



e-News

August 26, 2020

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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, August 30 "Better Than Duct Tape" Ephesians 6:10-17

Duct tape is handy – I use it more than I should probably admit. It can be good for an emergency hem repair or to temporarily patch a hole in a window screen. Duct tape can repair a garden hose and fix a leaky boat. Yep. It's pretty handy. But even handier? Reinforcing that hem, inspecting that screen and garden hose, regularly maintaining the boat. Preparation is way better than duct tape.

Preparation is what Ephesians 6:10-17 is all about. Many of us may remember the armor of God we learned about in Sunday school. I can remember my kids drawing pictures of the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation; and let's not forget feet fitted with the gospel of peace. Armor not only protects us, it prepares us. Troubled times always come – as we so well know. But they need not catch us unprotected and unprepared.

This Sunday we will think about what it means to "be strong in the Lord and his mighty power." (Eph. 6:10). Good words for not

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

Prayers for strength and recuperating for Judy Korach.

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!

Just continue to shop through

smile. amazon.com

No extra cost, but FPJ receives a contribution! What a great deal!

The Fellowship Tailgate went very well!

Please keep an eye on communications for information on future tailgates! This is a great opportunity to stay safe and keep in touch and enjoy a night with the First Pres community!

August 26, 2020

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$267,122
Year to Date Expenses	\$229,789

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 30 we continue to worship together Live in the Sanctuary and follow all of our social distancing guidelines, as we have been doing. I look forward to seeing you in worship this Sunday whether it's our Live Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. or our Online Video Worship. I am feeling a bit better and stronger each day following my hernia surgery. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Session Meeting on Sunday Worship- Last night we had a special Session Meeting to discuss the Governors "Resurgence Mitigations" for our region. Since churches were not mentioned in the communications and the existing church guidelines are still on the IL website the Session voted to continue worshipping as we are right now. We had a very good and lengthy discussion with 2/3's of the session voting to continue worshipping as we are now and 1/3 voting against that motion. We will continue to pay attention to how we are doing in our region with COVID-19 as we think about worshipping Live at 9:00 a.m. each week.

For Sundays, please remember that for the foreseeable future we are holding only our 9:00 a.m. worship service and have postponed the 10:30 a.m. service due to attendance. We have between 27-46 people attending our 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. We also have suspended Coffee Fellowship during this time until October to be safe. For our Live Worship Services, **we still do not have either the Nursery or Preschool areas open on Sunday for the foreseeable future.**

It's still important and necessary 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.

We have **new toilets** installed in our first floor women's and men's rooms. We also have new toilets installed in our second floor men's and women's rooms with a **new sink** in the women's room as well. So we are saving water with our new more efficient toilets. There will be more to come with updating our bathrooms.

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 keep our society, nation and world in your prayers. **We can't pray too much** for healing, justice, the common good, and peace that is really peace to flourish for all.

Craig

Sunday, August 23 Ephesians 6:1-9

The heart of the text is : Faith Changes Everything. When we understand that no matter who we are, what we do and what we are called to do is shaped by faith, everything takes on a new meaning and purpose. As people of faith we are called to be rebels and visionaries, that will change the world in a meaningful way in a way that mirrors God's Kingdom.

The practical part of our faith in these uncertain times is that we are called to be committed to the Word of God, even when it challenges our understanding of what we are use to.

We are called to be committed to listening. Not everyone has the same life experience as we do. Our culture has changed over the years. The cultural makeup of our communities looks so much different than 20 years ago.

We are also called to be committed to grace. The world today needs your kindness, your compassion, a kind word, a helping hand.

Let faith change everything and let your faith change your world.

Be Blessed,
Bo

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

Staying safe at home? Miss the First Pres Community?

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"