



# e-News

September 23, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org



## Fall Sermon Series “Stronger Together”

We have begun a Fall Sermon Study Series on the Power of Being the Church together. We will Study the New Testament Letter of I Timothy.

Paul writes this letter 3-5 years after being in prison and writing Ephesians. Timothy is the pastor at the Ephesian Church by this time.

We will think about how good it is to be the Church Together. Join us for our Fall Sermon Series through 11/8.

### Sunday, September 27, “Hope for All People” I Timothy 2:1-7 (NIV)

### Sunday, October 4, “Live Well, Lead Well, Serve Well” I Timothy 3:1-13

This Sunday I am preaching on “Hope for All People” from I Timothy 2:1-7. We find Paul urging Timothy that in worship there should be prayers and thanksgiving for all people. Why such a request? Here’s the reason, “<sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Furthermore, Paul reminds Timothy and the people in the Ephesian Church that Jesus “gave himself as a ransom for all people.”

It’s so good to read and to know that we have a God who so loves the world, that in Jesus he wants all people to be saved! I encourage you to pray for all people in your family, neighborhood, city, state, country, and in all world this week. Make this week a week of prayer as you prepare to worship this week-end, whether Online or in Live Worship.

--Craig

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Russ Mathena who passed away last week.

### KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR INFORMATION ON VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Miss Kaleigh and Miss Ellen miss you! We are starting up a virtual Sunday School beginning in October. If you have not received the mail packet or classroom invitation and would like to participate or have questions please email [ellen@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:ellen@firstpresjoliet.org).

We have **1 worship service online** with traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, (YouTube (firstpresjoliet), facebook, our website) or check the email sent each Saturday afternoon.

We are doing one live worship service at 9 am each Sunday. If you plan to attend **MAKE SURE YOU MAKE A RESERVATION**. Seats are not guaranteed unless you rsvp with the office by noon on Friday. To do this call or email the office.

### September 23, 2020

#### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$302,496
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$279,605

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, September 27, MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP on this third week of our "Stronger Together" Sermon Series.** There are three ways you can worship with us: at our Live Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. or our Online Video Worship on either Facebook or on YouTube.

We have 55 people who have already made reservations for Live Worship for this Sunday. We are celebrating a Baptism in Worship and a large group of family members are attending. You must make reservations this Sunday or you will need to wait in Hoffman Hall until we seat those who have made reservations and see if there is room.

**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.

**If you forget to make reservations by Noon on Friday, just call or e-mail one of the Pastors** on Saturday and we'll more than likely get you in (we'll see for this Sunday). **Please remember on Sundays** 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.

**Volunteer at the Northern IL Foodbank on Larkin Ave.** On Saturday, October 17 we are going over to the Northern IL Foodbank as a group from our church. We will meet there at 9:00 a.m. and work until 11:30 a.m. Please call the church or e-mail us to make a reservation. Don't wait, let us know now so we can properly plan. It's a great way to help hungry people in this pandemic time. Food is much needed.

Watch this Fall for more details on our **Virtual Children's Worship/Sunday School** called "Celebrate Wonder." It's designed for Children Preschool through Fifth Grade.

May the grace, mercy and peace of the Lord be with you.

Craig

## SAVE THE DATE!

October 10th Parish Council will be hosting a drive-in movie! What a great and safe way to have some fun with your church family!

MORE DETAILS TO COME

## Sunday September 20th: The Most Amazing View

Timothy 1:12-20 (NIV)

I have wall art in my home that says, "May your trails be crooked and winding, leading to the most amazing view." The most amazing view. My trails have, indeed, been crooked and winding – hopefully less so the more I am able to focus on the MOST amazing view, Jesus.

Jesus is amazing. And so much more! The apostle Paul knew this. His trail had been crooked and winding. Paul the apostle is a person worth listening to and learning from because he lived his life for Christ. Yet, he started out as Saul, who was a blasphemer, a persecutor, a violent man. These traits are not what comes to mind when we describe a faithful follower of Christ. That's the point! Paul says that he was shown mercy because he acted in ignorance and unbelief. Haven't we all, at some point, acted the same? Probably not in the same way as Saul/Paul, but in so many other ways? And yet, there is mercy. Because Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He heaped mercy on us. As a result, we have access to the most amazing view – the love and mercy of Jesus.

It's been a rough year, no doubt about it. Years like this can blur the view, years like this can tempt us to wander back onto some of those crooked and winding paths. It's okay – the view is still there. We just need to turn our faces toward it. This is one of the reasons the church is so important, we are stronger together. We can remind one another who we are in Christ. Not with judgment, or anger, or frustration, but with mercy and faith and love.

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

## Volunteering Opportunity!

Want to help those in need in our community? We are gathering volunteers to help at the Northern Illinois Food Bank here in Joliet. We have done work there in the past as well.

We have limited spots available but plenty of space right now. If you would like to join in helping the community please call or email the office with your name and email for further information.