



# e-News

June 17, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
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**ESSENTIAL EXTRAORDINARY**  
**FAITH and 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 21, "Pandemic, Protest, and Prayer" Ephesians 1:15-20

I believe I can safely say that 2020 has, at least so far, been unique. Lots of hard things to deal with (I'm not going to list them, we each have our own catalog of events in our head.) Yet, in some ways, we can see 2020 in the pages of Scripture. Sometimes when we read those ancient words, it almost, *almost*, seems as if we are looking in a mirror. God's Word, after all, is timeless. That's how I feel when I read Paul's words in his letter to the Ephesians (2:15-20). Paul, as he so often does, reminds us of who we are -- as individuals in Christ, and as a family of believers. As such, we are called to prayer. Even now. Even when it feels like nothing will ever be "normal" again. Even when our hearts ache because we want to know what to do and how to help. When we read Paul's words we see a man giving thanks to God. He doesn't give thanks for a house, for friends, for family, or for anything tangible; although when we have those things we should be thankful. Who we see is a man giving thanks for faith in Jesus, for love toward fellow Christians, for a spirit of wisdom. Paul prays for unseen, eternal things and for invisible, essential things.

I'm excited to take a deep dive into these six verses because they remind me that even in the midst of pandemics and protests, there is ALWAYS prayer and because there is always prayer, there is always HOPE. God bless you - I will see you Sunday!

Carrie

**Game Night: Wednesday; June 17 at 6pm**  
On ZOOM

**Happy Father's Day**  
NO YOUTH GROUP; JUNE 21, 2020

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

Condolences to the Lakin family on the passing of Donna Hehe  
Prayers for Laura House's father who is in the hospital

June 14, 2020

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$163,394
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$121,587
Received for bathroom renovation—\$11,650	

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 21, is our second week of our New Summer Sermon Series on the Book of Ephesians in worship, called "Essential Faith, Extraordinary Grace."** We also are celebrating Father's Day and have a special Video for our Fathers, which Karissa is putting together.

**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.

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

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

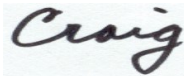
Wednesday will be with Karissa from 1:30-2:30 pm.

**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.

**We Are Reopening the Church on Sunday, June 28 for Worship!** You will receive a mailing the end of the week or beginning of next week that describes all the things that we will be doing to safely open for live worship on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Here are a couple of things to remember for both services, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. You must **wear a mask** and you must **make reservations** by e-mailing or calling the office. We need to know which service you are attending and how many are coming. Both services will be the same as we can only have between 50-70 people in the Sanctuary/Worship Center. Our services will be similar to our online Video Worship services.

**We will be continuing our Online Video Worship Service each week.** We know that it will be a while before everyone can return to church and some won't be able to attend.

**Please Pray for First Pres.** as we open for live worship on June 28. Please pray for healing for our communities, nation, and world.



### **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=NGtvU2ZWK0ZkYVNDIb2VoUXpqdm5iZz09>

### **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 14- "What Do We Think About God?"**

**Ephesians 1:3-14, Psalm 145**

We have places within our lives that we can access. We have places of hope, trust, and faith inside of us, but we have other places as well—places with names like anxiety, discouragement, anger, and fear. We can choose to lead and live from any one of those places. But sometimes we choose to live in that place called fear. That's understandable, for we live in a profoundly disruptive and disorienting age.

We stand on ground that is riddled with the fault lines of fear, and sometimes we move toward others from a place of anxiety instead of faith. So, what are the fault lines of fear that run through your life?

What does fear look like for you?...

We can all live in that place named fear. But today we are going to focus, not on our fears, but on hope and faith. We can stand on the ground that is stable with the strength of faith. We can move toward others from a place of promise instead of anxiety and fear.

"Faith is about standing on firm ground that is not riddled with the fault lines of fear," writes Parker Palmer.

What does it mean to stand on the firm ground of Essential faith, and the Extraordinary Grace of God? That's what the book of Ephesians is about and more. Let's take a long, long, look at God and a much shorter glance at your fears.

What do we think of God? What is it that God has in mind for us?

These verses from vs. 3 to vs. 14 are actually, in the Greek, one sentence. And this one sentence written to a group of Churches in Ephesus is packed with hope, trust, and faith; about who God is, what God does.

First of all we find out that we were in God's mind. God was thinking about us long ago.

Before we were around God was thinking about us.

We matter to God. We were/are in God's mind.

You mattered to God even before God was on your mind.

**Go online to see and hear the sermon and hear about what God does:**

**Blesses** us in Christ, invites us to **Belong** as his children, sees us as **Blameless, Becomes Real** to us in Jesus, has **Bold Plans** for us, and provides us with a **Big Inheritance**.

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

### **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 [ckapral@gmail.com](mailto:ckapral@gmail.com).