



e-News

July 1, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org

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, July 5- "Hostility Down, Reconciliation Up"
Ephesians 2:11-22

Sunday, July 12- "A Grace that Unites"
Ephesians 3:1-13

Sunday, July 19- "To Know and To Love"
Ephesians 3:14-21

I am preaching this Sunday on "Hostility Down, Reconciliation Up" from Ephesians 2:11-22. We read in Ephesians 2:14: "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility..." In and through Jesus, Jews and Gentiles are reconciled and brought into the church. In Christ Jesus the two groups, formerly estranged, become one. Here we see the transforming, redemptive power of Jesus to bring peace into our world. Let us pray for healing peace in our land and in our world. All things are possible in Christ.

--Craig

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

Check the Pastor's Corner for information on in-person worship.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

Water Fight
JULY 12
1PM; IN FPJ'S PARKING LOT
BRING SOME OF YOUR OWN WATER SUPPLIES!
(AND MAYBE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES!)
WILDFIRE YOUTH GROUP

Water Fight July 12, 1 pm in FPJ's parking lot. Bring your own water supplies (and a change of clothes)



ON HOLD

**WE WILL MEET IN PERSON TWICE THIS SUMMER
FOR FELLOWSHIP.**

CONTACT KARISSA.FLEMING@FIRSTPRESJOLIET.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Carrie Kapral is holding another Bible Study! This will be at 6:30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month

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.

June 28, 2020

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$188,761
Year to Date Expenses	\$148,650
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.

On Sunday, July 5 we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

We will celebrate communion in worship together at both of our Live Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. For our Live Worship services, we will use disposable elements. The bread and juice are included in a single container. You peel a lid for the bread and peel another lid for the juice. We will also celebrate communion in our Online Video Worship Service, for which you will need to supply the elements.

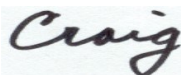
We Reopened last Sunday, June 28, for Live Worship at both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We had a good group at our 9 a.m. service, which meant we had to sing quietly to ourselves and could not sing out. If you want to really sing out come to the 10:30 a.m. service where we had a smaller group and could really spread out in the Sanctuary/Worship Center.

For our Live Worship Services please know that **we will not have either the Nursery or Preschool areas open on Sunday for the foreseeable future.** You will need to watch for those details when Ed Council determines it is safe to reopen those areas of ministry.

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. **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.

Please make Reservations in order to attend Church for Live Worship. 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. Please call the Church Office or send an E-mail by Friday at Noon to make a reservation.

Please continue to pray for our Church as we experience live worship.



SAVE THE DATE

JULY 15th AT 5:30 PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HOSTING A FELLOWSHIP TAILGATE AT FIRST PRES!

Bring your own dinner or check our website for information on ordering a pot roast dinner from Jacob Henry Mansion that will be brought to FPJ.

We will be keeping the social distancing protocols in place.

Water bottles and pre-packaged ice cream will be available as well!

**Sunday, June 28- "Extraordinary Grace"
Ephesians 2:1-10, Jeremiah 31:3, 31-34**

Time is moving so fast, especially in 2020. Early this year Les, my wife, said she had a good feeling about 2020...now we laugh about that. Then came COVID-19, Tornado/Flooding, Protests and Riots. 2020 has been a blur.

With time moving faster, we must ask, how to make the best use of the time we have. We must choose carefully, choose wisely and choose the grace of God. Each moment, day, week we must choose the kind of person we will be, what we truly want; how we will frame our life.

And God comes to us in Christ Jesus calling us to choose grace, hold on to grace.

Paul can't stop writing about it, he adds on word after word for the extraordinary, super-abounding grace in Ephesians chapter 2:1-10.

God has incredible love for us.

This is the God who is rich in mercy and makes us alive in Christ In spite of all of our fallenness, sinfulness. It's by God's grace we are saved, forgiven, made new, alive

We are raised up with Christ, as Jesus was raised from the dead so we are raised up out of selfishness, shallowness, and sinfulness God chooses to show us the Incomparable riches of his grace, in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

We are given unmerited mercy, that's grace, because God so loves.

As Jeremiah writes, God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

A mother once approached Napoleon seeking a pardon for her son.

The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and now justice demanded his death.

"But I don't ask for justice," the mother explained. "I plead for mercy."

"But your son does not deserve mercy," Napoleon replied.

"Emperor- Sir," the woman cried, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for."

"Well, then," the emperor said, "I will have mercy." And he spared the woman's son.

And so God, in and through Paul says, I will have mercy. Choose grace.

Choose to live in my grace and extend my grace to others.

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

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 with any corrections to your information, or call the office at 815-727-9259. Thank you!