



e-News

July 8, 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, July 12- "A Grace that Unites"
Ephesians 3:1-13

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

This Sunday I am preaching on a "Grace that Unites". Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, and in particular in the text we will read on Sunday Ephesians 3:1-13, sees himself called to preach a Gospel of Grace and Reconciliation to all people. Jews and Gentiles are called to be one in Christ. It is that Grace that unites and brings people back to God and to being one in Christ. I would like to invite you to pray ahead of Sunday, and ask God to let the church be that voice of Grace, that voice of God for today's times. I would also encourage you to ask yourself the question: How does God's grace change my life and my life's call? Looking forward to see you Sunday, in person or online.

Be Blessed,
Bo M.

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

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)

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!

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.

July 5, 2020

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$ 195,730
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 154,368

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"

On Sunday, July 12 we Worship together and open up Hoffman Hall again for Coffee Fellowship. We will social distance in Hoffman Hall and wear our masks until we get to our spots for something to drink and eat. Night Deacons will serve beverages and things to eat from the Kitchen window.

Kim Belfield is retiring as our Nursery and Preschool Coordinator. We are going to celebrate her nearly 12 years of caring and faithful ministry on Sunday, August 2. You will receive a mailing this week on her celebration.

We have Reopened for Two Weeks now, for Live Worship at both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We've done well social distancing and worshipping together. Please make reservations in order to attend Church for Live Worship. You need to make reservations by Noon on Friday and let us know how many are coming. You can do that by calling the office and leaving a message or talking to one of us and by e-mailing the office.

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.

Fun Time for Our Youth This Sunday in our Parking Lot. The youth are going to have a water fight this Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. It should be a great time in this hot weather.

Please continue to pray for healing and reconciliation and justice in our world and communities.



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

Let Freedom Ring, Let Freedom Ring, we sing and say on the 4th of July weekend. We have much to do to Let Freedom Ring in the American experiment and experience.

There's a lot of hostility and barriers in our land and they're nothing new; they're ancient.

There was a barrier between Jews and Gentiles; Israel and other nations.

"Israel's identity was rooted in being God's holy people; they understood that they were different. Their only king was God. The Gentiles might be ruled over by kings and tyrants and rulers the king of Israel was God. To be an Israelite was to be a member of the society of God. It was to have a citizenship which was divine.

The Israelites believed that God approached their nation with a special offer. I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God. This relationship involved not only privilege, it also involved obligation.

God's choice of Israel was a choice for special responsibility."¹

The Gentiles, however, were strangers from covenants with God. The Greeks wrote much about wisdom yet if you read through their writings there is a strong note of despair. This essential despair had to do with the belief that this life was all there was for the most part. You lived and died and that was it. The god's if they existed were capricious, certainly not on your side. They had much in common with the Rabbi in Fiddler on the Roof- Rabbi was asked if there was a prayer for the Czar.

Yes, "Lord keep the Czar very far away from us"

So, it was with the Greeks. Keep the gods far away from us. Jews hated and despised the Gentile. Now in Christ, Paul indicates that this hatred comes to an end because a new unity, possibility, has come.

Those who were far away have been brought near in Christ Jesus. Jesus, who is our peace, has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility, and made the two groups one.

The dividing wall was the wall in the Temple that separated the back area of the temple, the Court of the Gentiles from the rest of the Temple. Any Gentile who passed beyond that wall would immediately be put to death. Now the wall comes down in Jesus; Let Freedom Ring- Jew and Gentile are one in Christ.

See the sermon to see how this is applied to our world today.

¹-from William Barclay's in his Ephesians Commentary

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

CHOO CHOO! ROCKY RAILWAYS VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!! REGISTER SOON!

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!