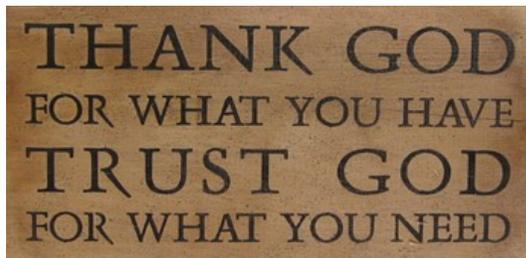




# e-News

November 18, 2020

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



### New Two-Part Sermon Series

#### “Trust and Thanksgiving In Turbulent Times”

We continue a new two-week series as we enter the Thanksgiving Season. The focus is on trusting the Lord for all things and times as well as living in gratitude to God.

Jeremiah teaches us to live in faith and to trust God. We read, “But blessed are those who trust in the Lord.”

We are also reminded in the scriptures to “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.” (Psalm 136:1) Over the next two weeks we will explore what it means to live in trust and to live into thanksgiving.

#### Sunday, November 22, “How Can We Give Thanks?” Isaiah 11:1-11, Romans 8:31-39, I Thessalonians 5:16-18

How can we give thanks in the difficult and challenging times, in which we live? We can remind ourselves of God’s great love, justice, and plan for all the world, which we find revealed in Isaiah 11:1-11. We can remember that “in all things God works for good,” which we read in Romans 8:28 and that “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus,” which we see in Romans 8:38-39. Then we can give deeper thought about what it means “to give thanks in all circumstances” but not for all circumstances. I encourage you to read I Thessalonians 5:16-18 for several days this week as you prepare for Thanksgiving.

--Craig

### STARS OF HOPE DROP OFF

Sunday - Nov. 22 9a - 12n

Sunday - Nov 29 10a -12n

Both will be at the back stairwell entrance

If you cannot make these drop off times please contact Kris Hayden to make arrangements

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

### All in-person activities including Live Worship services are postponed.

While Covid-19 cases rise in our community we are hoping everyone can stay home, stay safe, and do their part in protecting our community.

Please continue checking communications from us for further updates on Holiday Services and when we might be able to worship together again.

We will confidently be continuing our Online Worship for the foreseeable future

For timely communication with staff we recommend email (office@firstpresjoliet.org) since we are largely working remotely. Voicemails will be checked and returned as possible.

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.

### November 16, 2020

#### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$364,363
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$368,458
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... Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

**On Sunday, November 22**, We are worshipping again, only through Online Video Worship each weekend. We have suspended Live Worship on Sundays at 9 a.m. given the growth in covid-19 cases in our area. Worship with us, as we have been since March 22, on FaceBook and YouTube. The Worship service is available on Saturday evenings and remains online for you to Worship at the best time for you.

**Interim Pastor Search Committee** plans are coming together. The Session has decided to have the HR Council invite 2-3 congregational members to join HR in forming the search committee for an Interim Pastor. The goal is to have an Interim Pastor ready to start serving at First Pres the beginning of May, as I am retiring on May 1. Please pray for HR and the additional members they will add to form the search committee.

**For the Advent Season** we are not going to order 120 poinsettia's this year. We are going to decorate the front of the Sanctuary/Worship Center for our Online Video Worship services. We will acquire some poinsettia's to add some color to the Christmas Trees and Characters from our large Manger Creche setting for the front of the church.

**Instead of purchasing poinsettia's** we invite you to **make donations to the church for the Northern IL Food Bank** in memory of loved ones and to the Glory of God. Every **\$1 you give will help provide \$8 worth of groceries** for hungry people.

Our **Virtual Children's Worship/Sunday School** called "Celebrate Wonder" is going very well. In fact, some of the children are telling their parents that they want to do their "church stuff" as soon as they start their day! It's designed for Children, Preschool through Fifth Grade. If you have not yet received it call the office to be a part of a great learning experience for our children.

If you would like to participate in our Online Worship Services by being a liturgist please let the Worship Council (Sue Mueller, Sarah Lundeen, Tandy Penhale) know by calling or e-mailing the office. It is easy to record prayers and scripture readings.

I anticipate worshipping with you this weekend in our Online Video Worship Service via Facebook or YouTube! I hope to see you there. Last Sunday, 572 people or more worshipped with us! There were 347 devices used on YouTube and 225 on Facebook.

Craig

## **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, November 15 "Trust Amidst Turmoil" Psalm 20:1-9, Jeremiah 17:7-8, Mark 9:14-24**

I invite you to think with me more deeply about the significance of trust. I would submit to you that Trust is necessary for our day-to-day life. Living in distrust will dramatically alter our lives.

Whenever we drive somewhere: church, going home; we trust stop signs we trust traffic lights will be obeyed; people will stay in their lanes...

If you decide to purchase anything this week, you trust it works.

I needed a new shaver, paid my money, went home and it shaves or if it didn't I could exchange it for another one or get money back.

Online purchases continue growing each and every year; huge in this pandemic. When you choose a product, book, purse, shirt shoes, or whatever; you provide your credit card and you trust that the item will be mailed to you, you trust that it will work, you trust that your credit card number will be used once, and you trust that no one else will be given your credit card number. If you need to go to the bank or credit union this week you trust that your money is going to be there.

We all know special people in our lives who say yes, I'll do this or that, and they always come through.

We are grateful that we can count on them.

I hope you have some "always come-through people" in your life.

Right now, in our climate of political polarization and contentiousness a lot of people are living in the land of distrust and skepticism. The land of distrust is a most disconcerting place to try to live.

Thank God for those always come-through people in our lives, whom we trust.

If we trust other people how much better and greater is it to trust in God.

There are benefits for Trusting in God. Here are four benefits that flow to us.

**Perplexing Anxiety**, freedom from such anxiety and rest for one's spirit.

**Prayers** are worth praying for the Lord wants to answer.

**Provision**; we have a God who provides.

**Presence**; we live in the presence of God who is good.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

Trust is blessed by God, and Blessed means a deep and abiding joy a sense of strength, meaning, and happiness rooted in the Lord.

May you know the blessedness of trusting in the Lord God.

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

Check out our Ministry Plan on our website! Look under the "About" section, in "Purpose" This will be posted soon