



# e-News

February 3, 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. 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, February 7- “Hope: Beyond Wishful Thinking”

Psalm 130:3-5, I Peter 1:3-12

The Lord God is our source of hope. This Weekend we will think about the foundation of our hope and how we can hold on to hope in any season. Read through Psalm 130 and I Peter 1:3-12 and come worship in hope with all of your friends in Christ this weekend.

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.

## 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.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies to Anita Boe and her family on the passing of Katherine Boe, Anita’s daughter, on 12/18/20

Kim Belfield would like to thank everyone for their thoughts wishes and gifts for her recent retirement as nursery supervisor.

## FOOD PANTRY HELP

We are looking for more people to help keep the Micro Pantry stocked/managed. If you are interested at all please email Sherry Jones at we1plus1@live.com and she will share more info with you! This can be each week, twice a month, once a month, whatever works best to keep up regularly that can be arranged.

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

## February 3, 2021

### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$535,364
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$ 530,363
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 7,** We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion this Weekend in worship. Plan to have your bread and grape juice ready for worship when we worship together online. We will give thanks for the incredible love of God given to us in Christ Jesus.

The Season of **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17.** That's in only two weeks. 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 after Ash Wednesday. **Watch** for our mailing to you next week of the **Lenten Season Devotional "Places of the Passion."** It's based on passages from the Gospel of Matthew. It's an opportunity for us all to examine the same scripture and focus on the Lord Jesus in Lent, as we make our way to Easter.

**Our children will be receiving a Lenten Mailing** with some really special activities and things to do to make their way to Easter. They will receive a Devotional, "My Holy Week Journey" just for them. There will also be a "Prayer Cube" and a Magnetic Puzzle on the life of Jesus. Keep an eye on your mailbox for our kids.

**Our Micro Food Pantry is very busy** this time of year and in the midst of the pandemic. Sherry Jones is working with our volunteers to organize the stocking and care of the Micro Food Pantry. Take a look at her article in the E-News and **let her know if you can help.** She has a very good system going and more people can participate.

May the peace, grace, and joy of the Lord Jesus be with you!

Craig

The birthday calendar for February is available on the homepage of our website.

**Last Sundays Sermon- "Seek Life" Series**  
**Sunday, January 31- "Purpose: What's Your Why?" Isaiah 42:1-9**

God has given us a purpose in this world - as a worldwide group of Christians, as a church and as individuals. There is a purpose for Jesus in the Old Testament, found in Isaiah 42:1-9. We can see this purpose carried out in the New Testament.

The ministry, the why, God assigned Jesus overarchingly is to restore God's right order to the world. It is about forgiveness of sin for sure! But also it is about dealing with all the effects of sin in the world.

Jesus calls his disciples (those first twelve and all of us) to be lights in this world. Each disciple, empowered by the Holy Spirit, uses their gifts and abilities to carry out their purpose, their "why" for the glory of God. We each have a why - it may change as our season of life changes, but it's always there. Jesus fulfilled his why, his purpose, with love, grace and gentleness. As we read in Isaiah, he does not break an already bent reed, nor does he snuff a candle that is barely flickering. As we figure out our why, and as we follow Jesus, we must keep that in mind.

What's your why? Mission is always the priority. Being sent forth in the name of Christ so others get to know him is the main thing. Always. Sometimes we get distracted and forget to keep the main thing the main thing. This time in history is an excellent time to pull ourselves back and refocus ourselves on Jesus, on God, who never, never changes. Even in times such as these.

I'm so excited about seeing Jesus' why in Isaiah's words that I want to encourage you to think about your why. Ask yourselves these questions:

What skills and abilities do you have?  
What personality traits has God gifted you with?  
What about the mission of God excites your passion?

May God bless with the certainty that you are his dearly loved child and that he has a why created just for you.

Peace be with you!

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