



“Team Jesus: Who are You in the Church?” Sermon Series

In this series we will think about all of the various kinds of people we need to be the church today. We need those who depend upon the Good Shepherd. We need people who will provide resources, act on their faith, and show appreciation. The church needs servants who will stand with those in need no matter how difficult the situation. We need members who will teach and mentor others, and more. During the Lenten Season as we anticipate Easter, we will look at those who followed Jesus in the New Testament and see what we can learn about ourselves and about the Church of Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

**“Real Talk: John the Baptist”
Mark 1:4-11**

You should receive the link to this service this afternoon.

**Sunday, February 21 “Someone who Shows Potential”
Peter -Matthew 16:13-20**

So many times we have looked at Peter as a spiritual giant, and we tend to forget his humble beginnings. The more we look into his life, we can identify with it, with his struggle to grow in faith and even with his ups and downs in his faith. And yet, Jesus looks at him and see the great potential, the growth opportunity that is in Peter.

This Sunday we will follow along his life, learn along the way and find our own points of growth. The church is more than a place to go and worship, it is a place of growth and opportunity to fall and get up again. The glue that holds it together is Jesus’s grace, something we all are in need of.

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 resuming live service. There will be one service at 9 a.m. Sunday morning, with mandatory masks and social distancing. Reservations are also required by contacting the office by noon on the Friday before.

e-News

February 17, 2021

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Willa Millerin.

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.

FOOD PANTRY HELP

We are looking for one more volunteer to pledge to take care of the 4th Friday of each month.

Micro Pantry’s are meaningful in our community, and extra important in these days where more are living in financial instability.

If you are interested at all please email Sherry Jones at we1plus1@live.com and she will share more info with you!

February 17, 2021

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$548,159
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 544,118
2020-2021 Bequest/Gift Income Received	\$5,200
Bathroom remodel	\$12,000
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, Pastor

Sunday, February 21, We start back with Live Worship this Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. We will wear masks and social distance just as we have in the past when we worshipped Live from June 28 to November 8, 2020. You need to let us know you are coming and make reservations. If you arrive without making a reservation we will seat those who made reservations first and ask you to wait in Hoffman Hall. If we have enough room then we will invite you in to worship in the Sanctuary or Worship Center. I look forward to seeing some of you this Sunday! Hopefully the snow will cooperate with us.

Lent begins today, Wednesday, February 17th. It's Ash Wednesday! It's exciting to begin our spiritual journey focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus culminating in grand celebration on Easter. We are worshipping Online this evening. Watch for your e-mail with the links to online worship. A **New Lenten Sermon Series** begins tonight, "**Team Jesus: Who Are You in the Church?**" In this series we will think about all of the various kinds of people we need to be the church today.

I hope you will use the **Lenten Season Devotional "Places of the Passion"** which we mailed to you a week ago. Today we begin. I found these words, by Reed Lessing, so helpful today, "To know Jesus is to trust Jesus; to trust Jesus is to love Jesus; to love Jesus is to follow Jesus." I believe God will work in and through us as we think about the Lord Jesus each day together. We have suspended our blog scripture study online so we can all use "Places of the Passion" together in our Lenten Journey.

Please remember we are receiving a special offering in February for our **yearly support for Rhobi, Bhoke, and Lucia** at Angel House Mission. We support their journey of faith and education and their housing, food, and clothing. Each year we send \$1,560 for each one. If you would like to contribute to their support use one of the envelopes you recently received.

We begin the Spiritual Journey of Lent today! Blessings, peace, and hope!

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!

These lessons will be continuing in the virtual format for the foreseeable future. Live services are resuming at First Pres but there will be no childcare or preschool available on Sundays until we are more confident in the safety of it.

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

Last Sundays Sermon- "Seek Life" Series

Sunday, February 14 "Reflection: Providence Favors the Prepared Mind"
Romans 12:1-2 (NIV & Message Bible), Matthew 5:13-16, Mark 12:28-31

Today, I invite you to think with me about reflection, the nuances of reflection, the different sides to reflection, the beauty of reflection.

Probably one of the first reflections that we see each morning is ourselves in the mirror.

Now before you say ouch, not good. I want you to think of the beauty of seeing, a person made in the image of God, a human being lovingly and carefully created, gifted by God, loved by the Lord Jesus Christ, ransomed with a redemptive potential in mind, made for a meaningful purpose.

Think about that beauty before you see bed head, the sleep that needs combed away, washed away, make-uped away. Yes, some mornings like you I don't much see the beauty; for some mornings I hear the voice of comedian Dana Carvey speaking to me - scary, scary, it's scary.

Yet there is a beauty in seeing the reflection of a human being created, loved, sustained by God.

How about the beauty of seeing yourself in a reflection of the Chicago skyline, in the sculpture nicknamed The Bean. How about seeing the reflection of the mountains on the beautiful Glacier Lake?

Just as sure as the Millennium Bean and Glacier Lake have a reflection so do you and I have a reflection. But, beyond that simple reflection in the mirror, that surface reality; I am thinking in a bigger sense,

What is the reflection of our life?

What do others see in our reflection?

What do we reflect to other people?

Do we reflect the love, joy, determination, and redemptive hope of Jesus Christ? Or do we reflect anger, discouragement, despair, and selfishness? Does our reflection depend on the changing realities of the day?

One day we're up, full of love, energy, and hope... and another day we're in a different place...

I believe that we reflect what we reflect upon.

We mirror back what we allow to shine into our life.

What captures our attention, interest, passion, energy, and imagination is what we reflect. We reflect what we put into our mind.

As we think so we are.

As we think so we feel.

As we think so we see.

As we think so we act.

That's why Paul writes, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God."

Become transformed by the renewal of your mind.

This is learning to look at life on the basis of God's view of reality.

It's developing a spiritual sensitivity and perception to the mind of Christ.

Steve Uzzell, photographer for National Geographic says "Providence favors the prepared mind."