



**“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.

**Sunday, February 21 “Oceans of Want: We All Need the Shepherd”**

**II Corinthians 8:7-12, Matthew 6:19-24, Psalm 23:1**

We live in a society that usually magnifies many things for us to want. In this time, we can have most anything delivered right to our house or apartment. Our wants can really grow sometimes. Most of all, we all probably just want to be free of the Covid-19 pandemic, for everyone to be vaccinated, and to get back to what we used to think of as “normal” life. When we allow our faith to speak to us we can think about the power of the first verse of Psalm 23, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” How do we get to that place in life? Always, it is by faith. May God strengthen our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Come join us this weekend either in Live Worship or Online Worship to think about living in faith. For faith is what puts us on Jesus’ Team.

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 24, 2021

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

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Willa Millerin who passed on 2/18/21.

Prayers of healing and recovery for Jim Gabl who is having surgery on 2/25/21.

## 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.

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

## February 24, 2021

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$554,961
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$ 564,200

2020-2021 Bequest/Gift Income Received	\$5,200
Angel House Mission	\$470
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.

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

**Sunday, February 28**, This is our second Sunday back for Live Worship at 9:00 a.m.

The Worship Band is playing and singing and the Glory Ringers are playing handbells and we will get to sing along with them. 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.

**Reservations for Live Worship:** Please let us know you are coming to Live Worship by making reservations. Just e-mail or call the office and we will sign you up. 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 you this Sunday.

**Lent has started!** We are making our spiritual journey focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus culminating in grand celebration on Easter. We have a **New Lenten Sermon Series**, **"Team Jesus: Who Are You in the Church?"** In this series are thinking about all of the various kinds of people we need to be the church today.

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.

**Mission Council, through our International Mission** line item in the church budget, has given \$5,000 to help people in need around the world. The following items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog were purchased: A family farm bundle to start a farm with chickens, goats, piglets, a cow, tools, and training; a fishing boat with accessories, a garden pump well, a latrine, sewing machines, pair of goats, families of chickens and bee hives. All of these will make a better life for people in need around the world. Thank you for faithfully supporting the mission of First Pres. in the world.

"To know Jesus is to trust Jesus; to trust Jesus is to love Jesus; to love Jesus is to follow Jesus." **From our Lenten Season Devotional "Places of the Passion"** by Reed Lessing

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.**

### Last Sundays Sermon- "Seek Life" Series

#### **"Someone who Shows Potential" Peter -Matthew 16:13-20**

Simon Peter's story is an amazing story of redemption and potential. When Jesus walked by the shore of Galilee he saw that potential in Peter. Not only that he would a great leader for the church, but also the battle that he would face. Peter had to overcome many of his prejudices and learn how to be a spiritual leader and not let his human nature overtake the potential in him.

That story is very familiar to all of us. Peter had to learn to submit to the authority of God, and live his life away from pride. He learned that we all are called to love beyond our measure, and that love covers a multitude of sins. When faced with the truth of God we too are faced with the call to submit to God's will.

For Peter, his passion for Jesus helped him overcome all his weaknesses. His passion fueled his love for Jesus and the church, made him a better man, a better leader and indeed the foundation of the church.

The question we are all faced with today is:  
Do I love the Lord above else?

In that answer we will find our potential, we will find our call. May We all say: You, know that I love you Lord.

Blessings, Bo

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

### RE-OPENING

First Pres has resumed live service, with one service on Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Masks are required to be properly worn at all times, and social distancing will be enforced.

Reservations are required. Contact the office by Friday at noon to reserve a spot. Spots are not guaranteed without a reservation, attendance is being limited.

Small groups may be returning, contact your group leader for more information.