



e-News

March 25, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

In light of COVID-19 the March Servants' Light is replaced with this edition of the eNews.



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 29 "God's Will and My Identity" Luke 1:47-55

Hi, friends! I hope you are well and adapting to the temporary new normal we are all experiencing! I don't think I've ever been more grateful for technology and how it helps us stay in community with each other, even as we are isolated in our homes.

For the time being, we are together, separately! And not just that. As Pastor Craig reminded us in his message last Sunday, God is with us - as we are alone in our homes, as we gather together online or over some form of social media, as we go about our lives. This has always been true, but I find myself even more aware of that now. God is present and active in our world, even as events that we can't possibly fully understand unfold.

We will meet online again this week as we continue with our Lenten sermon series about God's will. The title for this Sunday is God's Will and My Identity. The text is from Luke 1:47-55, known as Mary's hymn. We will take a look at our identity in Christ through Mary's eyes as we think about what it means to be a child of God and how that plays out in our lives.

Peace be with you and I will see you online on Sunday!

-Carrie

A video preview from Carrie is available on our YouTube and Facebook pages!

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

The easiest way to stay in touch with everything that is going on at First Pres is via our Website: www.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](https://www.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 phone. 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 (voicemails will be checked remotely, please leave a return number) or on our cell phones:

Office: 1(815)727-9259

Craig Herr: 1(815)922-5269

Bo Mircea: 1(815)715-9429

March 22, 2020

Attendance - 369 views on YouTube so far

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$768,135

Year to Date Income \$690,997

Year to Date Expenses \$687,943

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received—\$6000
Received for bathroom renovation—\$10,550

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

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

Sunday, March 29, On this Fifth Sunday of Lent will worship online again and be spiritually united through the Lord Jesus, our Savior. The Worship service Video will be online at YouTube, just type in the search box as one word, firstpresjoliet

And this is even better. If you have a Smart TV, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire you can watch it on your TV. You type in the Search Box on the YouTube App FirstPresJoliet

We are closed through April 7th at this point. However, given the news each day it does seem like we may need to be closed even 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 www.firstpresjoliet.org and church E-mails for the latest communications. We will let you know when we can open up again.

The Office is Open Remotely and Functioning with Staff working at home. We are also receiving mail at the church office each day so you can use the mail to communicate and support the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. We will continue to communicate with you and provide online Worship Services from our homes and the church as you saw last Sunday.

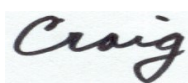
Please download the Church App to your phone. See Bo's instructions in the E-News for how to do this.

We have volunteers who are calling members who have trouble accessing the website, e-mails and social media. Our volunteers are making phone calls to members who are by themselves. If you would like to help let me know.

For Pastoral Care please call the office to leave a message to talk with a pastor or call us on our cell phones. We will be available and can access our messages from home.

Please continue to support First Pres. with your financial resources. We are paying all of our staff during this time, even if they cannot come in to work or work at home for us.

I encourage you to hold up one another in Prayer. Pray for each other, our church family, our community, our nation, and our world. God is at work in our lives and in our world.



Sunday, March 22, "God's Will and My Worldview" Acts 17:16-34

This is a challenging season. It's a different and disruptive time.

Our lives are upended and we are hunkered down in our homes.

We are sheltering and people and families are trying to adapt.

One mom texted Jimmy Fallon, it's just the first week and I've already expelled my son from our homeschool.

Another family texted, we've eaten up all of the snacks, on 1st day.

Our lives have rapidly changed and we are re-thinking everything in this difficult COVID-19 season. The Coronavirus has disrupted Work, relationships are disrupted.

How we see our world is changing. Amidst this season of change I invite you to think with me about God's will and our Worldview.

In our text we find Paul spending time in Athens. His worldview and the worldview of the people of Athens are different, quite different in some respects.

Yet, even so, Paul has a love for people; people of all races and nations.

