



# e-News

May 13, 2020

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## “Resources for Difficult Days”

Throughout May we are focusing on the resources of our 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 are studying the sources of strength, which God provides in the scriptures and to and through the followers of Jesus.

**Sunday, May 17- “A Wider View“** Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

Sunday May, 24- “The Life of Faith and the Poverty of Alternatives”  
Exodus 20:1-8, 32:1-4; Colossians 1:24-2:7, Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

This Sunday I am preaching on “A Wider View” from Ephesians 3:14-21. In the Sermon we will look at Jesus’ wider view of life because of his extraordinary vision for all the world and his self-giving love for each person. Paul expresses the wonder of Jesus’ love and that Christ’s love would live in each one of us when he writes,

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”  
Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)

I invite you to contemplate the love of the Lord Jesus Christ living in each one of us and reflect upon how we can share that expansive love with others in our world.

-- Craig

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

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

**Teen Mid-Week:** Tonight we’re going to examine Ephesians 4:29 and talk about how this verse can be used in our lives today and in the future! I’ll see you at 6pm on the Zoom call! Reminder: Most links are sent through Remind. If you aren’t part of Remind, let me and I can text the link! [karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org)

**Confirmation:** This week at 5pm we will be looking at the video testimony of my friend Angie who was born and raised Muslim and has since converted to Christianity. She’ll answer some of the basic questions about the difference between Islam and Christianity while sharing her story. I promise, it’s a great one!

**Wildfire Youth Group:** At home Jello Fight this week! The families that are participating if you could please take a video of the event (try to be close enough so we know what’s happening) or I would even love before/after photos or photos during the fight! No siblings at home? Parents, this is your chance to go outside and just dump a heap of jello on your kiddo! If you have any questions or concerns, email me at the above link—or text/call if you have my number!

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please keep Elizabeth Holman in your prayers.

Prayers and sympathies to the Kasper family after the death of Jeff Kasper’s father.

## May 10, 2020

Attendance - 365 views combined from Facebook and YouTube

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$93,868
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$57,635
Angel House Total	\$3,566
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

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

**Sunday, May 17**, On this Sixth Sunday of the Easter Season we seek to live in the hope, strength, joy and love of the Risen Christ. No matter what may happen the Lord Jesus is with us always and is still our loving and reigning Savior. Come worship with your friends in Christ as we stay connected spiritually and remain one in Christ in these covid-19 pandemic days.

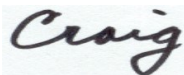
**Worshipping Online and Reopening the Church.** The session meets this evening and we will be talking about the details of reopening the church when that is permitted. Governor Pritzker released his 5-phase plan and then talked about going into June with restrictions. It takes until phase 4, to have 50 people gather for worship at the church. Watch for details in the weeks to come on when and how we will reopen in the best possible and safest way.

**Zoom Time with Pastors on Wednesday mornings.** Each Wednesday Bo and I are on Zoom to have a time of fellowship and conversation with whomever signs on and wants to say hello. But in the two Wednesdays we have been doing this we notice that folks like to see each other and talk with one another and not just me and Bo. That's a good thing. So use the Zoom link that will remain the same each week and say hello on Wednesday mornings. **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393339501?pwd=NGtvU2ZWK0ZkYVNDb2VoUXpqdm5iZz09>

**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 pray for **our church family, our community, and the whole world** as we seek to live by faith and hope in the Lord, in these times.



If you know a graduate let us celebrate with them! We will do an email of who in our church family is celebrating this spring. So if you would like to include someone please email 1) their name 2) what they're graduating from 3) a picture of them optionally to [ellen.kientop@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:ellen.kientop@firstpresjoliet.org) by May 19th.

### **Are you supply shopping on Amazon?**

Did you know you can support First Pres when you buy from Amazon? Just go to

**[Smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)**

And select First Presbyterian Church of Joliet as your charity and a percent of your money spent will be donated back to the church!

### **The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Sunday, May 10- "Comfort In Community"**

Romans 12:4-5, 9-15 (NIV)

God created us to be in community. In fact, it is often through community that God chooses to work. This may be especially true when it comes to comfort. We tend to gather in the face of big events - happy or sad. We bring comfort to one another in the midst of hard times. This year surely constitutes a hard time, and we find that we cannot gather together in one place to share our grief, our frustration, our confusion. We cannot be in the same place and comfort one another. And yet, as Craig reminded us in his message two weeks ago, we are not alone. God is with us, always. My dad has recently taken seriously ill and I had to travel to my parent's home to help care for him. He lives on the west coast, so I am far away from my usual community. Yet, Jesus is with me. The prayers of my family and friends have followed me. I watched FPJ's service online two weeks ago with my parents. As I saw the friendly FPJ faces, and heard the greetings, I was reminded that we are truly never alone. The heartbeat of the church beats on, the people still love one another and offer care to each other in so many ways. This has been a time of recognizing how important we are to one another, and how strong the need is for us to gather together, in any way we can, to give and receive comfort.

-- Carrie

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.

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

Pastor Carrie Kapral's Bible Study is having its final meeting Thursday May 14th. If you are interested in this group Pastor Carrie hopes to begin another Bible Study the first week of June.

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!