each week we will think about God's will through the life of one of God's people in the Scripture. Each Biblical character will be a reference point for us to consider God's will in our lives.

**Sunday, March 15** "God's Will and My Dreams"  
David and Jesus the Good Shepherd

**Sunday, March 22** "God's Will and My Worldview"  
Paul, Acts 17:16-34 (Athens) or Acts 9:1-19

**Sunday, March 29** "God's Will and My Identity"  
Mary

This Sunday as we explore God's will we are going to think about our dreams. The sermon title is "God's Will and My Dreams." The sermon text is John 10:1-18. Here we see Jesus as "the Good Shepherd" who gives his life for us. Obviously, Jesus loves us and cares for us and has our best interests at heart. We can ask ourselves,

"Am I dreaming Christ's dreams for me?"  
"Is Jesus will paramount in my life?"

Isn't it so good to know that we are loved by the Good Shepherd?

--Craig

### MUSIC THIS SUNDAY:

First Service at 9:00 a.m. :  
Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers

Second Service at 10:30 a.m.:  
Worship Band

### 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
- Chancel Choir—Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
- Lunch Bunch—11:45 am on Tuesdays
- Thursday Circle—3/12 at 9 am
- Women's Bible Study—3/12 at 10 am
- Mary Circle—3/12 at noon
- Executive comm.—3/12 at 7 pm
- Session—3/12 at 7 pm
- Quilt Group—3/12 at 7 pm
- Parish Special Sunday—3/15 WEAR GREEN
- Financial Peace—3/16 at 7 pm

## TEEN NEWS

### Midweek:

The devil loves when we forget life is a gift. Have you ever been excited to have a friend over, only to have their annoying little sister dropped off instead? Have you ever been looking forward to a day at the beach only to have your parents tell you they have too much work and can't go? It's so easy to get frustrated at the little things and think that "time" is ours. But as Christians, our entire lives are devoted to Christ--And he's always working through that!

### Youth Group:

The third Fruit of the Spirit we will look at is peace. This means peace with ourselves, our families, and even people at school that drive us nuts.

### Volunteers this Sunday, March 15, 2020

<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Connection Center:</u>	
Tom Sperling	Lynn Sperling
<u>Children's Worship:</u>	
Stephanie Young	
<u>Greeters:</u>	
<u>Acolytes:</u> Marissa Sutton	Kellen House
<u>Ushers:</u>	
Al Brooks, Capt. Jen Beck Mark Dykema	Ed Schultz
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u> Jaime Manjarez Oscar Manjarez	
<u>Sound Room:</u>	Rich Pool

**Sunday, March 15,** On this third Sunday of Lent we look at Jesus life and ministry. He is the Good Shepherd who watches out for us. Come and worship this Sunday at either our Traditional Service at 9:00 a.m. or our Contemporary service at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday.

**“Sharing Hope Sundays: Session Increases Giving,** Please bring your pledge cards to church for our “Sharing Hope Stewardship Campaign. The Session members have turned in their cards early and have pledged \$84,406 for this year and increased their giving from \$77,255 last year. Please bring your pledge card to church or mail it to the office. Thanks so much.

**Lasagna Served Tonight at Midweek Family Dinner,** Come and enjoy a wonderful meal at 5:30 p.m. It’s always a good time of conversation and fellowship. If you wish to stay after dinner there are studies for adults, men, women, youth, and children.

**Total Given for the Bathroom Renovation goes up,** We have received \$8,200 toward our goal of \$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. Envelopes are available in the pews. Or you can also give online through the website.

**Precautions Because of the Coronavirus,** We are having surface areas and handles cleaned carefully more often each week to try to keep the church as germ free as possible. We do have Purell bottles out in Hoffman Hall as well. One of the best things we can do is wash our hands frequently. All of our bathrooms have soap and paper towels available. So we can wash our hands a frequently as possible. We are also suggesting that we do not shake hands during this time to protect everyone. The Session will be discussing what we are doing and plan to do at our next Session meeting this Thursday evening. One of the things we will talk about is the best way to serve communion in April.



**Sunday, March 8 “God’s Will and My Response”**  
Peter and Andrew, James and John

Philip and Nathaniel heard that personal call from Jesus to Come and See. That call was the kick off of a transformative journey for these two very different men. At the end of their lives, we can say about them that they lived lives worthy of their call. Too many times when we encounter that Call in our lives, we ask ourselves

**WHAT IS GOD’S WILL FOR ME?**

And out of that we look and try to decide where and how to respond to God’s call. And yet we find that if we embrace it our lives are changed for ever, because The Will of God is Discipleship - come and grow, be transformed The will of God is Sharing the Gospel - as we once heard the words “Come and See”, the world today is in need of the same call The Will of God is Serve - In serving those around us we can experience the joy that comes from God’s heart.

So next time you are at a crossroad listen for those words:  
**Come and see!**

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

**Our Church Family**  
Known to be in the hospital:  
No one




**Mark Your Calendars!**  
April 25th the Wildfire Youth Group will be having a fundraiser! They will have spaghetti dinners so come out and support our youth and you won’t have to cook dinner!



**Mark your Calendar!**  
The Busy Bee Craft and Vendor Fair will be Saturday April 18th from 9 to 2. Over 30 sellers are expected! We will also have a café open selling food and fundraising for The Boys and Girls Club.

<b>March 8, 2020</b>	
Worship Attendance — 130	
<b>Stewardship Report</b>	
2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135	
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$652,633
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$662,443
2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$6000	
Received for bathroom renovations— \$8,200	
You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card.	



Parish Council Presents

**C O M E G R O W  
W I T H U S !**

March 15th will be a Special Sunday

Invite someone new to come  
and see what we're all about  
here at First Pres. !

Expect special treats  
and a special gift

**W E A R G R E E N**

## Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill in below and mail to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers." The deadline for ordering is March 29th.

How many (at \$12/pot):

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies    \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips    \_\_\_\_\_ Mums

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God and in loving  
                  memory of loved ones  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God and in loving  
                  memory of



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please use exact wording to be printed in the booklet)

**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.

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!

## Personal Financial Planning

The next meeting will be held Thurs. April 30th at 6:30 pm! We received multiple requests to try a daytime session toward the end of the day. 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) huey-**  
**jim@comcast.net**

*Please leave a message if you call.*

## **Palm Sunday will have a special breakfast between services!**

The Night Deacons will be serving a very nice breakfast and raising money for the Night Deacon Food Ministry. Expect fresh made fried eggs, hash browns, ham, and biscuits on china plates. So make sure to stay after 9 am service or come early for 10:30 service and share this wonderful meal in fellowship at First Pres!

## **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**

If you or a close family member are graduating this year let us know! Forms are available on our website and at the church. We will have a board in Hoffman Hall and a special showcase in the Servants' Light to celebrate our First Pres Graduates! Forms are due by April 30th.

## MISSION

### **Help fill empty shelves & stomachs!**

There are several opportunities at First Pres. to help those in our community who are food insecure—

Our **Micro Pantry** offers canned and packaged food to those in need. You can help by bringing food or by offering to check the pantry one day a week and filling it with food we keep on hand. Donations should be of prepackaged goods only, please refrain from donating homemade dishes.

**"Bags of Love"** are filled with easy-open food donations, socks, and toiletries the last Sunday of the month and taken to MorningStar Mission for distribution. There are bins in the Narthex for your donations. Especially needed are easy open canned meals/entrees.