



# e-News

June 10, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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## ESSENTIAL FAITH

## EXTRAORDINARY GRACE

### Summer Sermon Series "Essential Faith, Extraordinary Grace"

The book of Ephesians, written to a group of churches, expresses the width and breadth and length of God's love and grace. It describes the importance of the Church and why the Body of Christ exists and how it services and does ministry in the world. Paul indicates how the Church crosses racial boundaries and social classes for all are one in Christ Jesus. There's even more to this wonderful book and letter of the Apostle Paul. Join us in this Summer Study and Sermon Series.

#### Sunday, June 14- "What Do We Think About God" Ephesus 1:1-14

I am preaching this Sunday on "What Do We Think About God?" from Ephesians 1:1-14. When life is turbulent, when terrible things occur in our world and happen to us, what do we think about God? Or, when life is good and sun is shining and we have much to celebrate, what can we say about God? Who is the God we seek to trust, understand and obey? The opening fourteen verses of the Book of Ephesians are packed with details on who God is and what the Lord does in our lives and in our world. This Summer will be studying the Book of Ephesians to experience "Essential Faith and Extraordinary Grace. See you Sunday!

-- 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.

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

Reminder: Now is a time to pray for those around us, their loved ones, and anyone dealing with illness.



**Teen-Midweek:** As things begin to maybe feel like they're returning to normal in light of George Floyd, racism is not going away. Tonight at 6 we are going to read Galatians 3:28 and see how everyone has equal value in God's eye because we are made in His image (Imago Dei). We'll talk about how *everyone* is made in His image: good cops, bad teachers, bullies, a black man accused of a crime, a woman whose trust is misplaced, you, me, our parents, and literally everyone. It'll be a great conversation!

#### **Sunday Summer Wildfire:**

Sunday at 6 I have a close friend (and newly wed!) named Nicole who is going to talk to us about body image and how Christ sees us. Body image issues run rampant in the teen years—between both boys and girls. It's a secret shame that too many of us hold (if you think you're ugly, you have problems with your body image). But you aren't alone! Listen to how my friend overcame her body issues and found peace with Christ.



June 7, 2020

### Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$151,335
Year to Date Expenses	\$103,989
Received for bathroom renovation—	\$11,550

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card. Just go to our Website and click on "Giving. 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.  
**Thank you** for your generosity.

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

**This Sunday, June 14 we begin a summer Sermon Series on the Book of Ephesians in worship.** The book of Ephesians is written to a group of churches in what was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire. In this letter to the churches we read about faith in Christ and the grace of God.

**Prayer and Discussion Times In the Sanctuary/Worship Center this Week:** On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we will have a prayer leader gather with 9 others in the Sanctuary to pray together. **Only 10 people can be in an area at once. You will have to make reservations** by calling or e-mailing the prayer leader for the group you wish to attend. You must receive confirmation to come. You must wear a mask and observe social distancing (6 feet) to meet in the Sanctuary.

Monday will be with Pastor Bo from 11am to Noon.

Tuesday will be with Pastor Craig from 2-3 pm..

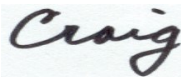
Wednesday will be with Karissa from 1:30-2:30 pm.

Depending on the response to this we may schedule more prayer times in the future

**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 still Worshipping Online,** Session meets tomorrow evening, Thursday, June 11 by Zoom. We will discuss a plan for reopening for Worship once that is permitted in phase 4 of the Governor's plan. Phase 4 should start near the end of June, to have 50- 70 people gather for worship at the church. Watch for details on when we can start the reopening process at the church.

**Please Pray for healing, hope, and justice** across our nation and communities. Please pray for wise, reasoned, and good conversations and change.



### **Zoom Time with Pastors on Wednesday mornings.**

Each Wednesday Bo and Craig 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=NGtvU2ZWK0ZkYVNDb2VoUXpqdm5iZz09>

### **Please Update Your Membership Information**

It's time to update your record for our annual Directory which will be published later this summer. Have you changed your phone number or cancelled your landline?

Have you moved? Are all your children still living at home? Please email

[office@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@firstpresjoliet.org) with any corrections to your information, or call the office at 815-727-9259. Thank you!

### **Sunday, June 7- "A Different Kind of People Make a Difference"**

**Exodus 19:3-8, Colossians 3:1-15**

Living for Christ Jesus makes us a different people in the world. By being different, through God's grace, we put on a "new self" in Christ and we become the good that God wants in our world and to each other.

Being raised with Christ, putting on the new self, makes all the difference in how we see other people and treat other people. We see across racial and economic barriers to see all people as made in the image of God. We read Colossians 3, "In the church there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all." Paul is telling them to leave their discrimination behind, and put on the new self, a new obedience where they are one in Christ. There was a racism problem in the early church. Jews and Gentiles came into the church. Jews saw Gentiles as barbarians, inferior. Gentiles saw Jews as strange, weird people with odd customs. Paul said let that go and be one in Christ.

When we see the kinds of people who entered the early church we notice that God chose the nobodies of the world to receive mercy. God chooses Israel, an enslaved people out of all the nations to be his own treasured possession and people. The Lord carries them on eagles wings out of Egypt.

There are no throw away people. God's grace and mercy are available to all. Walter Brueggemann, suggests that we need to identify the nobodies in our society who are no people. I will never forget one of my mentor's in college who when he prayed often ended a prayer, Lord we pray for all those whom we love and we pray for all those whom nobody loves.

Brueggemann writes, The inventory of nobodies consists of all those who fall behind in the rat race of the predatory economy. That might variously include racial or ethnic minorities, the aging, the disabled, and, most simply, the poor. These are the ones who are the most likely candidates for God's mercy, for God's free, unearned good gifts of sustenance.

The events of this past week have made it quite evident that we all need the grace and mercy of God to fall on us and upon our land.

Putting on the new self is about enacting God's good mercy. Such mercy given by God, acted out by the faithful people, makes the new community of the church possible, and society a better place, in the face of community-denying forces.

**Go online to see and hear the sermon.**

### **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Carrie Kapral will be holding another Bible Study!

This will be at 6:30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month start 6/18. The study is based on the Book of Nehemiah called "Renovate - Building a Life With God." You can grab a copy of the participant's guide on Amazon and maybe Cokesbury as well.

To join email Carrie at [clkapral@gmail.com](mailto:clkapral@gmail.com).

All of our virtual Worship Services are available on our YouTube page and website.