



# e-News

May 20, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org



## “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, 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)**

We will think about the life we are called to live in Christ Jesus, which Paul describes in Colossians 2:6-7.

We will consider how life in Jesus is far more rewarding, challenging, and meaningful than the poverty of alternatives we see in our world today.

This is a challenging time with the coronavirus pandemic and the loss of life we are seeing and all of the restrictions we are undergoing to keep everyone safe. Please keep lifting up prayers for healing, vaccines and medicines. Around the world, there is a very high infection rate amongst the poorest areas such as the congested slums of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Mumbai, India (25%), and Mathare Valley, Kenya. The workers lose their jobs and cannot buy food because employers are afraid of the spread of the coronavirus. Say some special prayers for desperate poor in our world.

A Pastor in Mathare Valley writes, “Almost everyone is thankful to the Lord for life, though. And they continue to thank God that in the midst of all the chaos and confusion they are still alive and well.”

-- 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 Bible Study:** This Wednesday at 6pm we will be looking at Romans 8:26-27. It’s a great verse that reminds the Holy Spirit will help us pray in the times where we just don’t know what to say. Join us via Zoom! If you need the link, email Karissa at [Karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:Karissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org)

### Sunday Night Wildfire:



With the school year officially ending we are going to begin a new Summer series! To help us out, we are so excited to have Abby Warf back with us as a college helper! This Sunday we will start off by talking about how to navigate school as a Christian. Whether in you’re in public or private school, talking about our faith or letting others know we’re Christian can be hard. We’re going to talk about different ways you can be the light of Christ without ever telling someone you’re a believer. Then, when people take notice, we’ll talk about where the strength comes from to be vulnerable enough to not only tell people you’re a Christian, but to invite them to church too! Youth Group is at 6pm every Sunday. Again, email Karissa form the Zoom link if you want it and don’t have it yet.

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies to the friends and family of Myrna Randolph (Barnes) who passed May 13th.

### May 17, 2020

Attendance - 528 views combined from Facebook and YouTube

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$101,216
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$72,934
Angel House Total	\$3,766
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 24,** This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Easter Season already! Come worship with your friends in Christ as we stay connected spiritually and remain "rooted and grounded" in Christ in these challenging times.

**For Pastoral Care** please call the office to leave a message to talk with a pastor or call us on our cell phones. We are available and can access our messages from home.

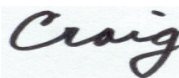
**Reopening the Church and Worshipping Online,** The session met last week and we are talking about the details of reopening the church in conjunction with Governor Pritzker's 5-phase plan. We may reach Phase 3 when June begins. But only 10 people can meet together during Phase 3. We will see what our options are for small groups to gather with masks and social distancing. It takes until phase 4, to have 50 people gather for worship at the church. I know I sound like a broken record but please watch for details on when we can start a slow reopening process at the church. We want to reopen in a safe and healthy way, whenever that can occur.

**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. 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=NGtvU2ZWK0ZkYVNDI2VoUXpqdm5iZz09>

**Zoom Bible Study In June,** Pastor Carrie Kapral is going to start up another Zoom Bible Study in June. Watch for details on this second class. The first class on

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.



This Tuesday an email was sent with congratulations to our First Pres Family Graduates! If you missed your first chance to send in info on a graduate you would like to celebrate, PLEASE SEND THEIR NAME, WHAT THEY ARE GRADUATING, AND A PHOTO(OPTIONAL) TO [ellen.kientop@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:ellen.kientop@firstpresjoliet.org) BY MAY 26TH

### DO YOU MISS COFFEE CHATS IN HOFFMAN HALL?

Well good news! If you have facebook we will be opening a group just for the First Pres family next week! This will be a great place to catch up and chat and share prayer requests and pictures of the flowers you've been planting and so on!

### Sunday, May 17- "A Wider View" Acts 1:4-8, Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

What if we had a wider view of life? What if we could see and process life through the wide angled lens of Jesus? Jesus calls us to develop a wider perspective in life as we see our world.

When we do this, we look through the wide-angle lens of Jesus love. 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.

The great prayer is that we grasp, understand the expansive love of Christ. For then we will have wide, expansive love for others in the world. But we can't stop there and use only the wide angled lens. Having seen and experienced the wide expansive love of Jesus we must love. Once we have grasped something of the wide grandeur of Christ's love we must expend that love somewhere, in some place, to someone.

Stay only with wide angle lens and life gets distorted We can't just see from far away; stand back, observe, and be uninvolved.

Thus, Jesus used a regular lens and a telephoto lens as he spoke into the lives of his disciples saying. You will be my witnesses not just to the ends of the earth;

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, And our mission statement says, that we are called to be Servants of Jesus Christ. to minister to one another, our community (not just the world). Jesus wants us to get close to those who are hurting and in need.

Jesus wants his followers to realize that there are people close by who need to experience the practical rescuing love of God.

There is the need is for us to move to a regular lens and to a telephoto lens to zoom in. We must get up close to real people.

Then as Jesus hands over his ministry, mission to the disciples, in beginning of the book of Acts, he says you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The entire book of Acts is based on that outline...

All the lens of love are in play: regular, telephoto, and wide.

Take a look at the sermon this week to see and hear more on Jesus' love.

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.