



e-News

March 4, 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 8 "God's Will and My Response"

Peter and Andrew, James and John

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 I am preaching on God's Will and My Response looking at John 1:43-51. The text captures the intercalation between Jesus and the first disciples and calls to follow him. As Philip and Nathaniel meet Jesus, they are faced with the biggest decision of their lives: To follow this teacher or not. They wrestle with that decision as they try to decipher God's will for their lives. They ask questions, they deal with doubt as they come face to face with Jesus. In many ways their experience captures our own experience as we wrestle with God's will. Where? How? Can I? I hope that as we worship this Sunday we all can experience that faith that made the first disciples follow Jesus on those dusty roads of Galilee. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Be Blessed,
Bo M.

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
- Stewardship—3/5 at 3:30
- Men's Breakfast—3/6 at 7:30
- Pancake Breakfast—3/7 at 8 am
- 2nd Sunday Potluck—3/8 at 11:45 am
- Day Deacons—3/9 at 10 am
- Human Resources Meeting— 3/11 at 8 am

TEEN NEWS

Midweek: Letter 19: Using Love

"And there lies the greatest task. We know that He cannot really love: nobody can: it doesn't make sense. If we could only find out what He is really up to! Hypothesis after hypothesis has been tried, and still we can't find out." -- Screwtape.

How well this letter lines up with what learned in Youth Group on Sunday! What does it mean to love unconditionally and be loved unconditionally? Join us as we talk about God's love for us.

Youth Group:

The second Fruit of the Spirit we're going to learn is Joy. There is a difference between Joy and Happiness. One is fleeting and one stays. We will be doing a little science experiment so you can always have a visual representation of how the Joy of the Lord changes us, even when life swirls in every direction.

Volunteers this Sunday, March 8, 2020

	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Connection Center:</u>	Bob Becker	Colin Becker
<u>Children's Worship:</u>	Pam LeVasseur	
<u>Greeters:</u>	Kendra Albers	
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Tate Albers	Rafe Rogers
<u>Ushers:</u>	Barb Rodgers, Capt. Mark Dykema	Ed Schultz
<u>Coffee Fellowship:</u>	Estella Jurkovich, Sue Fordyce	
<u>Sound Room:</u>	Keith LeVasseur	
<u>Video Screens:</u>	Matt Blaser	

Sunday, March 8, This is the second Sunday of Lent as we make our spiritual journey and prepare on to the Cross and Empty Tomb on Easter Morning. Come and worship with us at either our Traditional Service at 9:00 a.m. or our Contemporary service at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday.

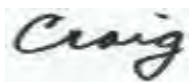
Sharing Hope Sundays, This Sunday, March 8 and Sunday March 15 are Sundays to bring your pledge cards to church for our "Sharing Hope Stewardship Campaign.

Midweek Family Dinner Is Tonight, 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.

More Monies Received for the Bathroom Renovation, We have received \$7,935 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.

Financial Peace University (FPU), 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.

Materials are available online and you can register online at fpu.com/1113271



March 1, 2020

Worship Attendance — 179

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$ 768,135

Year to Date Income \$648,923

Year to Date Expenses \$661,843

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$6000

Received for bathroom renovations— \$7,935

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

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

Sunday, March 1 "Sharing Hope: My Inadequacy and God's Will"

Mark 1:1-8 and Matthew 11:1-10

John the Baptist prepares the way and calls for the people to prepare to receive Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed one.

Lent is a time of preparation.

Like John, like the first to hear of the Good News we need to make preparations to hear and see Jesus more clearly.

We too need to smooth out the rough places of our lives. We need to remove any obstacles that would separate us from following wherever Jesus seeks to lead us.

We need to say our prayers, ask for forgiveness, repent, and follow once again in faithfulness.

Lent is a time for spiritual preparation and it fits very well with Stewardship.

Stewardship is about spiritual preparation. It's about smoothing out the rough places that tempt us to hold on to our resources.

Faithful givers find a way to make straight paths for themselves to fund what God wants to do in and through them and in the world.

Lent is a good time to make our stewardship preparations.

Why do we give to the church? Why do you give? Why do I give? Why do we bring our offerings?

Giving is essential to discipleship, it's about spirituality and growth.

It's about living a Christ-centered life; giving thanks to God

Giving is at the heart of the Christian life and at the heart of the Gospel.

It's a practice that brings inexpressible joy when done in the right spirit.

As Paul once wrote, "God loves a cheerful giver."

Giving is at the very heart of God.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

God is love and perfect giver.

Giving is integral to who God is; it's a part of His character.

And God wants us to be givers like Him, like Jesus.


The scriptures speak to us about giving.

We are to give faithfully, compassionately, graciously, proportionately, and sacrificially.

We pray, asking, for God's will to be done in us for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

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



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)

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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!

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 pre-packaged 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.

MUSIC THIS SUNDAY:

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

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

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) hueyjim@comcast.net
Please leave a message if you call.

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

Our second quarterly potluck will be on Sunday, 3/8/2020, right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring a dish to share, drop it in the kitchen and head to worship. Items can be kept cold or warm if necessary. If you attend the first service you can run out after coffee hour to pick something up or just stay and have additional time to visit. We always have delicious food and great conversation, so come and enjoy time connecting with your church family.