



e-News

April 15, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org



New Sermon Series! "Resources for Difficult Days"

Beginning Sunday, April 19 we will focus on resources of faith that we may rely on our God who gives his enduring love and uplifting hope in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. In this Series we will study and seek the sources of strength, which God provides in the scriptures and the life of the followers of Jesus.

The New Testament church knew seasons of hardship. The early Christians followed Jesus through some incredibly challenging chapters in their world. The first sermon in the series is on the "Love and Affirmation" of the Lord for us. Just as hope and life prevailed on that first Easter morning over fear and death so too will hope in Jesus sustain us in this time. As he said so long ago, Jesus speaks to us today, "Do not be afraid." When Love Endures, Fear Fades and Hope Lives.

Sunday, April 19- "Love and Affirmation"
Mark 1:9-12

Sunday, April 26- "Three Anchors to Keep You"
John 11, The Lazarus Story (Faith, Family & Friends, Vision)

Sunday, May 3- "Life on Pause"
Psalm 46, Philippians 4:6-8, Mark 1:35-39 (NIV)

This Sunday, I am preaching on "Love and Affirmation" from Mark 1:9-12. We all need to live in the love and affirmation of God through the Lord Jesus. Christ is Risen and loves us deeply and fully, more than we can imagine at times.

May you experience the strength and the joy of the Risen Savior in these days!

--Craig

TEEN MID-WEEK:

We will meet again this Wednesday at 6:00pm and continue with our check-ins. Highs, lows, and where do you see God working. Karissa will present a verse for us to meditate and think on for the following week. The Zoom link will be sent via Remind and the email addresses/phone numbers we have. If you are not part of Remind nor do I have your contact information and you want to be part of our meeting, email Karissa at Karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org

WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP:

We are so excited to have Sandy teach this week's lesson on the Fruit of the Spirit Faithfulness! Join us at 6:00pm on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent via Remind and the email addresses/phone numbers we have. If you are not part of Remind nor do I have your contact information and you want to be part of our meeting, email Karissa at Karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org

CONFIRMATION:

Confirmants, we will meet on Zoom at 5:00pm and go over a few letters in the Bible: the Chronicles and Galatians. We'll meet until 5:40 and then you'll have 20 minutes for dinner and come back for Youth Group!

April 12, 2020

Attendance - 420 unique views combined from Facebook and YouTube

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	734,307
Year to Date Income	\$49,768
Year to Date Expenses	\$17,282
Year to Date for Angel House	\$2,231
Received for bathroom renovation—	\$10,825

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No one is known to be in the hospital.

Sympathies are extended to the friends and families of Bob Barnes, Leroy Sayles, and Rev. Dave Fillpot all of whom passed recently.

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

Sunday, April 19, We are in the Easter Season, although sometimes it feels like we are stuck on Saturday waiting for Easter to come during these disruptive, coronavirus pandemic days. This Sunday we will strive to sense God's love and affirmation even while life is challenging and scary. Hope still lives in the Risen Christ, even on dark days.

I am sorry to let you know that **Rev. Dave Fillpot died this past week** on Friday, April 10th. He was a beloved Co-pastor at our church, in the 1970's and 1980's for nearly 15 years. Dave preached on our 150th Anniversary celebration Sunday. Dave and I, over the years, would usually talk with each other 2-4 times a year. He loved the people of First Pres and always wanted the very best for our church. He prayed for you and for me over these years. I will always treasure my friendship with Dave and the encouraging support he provided me over many years. He is with the Lord now.

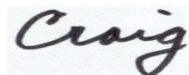
On Sunday, April 26 we will have a **Drive-thru Bags of Love** time from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Kendall Fris and her team will be set up in the back of the parking lot for you to drop off groceries and items for Bags of Love. You can leave them on the parking lot and drive off. They will load them up and prepare them for delivery. We invite you to prepare items for Bags of Love for this last Sunday of the month.

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.

We have been putting **offering envelopes in our mailings** each month as it would cost nearly \$4 per each offering envelope box to mail them all out. We will distribute them once we are able to come back to our church facilities.

A Zoom Online Bible Study taught by Pastor Carrie Kapral begins on this Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. Look for the details on Facebook and in the E-News.

Please pause and **take time to pray** for our church, community and world. Please take some time **to care for others in these days**. Prayer opens us up the hopeful presence of God.



We 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, which 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. You type into the Search Box on the YouTube App FirstPresJoliet

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 "God's Will and the New Creation" Mark 16:1-8

Turn to the New Testament and you find that Good Friday was a gigantic black out, shut-down experience for the first disciples.

The crucifixion of Jesus blacked out, completely stopped, and slammed the hopes, dreams, and energy of the disciples.

Ministry was over, dead and buried.

They wondered, would this storm consume them too?

The disciples are scattered, their hopes shattered, their souls are shaken.

The women, were the first to venture out. They went to the tomb, with their spices, as was their custom.

The Sabbath was over with its agonized forced inactivity since the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

Now at last, the women could do something, even if it was only caring for the dead.

Early before full daylight, they were expressing their love and deep devotion, but it was only the adoration of a dead Jesus.

Like the disciples, for all their closeness to Jesus they had not fully understood him.

Who will roll the stone away for us, they wondered out loud.

The stone was easily rolled into place, as the track for the stone was inclined downward, to prevent it's reopening.

A young man in white, turns out to be an angel, begins the process of turning back on the light of hope for the followers of Jesus.

They are alarmed in the sense that they are terribly afraid.

The first result of resurrection is fear. It means a venturing out into the continually new and unknown.

They did not want to lose their earthly Jesus; yet transforming their faith to connect with the Risen Lord was necessary.

They are stunned and afraid.

Thus, the young man in white says, Don't be afraid.

Now, they are urged to face the hard facts of life, with faith rather than fear.

God has already done what they could not themselves do, remove the stone of death.

Jesus has risen, life is changed.

All of our virtual Worship Services are available on our YouTube page, you can just search for FirstPresJoliet.

A Life of Giving Thanks Bible Study

Hi, friends! There is still time to join the A Life of Giving Thanks Bible Study! We will meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. This four week study will include the joy of being content, modeling gratefulness, simple living and recognizing our blessings based on the beloved hymn "Come Thou Font of Many Blessings." You can see a little more information on our church Facebook page!

If you are interested in joining this study, please email me at clkapral@gmail.com. I will send you more information and the study guide to your email.

May peace be with each of you as we continue to adjust to these unusual times.

-Carrie

Your family is our family

and we want to pray for everyone who is fighting on the front lines: hospital workers, EMT's, first responders, and all essential workers! Anyone putting our lives before theirs, we want to pray for. Email a photo of your loved one in their COVID gear along with their name, occupation, and place of work.

All essentials workers we want to pray for!

