



e-News

January 20, 2021

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



“Seek Life” Sermon Series

We have choices within our reach as we move into 2021. We can move in the direction of what is good and choose to “Seek Life.” We do not know all that will unfold, in this new year. The Covid-19 Pandemic is still very much with us, although vaccines are on the way. Political polarization and estrangement are, unfortunately, still a powerful reality. The economy is demanding and there are hardships for too many. Who knows what the surprising developments of 2021 will be, whether they will be good or bad. And of course, we long for something better than 2020.

Even with all of the challenges we face, there are some things in life over which we have some control, some say. We can choose to “Seek Life” and move toward what is good, right, and true in this new year. We can ask the Lord Jesus Christ to mold and shape us more fully into the people we were created to be and seek to bring life to our corner of the world.

This Sermon Series focuses on the faithful, positive, and hopeful choices we can make to “Seek Life” and choose the good as 2021 takes shape.

Sunday, January 24- “Forgiveness: Peace with the Past”

Psalm 49:1-9, Romans 12:14-21, Mathew 6:14-15, 18:21-22

We owe a great deal to the fact that Peter had a quick tongue. He was impetuous on more than one occasion. Peter rushed into speech often but he drew from Jesus teaching which is so vitally significant to being a Christ follower. Peter asks, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive...Up to seven times?” Jesus answered him, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” What did Jesus mean? What did Jesus intend in this following saying? “But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” We will think about this in worship. Join us this weekend.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers to the friends and family of Ruth Oyer who passed 1/12. Ruth was a former Day Deacon moderator and Administrative Assistant at the church.

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. Everything is confidential. These are hard times but you are not alone, please contact Pastor Craig to be put in touch with Stephen Ministry.

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.

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Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$506,113
Year to Date Expenses	\$504,794

Northern Il Food Pantry \$4,346.50 (thanks!)

2020-2021 Bequest/Gift Income Received \$4,200
Bathroom remodel \$12,000
Christmas Joy \$2,205(thanks!)

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

Sunday, January 24, Come worship with us in spirit and in truth. Mysteriously, even though we are not physically together in worship, somehow spiritually we are united in Christ Jesus. God crosses the miles between us and is present.

Prayers are still needed for our nation, leaders, and people. Prayers of the followers of Jesus are important as we read in scripture: "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (1 Peter 3:12)
"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16) Please pray for peace and reconciliation where there is deep seated hatred of the other across our country.

Tracy Norris has served, working part-time, as our Church Treasurer for 23 years. She has accepted a full-time position and will continue to work for us until we find a new treasurer. We will miss her very much and want to thank her for all of her faithful and caring service as our treasurer. Included a mailing you should receive this week is an envelope with a blue return address label with "Thank You Tracy" on it for you to provide a gift and say thanks.

Angel House Mission continues to make a wonderful difference in many children's lives. It was so good to receive a new mailing and see the current pictures of Rhobi, Bhoke, and Lucia. They have grown so much over the years. Angel House Mission is serving Christ in Tanzania and surviving the covid-19 pandemic. We recently received a mailing with new pictures of Rhobi, Bhoke, and Lucia. Please keep the children, the three young women, and the school in your prayers. Watch for an upcoming e-mail on Angel House.

The Season of **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17.** That's less than a month away. We are planning for an Online Worship Service for Ash Wednesday. We are hoping things will improve for us to be open for live worship sometime later in Lent.

Craig

It's not too late to join in on our Virtual Sunday School !

Miss Kaleigh and Miss Ellen have all sorts of fun activities and lessons available for kids pre-K through 5th grade!

Even if you're not able to follow our lessons we both want you know that we miss everyone, we hope everyone is keeping safe, and we can't wait to see you again!!

Sunday, January 17- "Brave in the Middle of the Storm"

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus and his disciples caught in the middle of the storm on the sea of Galilee is a great reminder to us all that as believers we are on the same boat. We follow Jesus, believe that the Kingdom of God is ahead and we all are called to do our part in the work of the Gospel. While bravery looks different for each one of us, and at times we are called to be extraordinary in our lives, there are a few acts of bravery that we are called to each day.

Faith is our vehicle of bravery. We stand in faith when we speak words that build, that glory God, and that calls people closer to the Kingdom of God. We stand in faith in our approach to everything we do. The church is the place where love goes beyond our human limitations, and inspires us to be one. Faith helps us bend our knees before Christ as our source of life. We come each day and we receive the words of faith before anything else, looking for the voice of the shepherd before anything else, and out of that we become brave in our prayers and our duplications.

Be brave, because God has given you not a spirit of fear but of power, love and self-discipline.

Blessings, Bo M.

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



Check your email or our website tomorrow for the updates of Rhobi, Bhoke, and Lucia, the women we sponsor at the Angel House in Tanzania! We even received updated photos of those we sponsor and help fund their education!