



e-News

August 12, 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, August 16 "Relationships and Submission" Ephesians 5:21-33

This Sunday we move into a section of Ephesians that focuses on relationships. Chapter 5 begins with the call to "Follow God's example" (NIV) or "Be imitators of God" (RSV) and to live differently in Christ than the typical way of living espoused in the Greco-Roman world. Now in Ephesians 5:21 we start a section on relationships. The key, as Paul writes here, is to "Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ." This is a call to mutual submission and conciliation in relationships, the first of which is the marriage relationship. Yet we are also being taught about Christ's relationship with his church in these verses.

I look forward to worshipping with you in both our Online Video Worship and Live Worship on Sunday morning. The blessings and strength of Christ Jesus be with you.

--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.

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

See the letter from Karissa below

Dear Members of FPJ;

For nearly three years you all have welcomed me every Sunday morning with bright smiles. I have loved getting to know you, seeing your talents flourish in music or during VBS. Coffee time in Hoffman Hall was always a treat (both figuratively and literally).

In the position of Director of Youth Ministries I have been able to grow as a leader, a public speaker, and a team member.

As 2020 continues to bring change, I have found that my time at FPJ has come to a close. This Sunday, August 16, will be my last Sunday in worship with you all. Some of you may know I began graduate school in January and am working on my Masters in Social Work. This fall I will be continuing my studies and beginning an internship with a private counseling agency. I am very excited about the next chapter of my life!

I will miss your smiles and I already miss your hugs. May you be blessed beyond measure and thank you for every opportunity you've all given me.

Many Blessings,
Karissa

August 9, 2020

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$249,292
Year to Date Expenses	\$212,181

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... Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

On Sunday, August 16, we will think about the reality of mutual submission in relationships. We had quite a storm on Monday, something called a Derecho. What a Derecho it was! It brought 246 miles of a stormfront with 80-100 mph. winds and tornadoes, overturned trucks, cars, trees uprooted and turn apart, etc. When something like this storm comes we must submit to the power and reality of the storm. We seek shelter and safety and hold on until it blows through. I wonder what lessons we learn on submission from this storm? What if we had more mutual submission for the common good in our society today? How might mutual submission help our world?

Karissa has shared her resignation as of September 1 with me and HR and has written a special letter to the congregation in this edition of the E-News. This Sunday we will express our gratitude to Karissa and have a cup cake reception at Coffee Fellowship Time in Hoffman Hall. This is an opportunity to express our appreciation for Karissa's ministry to us through worship, serving our youth and families, as Director of Youth Ministry at First Pres. We are going to miss her presence, teaching and encouragement.

Hope to see you for Hoffman Hall Fellowship this Sunday mornings after the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. We social distance and wear our masks until we get to our spots for special treats to eat and drink. Night Deacons will serve everything from the Kitchen window. And we get to talk with each other and stay current with our lives and faith.

Please continue to make reservations for Live Worship Each Sunday by Noon on Friday. Let us know by Noon on Friday and remember to say how many are coming. You can do that by calling the office and leaving a message or talking to one of us and/or by e-mailing the office. If you forget just call or e-mail one of the Pastors on Saturday and we'll more than likely get you in.

For our Live Worship Services, **we still do not have either the Nursery or Preschool areas open on Sunday for the foreseeable future.** Ed Council and the Session will determine when it is safe to reopen those areas of ministry. **We will continue doing our Online Video Worship Service each week** on both Facebook and YouTube. It is going to take some time 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.

I hope you survived the storm on Monday and do not have a lot of clean up or losses to your home and yard.

Craig

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!

Sunday, August 9 "Follow God's Example" Ephesians 5:1-20

Have you ever taken an inventory of the examples you follow? We live in a world of influencers and sound bites, lots of visual examples of what we should look like, how we should interact with each other, how we should talk or think about the world around us. And still in this world of information coming to us in so many ways, we are faced everyday with finding the right balance between being an example and having the right examples in our lives.

This Sunday's sermon was about finding and following God's example. This is a good time for us to take inventory of who and what we follow, and how those things reflect in to the things we do. I would encourage you to read Ephesians 5:1-20 and pray that God will open the scriptures to us.

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

Project Linus

will meet August 24 at Pat Costion's house, 9am-noon. Please call or text 815-592-1013, or email Pat (pcostion@comcast.net) to confirm you will be there.



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

If interested please contact: (815)483-3376 or jegarlitz@gmail.com