



e-News

March 18, 2020

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



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 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, we are going to have our worship service online. Sunday morning you will be able to access our **Worship Service online** at our website www.firstpresjoliet.org We will also e-mail the link to the service to you and you can also see it on Facebook.

I will be **preaching** on “God’s Will and My Worldview.” We will think about how we see the world and how God sees the world in our day and time, even in challenging and difficult seasons. God loves us deeply, is present, and seeks us out.

March 15, 2020
Worship Attendance — 100
Stewardship Report
2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135
Year to Date Income \$690,997
Year to Date Expenses \$680,945
2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$6000
Received for bathroom renovations— \$10,450
You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

The easiest way to stay in touch with everything that is going on at First Pres is connect with us via our Website: Firstpresjoliet.org

The website will provide you with the latest news about our congregational life, and also provide you with access to the latest Worship Service and Devotional Blogs. For the foreseeable future we will post a weekly sermon along with prayers and music, so we can continue to worship as a congregation even if we are not meeting in our building.

Secondly, I would encourage you to be on Facebook and follow our First Pres Joliet page at: facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchOfJoliet The Facebook page is a very fast way to deliver information to everyone, and also a great communication tool.

Lastly you can download our Church App for your phone that will bring the convenience of the website to your phone. The App can be downloaded on both iOS and Android phones. Go to your App store and search for The Sharefaith App . Once you download the App, search for First Pres Joliet in the FIND YOUR CHURCH dialog box. Once you select First Pres Joliet, click save and you will be good to go.

As always you can call us at the office or on our cell numbers
Office : 1(815) 727-9259
Craig Herr : 1(815) 922-5269
Bo Mircea : 1(815) 715-9429

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 . 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)

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

Sunday, March 22, This Fourth Sunday of Lent will be a Sunday we will always remember, I believe, as we will not physically be together. However, we can worship in our homes and access our Worship service online www.firstpresjoliet.org or at Facebook. I certainly hope you and your family or anyone you are with will worship with us online this Sunday.

We are closed through March 30 at this point. You may have received the all congregational letter on closing the church or you will receive it very soon. While we were hoping to resume worshipping together at church on Palm Sunday, April 5 it seems doubtful that this will be possible. Given the news each day it does seem like we will need to be closed longer. I will be consulting with the Session on when we think it will be wise and feasible to reopen. The important thing is to pay attention to the church Website and church E-mails for the latest communications.

The Office is Open and Functioning, Right now we are working out of the office and keeping it open, receiving mail, working on communications, and what we need to do next. We are also planning for what to do to keep functioning if we have to close the office and remain in our homes. We will be able to communicate and put together our online Worship Services from our homes since we have computers and phones. Bo is also providing information on how to stay connected and how to download the Church App to your phone in the E-News.

We are putting together a calling list for members who have trouble accessing the website, e-mails and social media. We have volunteers who will make phone calls to members who are by themselves.

For Pastoral Care please call the office to talk with a pastor or call us on our cell phones. We will be available.

Please continue to support First Pres. with your financial resources. We are paying all of our staff during this time and even if they cannot come in to work during this season.

Finally, please **continue to join all of your church family in prayer.** We all can pray for each other, our church family, our community, our nation, and our world.



Sunday, March 15, "God's Will and My Dreams"

John 10:1-18, II Samuel 5:1-4

There are Troubled Times, Critical Circumstances, and Weary Seasons of Life that Weigh upon us.

And when we encounter them we realize we need a Good Shepherd.

David was a Shepherd for his people. They reminded him of that fact saying, "the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'"

But David was not always a faithful shepherd of all of his people. There were times when David was not the righteous ruler God intended him to be. We need the Good Shepherd, someone more than David to lead us. And so we read in John chapter 10 of The Good Shepherd.

John 10:1-18

We see the caring love of Jesus in many places but we see it plainly in Jesus saying, showing us, teaching us, I am the good shepherd.

Good Shepherd is a good enough translation but it's better in the Greek. The Greek word for good used here is kalos. It is much more than good, it means to be good or beautiful in the sense of the ideal or the pinnacle or model of perfection. We should read, I am the model Shepherd or ideal Shepherd.

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus Looks for us, Listens to us, Leads us, and Loves us. Someone once said, "People are not impressed by how much we know but they are impressed by how much we care."

Lottie Moon was a missionary in China some years ago. And during a great famine she eventually gave away all of her savings. And eventually she handed out all of her food to help the very best she could, And then she died herself with the hungry people she so loved. She said on her last Christmas that we should give Jesus presents in support of the Great Commission. So she gave the gift of her life for those whom Christ Jesus gave to her.

Indeed, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep.

If you wonder, if you want to know if God cares for you, just take a look at Jesus. For Jesus **Looks** for you, **Listens** to you, he knows your voice, hears your prayers. wants to **Lead** you **and Loves** you beyond measure.

Listen to Jesus and let him dream his good and wonderful dreams through you.

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