



# e-News

July 22, 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 26 "One and Many" Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians do not need to agree on everything to have unity, we need to live the unity of a common commitment to Jesus.

The reality is that we live in a time where opinions are strong. As Christians, even amid diverse thoughts on the current culture, we are called to live in harmony with one another. Not agreeing on every little thing, but focusing our minds and hearts on Christ and His church. Paul's words in Ephesians 4:1-16 clearly tell us that there is one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father. He goes on to remind us that the one church body is made up of many parts - some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers. The same Spirit works in all Christians. Together, we work to build the church. We each have an important role to live out.

Church has changed, at least temporarily if not long term. This is an exciting time to be a person of faith. We have so much love to share with a world that is badly bruised - the love of Christ, and the love we are called to have for people. As different as everything seems, the church is still one body, made of many parts. We are each blessed to be one of those many parts. The church's method may have shifted, but the message is the same. The gospel is timeless.

Ephesians 4:1-16 is densely rich with words of direction and words of hope. In this passage, Paul reminds us that Christian living consists of truth, love and continual growth into Christ.

I'm really excited to gather with you this weekend, either in person or online. Peace be with each and every one of you!



### CHOO CHOO! ROCKY RAILWAYS VBS IS NEXT WEEK!

VBS will be virtual this year! Videos will be provided for the skits and stories and crafts and songs we all love about VBS and the supplies will be available for pick up at FPJ.

More Information and registration is available on our website!

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.

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

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Russ Mathena is hospitalized at St Joseph

July 19, 2020

#### Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$211,816
Year to Date Expenses	\$178,138

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.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Bo Mircea, Pastor

**This Sunday** Pastor Carrie will be sharing the Word with us. Sunday Worship (virtual or not) has been one of those crucial, foundational things for me during these recent trying months. I would encourage you to join us for worship however you prefer, online or in person and find a little place of peace and comfort knowing that God is still speaking even these rough times.

**Next Sunday**, August 2nd, we will celebrate Kim Belfield's retirement from serving in the nursery ministry. We are so thankful for all the loving work Kim has done for our little worshippers in the past years, and we wish her a Happy Retirement!

**Do not forget that Vacation Bible School** is rolling out this coming week. You still have time to register and pick up your supply packs. Registration will be open until July 30th. We are excited for everyone to enjoy this special part of ministry.

As a congregation **we extended our sympathy** and our prayers to Betty Stoxen and her family, as they mourn loss of Paul. I would like to encourage to say your prayer, and maybe reach out to her in the coming days.

Be blessed,  
Bo M.

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

This Sunday I preached on Ephesians 3:14-21. It is a great prayer, some call it a Paul's Great Pastoral Prayer. As I am reading this prayer I am constantly reminded that as people of God, we are called to pray for the church, for those that do not yet know Christ in its fullness. This Prayer captures so much of Paul's desires for the church in Ephesus. It speaks about growth and maturity. I hope you get the chance to read this passage, and ask yourself the question: Do I know Christ, the way Paul prayed for me?

Be Blessed,  
Bo M

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

### **Faith in Place Green Team**

I am interested in joining others to form a Green Team with the organization Faith in Place. Faith in Place will provide support, including a mentor, for our church to form a Green Team to make our church building more environmentally friendly, and/or to engage in activities to help our environment and alleviate climate change. We will build on the eco-friendly practices that are already happening at First Pres. A Green Team will meet on a regular basis, at a time that is suitable for participants.

-Jen Garlitz

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

Well good news! If you have facebook we have opened a group just for the First Pres family! 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!

On facebook look for "First Pres' Hoffman Hall"

## **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!

This is a great way to stay safe, get supplies or fun things to keep busy, and also help us keep running our ministry and helping our community in these tough circumstances.