



### New Sermon Series! "Resources for Difficult Days"

Throughout April and May we are focusing on the resources of faith. We strive to rely on 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 in 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.

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, May 3- "Life on Pause"**  
Luke 4:42-44 (NIV)

Sunday 10th—"Comfort in Community"  
Romans 12:4-5, 9-15

**I am preaching this Sunday on "Life on Pause."** The scripture passages for the sermon and worship service are: **Psalm 46, Philippians 4:6-8, and Luke 4:42-44.**

I encourage you to read the passages before you worship this Sunday or Saturday evening. Our Shelter in Place Order is continuing another month, even though there are a few changes. After almost six weeks we have four more weeks to go. Our lives seem like they are, in many ways, on extended pause from being with other people. If you are working remotely or going into the office and doing many things differently then you may have the sense you are going through a very hectic time. You may be looking for a pause from all of that. This Sunday we will think about our lives on extended pause, whatever that may look like at this time.

# e-News

**April 29, 2020**

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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[firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

**Mid-Week Teen Bible Study:** We will be looking at the complex verse, but nevertheless reassuring, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tonight! Make sure to have a piece of paper ready so you can write your favorite part of this passage. Link for the Zoom will go through Remind. If you need the link, [email Karissa.fleming@Firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:email.Karissa.fleming@Firstpresjoliet.org)

**Confirmation:** Finishing up our studies on the Bible by going through Revelation this week! Be ready to study one of the most fascinating pieces of the Bible; 5pm this Sunday.

**Wildfire Youth Group:** We are going to end our "school year" with Matt giving a lesson on Fruit of the Spirit Self-Control. We will take a **two week break** and return May 24 for a condensed Zoom Youth Group. If, in those two weeks you're missing us (we'll be missing you!) feel free to join our Wednesday night study!

We have **one worship service online** with both traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, on YouTube ([firstpresjoliet](http://firstpresjoliet.org)), facebook, our website, or check the email sent each Saturday afternoon.

And this is even better. If you have a Smart TV, Roku, Amazon Fire or Chromecast you can watch it on your TV.

**April 26, 2020**

Attendance - 447 views combined from Facebook and YouTube

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$74,504
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$52,131
Angel House Total	\$3,401
Received for bathroom renovation—	\$11,050

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

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies and prayers for the family and friends of Donna Filo who passed April 28th.

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

**Sunday, May 3,** We will Celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship together this Sunday. I encourage you, when you shop or have someone shop for you, to pick up or order bread and grape juice to celebrate Communion as we worship together.

**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.

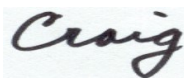
**On May 1 you need to have a mask.** Here's where you can **order a Mask** for going out during this time. **Nicole Long**, with one of her neighbors, is making masks for others. She will make you a mask if you text her at 815-409-5933 (or call her). There are two designs, one for women and one for men. Once she is done, she will text you so you can pick up the mask on the front porch of her home in New Lenox. So, give Nicole a text if you are in need of a mask.

Our **Youth group is meeting online through Zoom** on Wednesday and Sunday evenings for check-ins and Bible Study and **Confirmation** is meeting online too. They are also doing small groups on line as well with our Youth. So if you know any youth or families with youth help them get in touch with Karissa so they can join our youth.

Pastor Carrie Kapral continues to lead an **Online Zoom Bible Study** on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Look for the details on Facebook and in the E-News. There were sixteen participants the very first night. Carrie would be happy to get you the details if you ask her.

The Sunday, April 26, **Drive-thru Bags of Love** was a wonderful success. Thanks everyone and to all of your friends too, that took time to drop off groceries and hygiene items for Bags of Love. Kendall Fris and her family had a great set up in the back of the parking lot and things went very smoothly.

In invite you to continue to lift up your prayers each and every day for yourself and for others and for our world in this time.



### **PASTOR CARRIE KAPRAL'S BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Carrie Kapral has been leading a Bible Study via Zoom the past two Thursday evenings. April 30th will be the third class of the intended 4 courses. This study may be extended. All are welcome to join in, and to do so you just have to email Carrie at [Clkapral@gmail.com](mailto:Clkapral@gmail.com) and let her know that you are interested! This is an excellent opportunity to not only explore the Bible more but to get some much needed human interaction while staying safe.

### **Sunday, April 26- "Three Anchors to Keep You"**

John 11, The Lazarus Story  
(Faith, Family & Friends, Vision)

Our reality has been dramatically changed. Our normal has been challenged, and we all are trying to make sense of everything else going around us. Martha was confronted with the same situation when her brother died. Waiting on Jesus, her answer to the problem, was a challenging time to say the least. Where do you turn to when life takes that unexpected turn? What keeps you grounded and going day after day? For me:

**1.) Faith** - Faith is our first response. We run to God for answers, and stay anchored in the hope that even when our reality is not the one we anticipated God is still in control.

**2.) Family and Friends** - We crave and desire the support of the people we depend on. Staying at home really has taught us to be creative and to think in a new way of what community is.

**3.) Vision for the Community** - We all need direction and vision for now and for tomorrow. We are people of vision and action. Set God's love as that ultimate vision and let it impact your life and your immediate community. God is using this time for the church to change people's view of what is important, and Love wins.

So, while we might be apart, and trying to deal with this "new norm" we are still people of faith, people of community and people of vision. May you find strength in that today.

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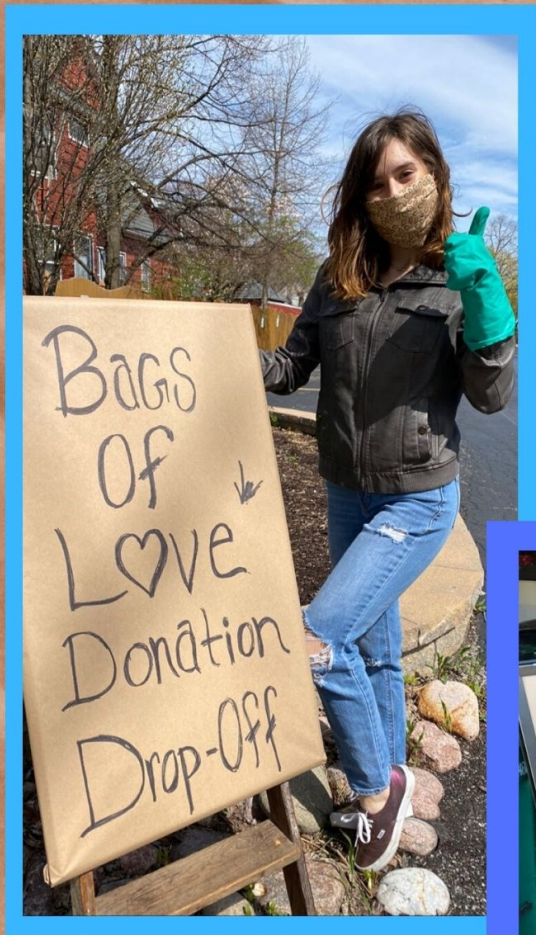
All of our virtual Worship Services are available on our YouTube page, you can just search for FirstPresJoliet. Audio-only recordings are still available on the Sermons page of our website as well.

Don't have a mask? Everyone needs one so check out the Pastor's Corner for information on how to get one from the very generous Nicole Long. It is crucial that everyone complies with the mask mandate starting in May, we want everyone to stay safe and healthy!



# A HUGE **THANK YOU**

to everyone who  
participated in the  
Bags of Love Drive-  
Thru donation!!



Your support means a lot and  
goes a long way!