



e-News

August 5, 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 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 I will be preaching 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.

See you Sunday,

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.

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

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.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Russ Mathena is currently hospitalized.

August 2, 2020

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$245,125
Year to Date Expenses	\$197,397

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, August 9, we will Worship together seeking the very presence of God. "God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble" or in any time. Come and worship with us either Online or in Live Worship and celebrate and rest in the very presence of God who has loved us with an everlasting love in Jesus.

Hoffman Hall Fellowship is alive and going on 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. We are doing very well social distancing and worshipping together. 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.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Please say your prayers for healing and wholeness, in our nation and across the world.

Craig

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!

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](https://www.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!

"The Pull of the World and the Way of Christ" *Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)*

This Passage is about Before and After and Now.

Here's the before.

Paul writes, (21-22) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; Put off the old self, the old way of living before you knew Christ.

Here's the after.

(24) and you were taught to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Put on the new self after you came to know Christ Jesus.

It's interesting to note that the before and the after are in the past, one point in time. There was a time before you were a follower of Jesus, so you lived a life that fell short of the hope, joy, and strength that is in Christ.

Then there came a time after you knew Christ when you began to live in the way, the school, the manner of Jesus. You put on the very life of Christ.

Here's the now. Living in the now for which most of the passage is about. It's sandwiched in between the before and the after, the old self and new self.

You were taught, to be made new in the attitude of your minds.

It is significant that "to be made new" is in the present tense. It indicates the need for ongoing, continual renewal.

Once you can say after I knew Jesus, there is the challenge to continue to live into the newness of Christ.

There is the need to strive to develop the fullness of life in Jesus.

This is an ongoing process, as we never arrive, ... we strive to put on more and more of Christ.

Now is a time to consciously live the Christian life.

Before I knew Jesus, I lived a different life.

After I knew Jesus, I began to live for him.

Now I must continue to connect with the way of Jesus, why?

Because the pull of the world, the society, the culture of the day is not for life of faith.

Paul in his letter to the Ephesian Churches wants to be clear about what life in Jesus looks like compared to life in the Greco-Roman culture of the day.

There's a difference.

And it's surprising how tough Paul is in describing the culture of the day.

It's remarkable because he is sent to win Gentiles to faith.

You might think he'd start with a point of commonality.

Instead he paints a stark contrast between the culture and life in Christ.

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