



# e-News

May 6, 2020

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**“Resources for Difficult Days” Sermon Series**  
**Sunday, May 10- “Comfort In Community”** Romans 12:4-5, 9-15 (NIV)

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.

God created us to be in community. In fact, it is often through community, through people, 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 last week, 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. My parents and I watched two worship services online last Sunday. First, we attended their service, and then we attended FPJ's service. We experienced community during that time - community with one another, and community through the gift of online worship. 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. That, then, is the focus this Sunday. We will read the words of Paul in Romans 12:4-5 and 9-15. These words of scripture remind us that we, the church, are one body and as such we are called rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. No matter the circumstance. Even now. Especially now. God bless you and I will see you Sunday!

-- Carrie

## Teen Mid-week

Join us TONIGHT for 40 minutes of fun as we play the game Werewolf! Don't know how to play? Don't worry! We'll explain it! Zoom link will go through remind and texts tonight at 6pm. If you want int, but I don't have your contact information please email me at [Karrissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:Karrissa.fleming@firstpresjoliet.org)

No Confirmation or Youth Group this week. Happy Mother's Day!

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, Roku, Amazon Fire or Chromecast you can watch it on your TV.

## May 3, 2020

Attendance - 377 views combined from Facebook and YouTube  
**Stewardship Report**

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$78,618
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$52,114
Angel House Total	\$3,506
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

Known to be in the hospital: no one

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)

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

**Sunday, May 10**, Happy Mother's Day, this Sunday to all of our Moms! Last Sunday we focused on how we are not alone for God is with us in and through Jesus Christ. This Sunday we think about how we are not alone in that we are connected to each other as the body of Christ, the Church. We are finding ways to worship together and connect through online worship, phone calls, cards, etc.

**We continue worshipping and connecting with one another online.** Governor Pritzker released his 5-phase plan yesterday and we will have to wait until phase 4, it seems, to have 50 people gather for worship at the church. We, the staff and session, will be talking about what this means and how to slowly open up again for worship and other ministries as we move through the phases the Governor described. So watch for details in the weeks to come.

**If you need to have a mask I have a very good source for you.** 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.

**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 **remember the church in your giving** as we continue to further the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. in new and different ways these days. You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving, which Tracy, our Treasurer can set up for you.

Please lift up **our church family in your prayers** as we have some members of our families recovering from the coronavirus at this time. And also pray for our community and world and those whose work places them on the front lines of COVID-19.



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

Pastor Carrie Kapral has been leading a Bible Study via Zoom the past two Thursday evenings. May 7th will be the 4th week of an intended 4 weeks. This study may be extended. All are welcome to join in, and to do so you just have to email Carrie at [C1kapral@gmail.com](mailto:C1kapral@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.

### **The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Sunday, May 3- "Life on Pause"**

Mark 1:35-39, Psalm 46, Philippians 4:4-8 (NIV)

Life is on pause now. We are sheltering in place for another month that has been added to the previous 6 weeks and some days.

It feels like Life is on extended pause.

Kind of like when the old record player needle got stuck in a groove. Or like when the internet goes down and stays off...or sort of like when your computer has that circle, spinning, spinning endlessly spinning,...that irritating spiral.

Life is different, many things are on hold.

There are places we can't go and things we can't do. There are people we can't see and plans we can't keep. There are moments we can't celebrate and experiences we can't have.

We are hunkered down, sheltering in place;

Life is on Pause.

How do we live and navigate in such a time.

I want to share four ideas, I've been thinking about to guide us.

**Stay Close to God** for the Lord is near to us.

**Stay Away from Worry**, for worry is not hard to find.

**See what's Ahead**, take time to plan.

**Seek Joy**, for joy is available today and tomorrow.

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.

### **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**

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

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!