He is eager to share the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. We see Paul doing that in this text despite the contrast in world views.

I encourage you to go online and see the sermon on YouTube. Or go the church website to listen to the audio version.

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:

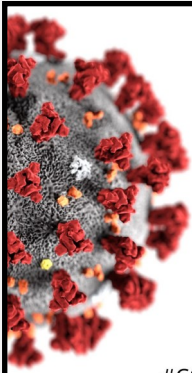
_____ to the Glory of God
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of



Name _____

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

Flowers will still be displayed in worship service and orders can be emailed to office@firstpresjoliet.org

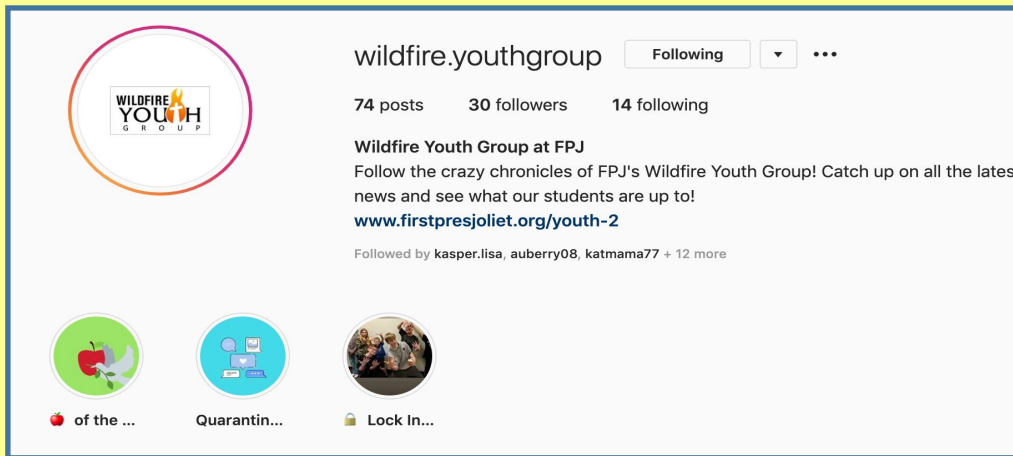


**Keep Calm
And
Social
Distance
Without
Boredom**

#COVID19

Are your youth getting restless, scared, or bored? Be sure to check out the Youth Group Page on our website: www.firstpresjoliet.org/youth-2 . We have resources available for every student that will help benefit their mind, body, and soul. It was put together with love and with youth specifically in mind.

Our Kids Ministry page also includes some fun resources for younger kids! And our facebook is a great way to connect with your church family to schedule virtual game nights, share your blanket fort photos, or other fun activity ideas!



Hey! As Wildfire Youth Group and the world is getting used to Shelter in Mode the Youth, we wanted to let everyone know that the Instagram is alive and well! We have a Highlight dedicated to the Fruit of the Spirit (short recaps and how they apply to your life!) and another for general Shelter In Place goodies (a message from Karissa, memes, videos, forts built, and more).

If you don't have an instagram account this will not be accessible to you (I'm sorry). Parents, you can always keep your child's instagram private and not allow them to post anything. This is a PUBLIC account so as soon as you have an instagram you can view the stories and highlights.

Be sure to follow wildfire.youthgroup to get notifications when we post something!



Not being together is hard. Luckily, technology has allowed ways for us to come together while still in our homes. Beginning TONIGHT, Karissa will have a Mid-Week Meeting on Zoom and then Sunday host another one for all Youth. This week will be mostly check-ins, looking for God sightings in the midst of all this, and prayer. Please download the Zoom app to your cellphone or computer. Parents, help kiddos out if they need it. Once downloaded and you have an account created, text me your email address you used to create the account so I can be sure to add you as a contact and invite you to our virtual meetings. It's going to be a great time to still be together! I am really looking forward to seeing your faces again!

Much love and many blessings,
Karissa