



e-News

April 1, 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.

Palm Sunday, April 5 "God's Will When We Are Not Willing"

Jesus, Luke 19:28-42, Isaiah 65:1-3, Zechariah 9:9-10

Easter Sunday, April 12 "God's Will and the New Creation"

Jesus, Luke 24:1-12, II Corinthians 5:16-21

This Sunday, we are going to worship online again. Sunday morning you will be able to access our **Worship Service online** at YouTube.

This Sunday, I am **preaching** on "God's Will When We Are Not Willing." We will revisit and study Jesus' faithful entrance into Jerusalem to understand how to be resilient people of faith in this time and any time. Thank God Jesus persevered in suffering love and abundant hope to and through the cross to Easter Resurrection.

Jesus Christ is Lord of all in every time, season, and era. And we are loved by Him.

--Craig

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies are extended to the friends and family of Fran Burkey who passed away on March 27th.

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. 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 29, 2020

Attendance - 264 views on YouTube so far

Stewardship Report

2019-2020 Budget: \$768,135

Year to Date Income \$691,633

Year to Date Expenses \$711,886

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

Received for bathroom renovation—\$10,750

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

Palm Sunday, April 5, Come celebrate the God who in Jesus comes into our lives with grace, guidance, and goodness. Worship with us Online again this Sunday.

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 have seen the past two Sundays.

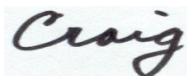
For Pastoral Care please call the office to leave a message to talk with a pastor or call us on our cell phones. We will be available and can access our messages from home. Some of our **volunteers are calling members** who may have trouble accessing the website, e-mails and social media. They are making phone calls to members who are by themselves.

Easter Flowers are Coming to the Church. We ordered Easter Flowers at the beginning of the year and the grower has been growing them. We could not cancel the order. So please make your orders as usual. We will publish a PDF of who the flowers are given in honor of or in memory of for you to have. We will be setting up the flowers in the Sanctuary/Worship Center for our Easter Service. So, you will see the beautiful flowers in our Easter Worship Online Service. Something to look forward to!

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. We are receiving a special offering in April to support Rhobi, Bhoki, and Lucia at **Angel House Mission.**

“We will let you know when we Can Open for Worship and Ministry once again. Given the recent news, we know we will be closed through the month of April. I look forward to the day, when in consultation with the Session, we can say it is wise and feasible for us to reopen the church facilities. Right now, please pay attention to the church Website www.firstpresjoliet.org and church E-mails and E-News for the latest communications. We will let you know when we can open up again.

This is a Time for Prayer and Caring for others. Please make phone calls to other members and friends of First Pres to encourage each other. Send a caring e-mail or card to someone this week. Pray for one another, our community, our nation, and our world. Prayer opens us up the hopeful presence of God.



Sunday, March 29
“God’s Will and My Identity”
Luke 1:47-55

Much as changed in the world around us; God has not - he is present. Our identity is still in Jesus Christ. As Max Lucado wrote in “Anxious for Nothing”, We can’t run the world, but we can entrust it to God. Peace is within reach, not for lack of problems, but for the presence of a sovereign Lord. Rather than dwell on the chaos of the world, we can choose to rejoice in the Lord’s sovereignty.” That is what Mary did. Because she knew her identity.

Luke 1:47-55 is Mary’s hymn, her song, her praise to God. In these words, we learn that Mary’s life and her identity are reflections of God’s work in her life. This is true of us as well. Through these words of Scripture, we are reminded that God is present with us, even in these turbulent times. Our identity is in Christ and we are God’s beloved. What we do is an outflow of that.

We are living in a very different reality in the world right now.

What we do, how we see ourselves, maybe our health or our wealth, have been rocked. But our identity has not changed. God’s will is that our identity be in Christ, that we rejoice in our lives as children of God. That we live those lives in joyful gratitude to him as he uses our gifts and talents in the world around us.

THINGS have changed. God has not.

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.”

How many (at \$12/pot):

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

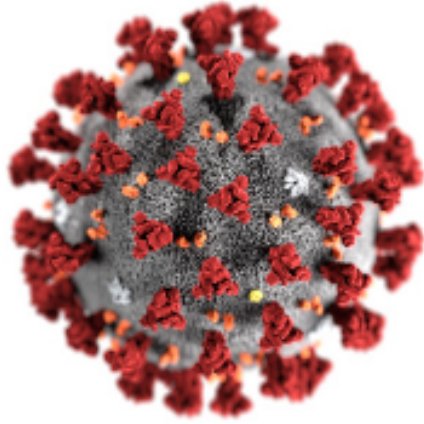
- _____ to the Glory of God
- _____ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones
- _____ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of



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 Getting Bored

Midweek Zoom meeting tonight to talk about Easter! Karissa will send invites to those she has, but if you're interested and unsure if you're in the email list, please email her!

Same for Youth Group. If you didn't get an email invite, but would like to join the fun email her and let her know!

karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org

And don't forget to look at our resources at:
www.firstpresjoliet.org/youth-2

We will have **one worship service online** with both traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, on YouTube (firstpresjoliet) or Facebook or use the link we will e-mail to you Saturday evening.

And this is even better. If you have a Smart TV, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire you can watch it on your TV. Enter FirstPresJoliet into the YouTube search box.

We are still doing our part to help!

This April, even in our current situation, we are raising funds to continue supporting the girls at Angel House in Tanzania. Bhoke, Rhobi, and Lucia are supported directly by the money we raise. Checks can be mailed to the church, and should be marked as being for the Angel House fund.