



# e-News

November 4, 2020

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

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

All men are invited to join a Bible study here at First Pres in Room 210 on Saturday mornings at 7:30 am. **Masks and social distancing are REQUIRED.**

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and notes in celebration of my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at First Pres. The kind words and warm wishes mean the world to me, and prove that my First Pres. family is amazing! I am blessed to work in such a wonderful place. May God richly bless each and every one of you. -Jen Gabl

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.

November 4, 2020

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$347,453
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$343,340

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.



### Fall Sermon Series "Stronger Together"

We are in our final three weeks of our Fall Sermon Study Series on the Power of Being the Church together.

We have been studying the New Testament Letter of 1 Timothy. Paul wrote this letter 3-5 years after being in prison and after 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 in our Fall Sermon Series through November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday November 8th, 2020**

### **1 Timothy 6:11-21 - Fight the Good Fight**

This Sunday I am preaching on 1 Timothy 6:11-21 - Fight the Good fight. Do you ever feel like quitting? I really mean quitting to fight or stand for what is right? Or maybe you have wondered why doing the right thing feels like it is the wrong thing? How come the evil ones, the bad guys seem to win while the good people seem to lose? These are some of the questions I have as I read Paul encouraging Timothy on doing the right thing. At times we can be discouraged by all the things that are happening around us and forget the call that God has on our lives. And that is a big one! God called you to fight the good fight, to stay as a witness and a testimony to his grace.

This Sunday we will explore how God gives us power and strength to fight the good fight.

Praying for all this day. See you Sunday.

Be Blessed, 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.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

**On Sunday, November 8,** We finish up our "Stronger Together" Series this Sunday. Following church the Night Deacons will be outside with Donuts on a Stick and Apple Cider for a time of outdoor, social-distanced, fellowship.

**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.

**New Sermons Series** starting the following week. On Sunday, November 15 I will begin a two-part sermon series on "Trust and Thanksgiving In Turbulent Times." Sunday, November 15 I will focus on "Trust Amidst Turmoil" and then on Sunday, November 22 I preach on "How Can We Give Thanks?"

The HR Council reviewed and **updated Bo's Job Description as our Associate Pastor** to make sure it reflects all of the ways in which Bo is serving at First Pres., which the Session approved. The big addition to Bo's ministry that needed to be represented was all of the work that Bo does to put together our Online Video Worship Services. Bo puts all of the parts together with transitions and uploads the service to both Facebook and YouTube each week. The Session voted to give Bo a raise because of this significant addition to his ministry. I hope you will thank and encourage Bo in all of his ministry areas and service as our Associate Pastor.

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.

Thank you for making **RESERVATIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP each Sunday.** We think things are going very well for our socially-distanced Live Worship Service each week. 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.

**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. .

Craig

## **STARS OF HOPE**

Stars of Hope will be available again this year!  
For information please contact Kris Hayden.  
1(815)258-8617 or tkkhay@yahoo.com.  
The due date for wrapped items will be  
Sunday November 29th.

## **Sunday, November, "On Caring For Others" I Timothy 6:2b-10, Luke 12:13-21**

What is taught in the University has a way of eventually influencing what plays out in the streets of society. Think about Google and Facebook; both started by college students. What happens in the University plays out into the streets. And what happens in the streets filters into the sanctuary. What occurs in the culture enters the church.

That's been true for centuries and we see it right here in I Timothy, in Ephesus. We find the Greco-Roman culture crossing the Aegean Sea to the city of Ephesus entering the church and creating problems. There were many wandering teachers, sophists, wise men who wanted to teach. As churches opened up in many, many cities, wandering teachers showed up.

False teachers were entering the church. They do not possess true godliness with contentment, which is great gain. Instead they are interested in their own self-aggrandizement and financial gain. They bring contentiousness and a platform for their own profit into the church. But first, let's focus on the contentiousness they created in Ephesus.

Their use of tantalizing teaching instead of the truth of Christ and seductive words rather than the sound instruction of Jesus was extremely disruptive and corrosive. We can see the same dynamic in our culture today.

We are enmeshed in a cascading sea of confrontational politics. I'm on the good side, you are on the bad side...you are evil. Your positions and candidate will bring the end of our world. (both sides). Your thoughts and policies are our worst nightmare. Just when people really need to truly talk and listen they are not.

And as all of this divisiveness continues people think the worst of the other side. In their minds, they develop the worst possible scenarios of what they think anyone who disagrees with them could be like.

But remember it's the United States; people are free to vote as they decide to vote.

We are headed for worse things if this strife continues. Hatred cannot cast out hatred. Hatred is simply not a solid foundation for a good and civil society.

As followers of Christ Jesus it is not our mandate to increase the quota of strife in our world. It is not our mission to magnify and expand malicious talk. It is not our calling to create constant friction between people. Godliness is not a means to spread evil suspicions.

If we are on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter it's not an excuse to be ugly Christians by what we write, text, portray, or put into video.

Please if you are spouting ugliness, judgmental and caustic statements, on social media if you are writing and saying things to others that you would never, ever say in person...please don't let anyone know you are a follower of Jesus.

Don't tell others how you go to church or First Pres....

Perhaps you will want to visit our website to finish the sermon.

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