



# e-News

October 14, 2020

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



## Fall Sermon Series "Stronger Together"

Our Fall Sermon Study Series is on the Power of Being the Church together via the New Testament Letter of 1 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.

### Hope in the Living God (1 Timothy 4:1-16)

1 Timothy 4:10 reads "we have put our hope in the living God". True then and true today. We can put our hope in the living God with full confidence that he is who he says he is, and he keeps his word. We can trust God, rely on his presence and have hope because God is with us.

It's been a long several months. I don't know about each of you, but I'm a little weary of the unknown, the constant change, of wearing my mask. Yet I was reminded in worship last Sunday that despite it FEELING as if we are adrift and alone, we are not. We are not able to gather as a whole church body right now, but we are still together, and because we are together, we are stronger in our faith, ministry, and hope.

In this busy, pandemic-ridden world, it can be hard to slow down and center ourselves on this eternal hope. Life is full of challenges, of mountains and valleys, of joys and sorrow. In Paul's words to Timothy we see the reality of God's love. He loves and calls each of us as well. Paul did not say it would be easy - after all, few things worthwhile are easy. The Words of Scripture hold true today. No matter what struggle we have we can put our hope in the living God.

When I find I've lost track of the hope I have in Christ, or I've simply neglected to spend some time with God, I rely on the ancient words of Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God ;I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

I look forward to worshiping with you this Sunday, to remembering that we are stronger together. I also encourage you to take a moment, each day, to be still, and know.

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for Elizabeth Holman's recovery at St. Joseph

## Save the Date!

First Pres will be hosting another Drive In Movie (TBD) on October 24th!

### PRAISE YOGA

Praise Yoga will be meeting at First Pres again! Tuesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 8 am.

Praise Yoga will be held in Hoffman Hall NOT the Narthex, in order to maintain a safe distance.

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.

### October 14, 2020

#### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$323,671
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$317,039

Received for bathroom renovation—\$11,650

Per Capita: \$38.47

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card  
You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.  
**Thank you** for your generosity.

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Bo Mircea, Pastor

1st Pres is a great place to be, even during these times. Since we reopened for in-person worship on June 28th, every Sunday has been a blessing to see people coming to worship and sharing Christian fellowship and reconnect. During this time we learned to find new ways to fellowship and connect. Tailgate Fellowship dinners and Drive In Movies, are things that I had not been taught in seminary, and yet I found them to be great opportunities for the Church. And I know that God will help us be creative and find new ways to stay connected and continue to minister to one another and to the community around us. So, here are a few opportunities coming up this month:

**1. Oct 14th- Confirmation** class starts tonight. The 2020 confirmation class has seven 8th grade boys. I am sure that it will be a fun and engaging class, full of good questions coming from these young men.

**2. Oct 18th - Youth Group** is starting on Sunday. Matt & Laura Pritz, are looking forward to mentoring all the youth from grade 6th to 12th, every Sunday. I would encourage you to [Sing up with Remind App](#) Go to - [www.remind.com/join](http://www.remind.com/join) Enter Class Code - cf2e63 and get connected with them.

**3. Oct 24th - Another drive in movie!** This past Sunday we had a great first drive in movie. Parish Council had done a fabulous job setting up an old drive in, and welcomed over 10 cars on a nice but windy October day. We are still thinking about what movie to show, on the 24th, but we want to invite you to come and join us for a good spooky time on Western Avenue.

**4. Oct 25 - RALLY DAY!** Oct 25th is Bible Sunday at First Pres, and what better way to celebrate it then, having a Rally Day. Ed Council and Night Deacons are inviting you after the Sunday morning worship service to drive through our parking lot and pick up a Bible, or a bag of goodies for the kids, and meet the youth advisors. Even the adults will have a special surprise on that Sunday. This is no TRICK! IT WILL BE A TREAT!

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo M.

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Reminder: If you are experiencing emotional hardship (depression, grieving etc.) you can reach out to our Stephen Ministry to receive help from a trained team. This can be from someone in our FPJ family or not depending on preference. Everything is confidential. These are hard times but you are not alone, please contact Pastor Craig to be put in touch with Stephen Ministry.

### **Sunday October 11 "Looking in the Mirror" 1 Timothy 3:14-16**

Peace and Grace to you on this day.

This past Sunday I preached on what the Church is. One of the things that Paul mentioned in 1 Timothy 3:14-16 is that "We are the Church of the Living God". That is a great encouragement for all no matter what the day brings your way. I want to encourage you to remember that you are God's and God is at work in your life, using your gifts and talents for the glory of God's Kingdom. At times it may seem that not much is going on, or you might feel that you are not doing enough, and yet God calls you HIS, and takes pride in you.

May this day bring you strength and joy, and let your light shine bright because of God's love.

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

### **CONFIRMATION**

Pastor Bo is looking forward to sharing with our 8th graders ! Confirmation will start 10/14 on Zoom Wednesday nights. When it is safe to do so they will meet in person. If you are interested please contact Bo Mircea via phone or email at [bo.mircea@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:bo.mircea@firstpresjoliet.org)

### **Rally Day!**

Our traditional Bible Sunday is being expanded to a special Rally Day this year! After service on October 25th come drive through our lot to receive your Bible and extra goodies. There will be Bibles and treats for the kids as well!

Don't forget to keep up with First Pres on our social media! On Facebook we can found at First Presbyterian Church of Joliet. On Instagram and Twitter we can be found @ firstpresjoliet.