



e-News

March 24, 2021

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for healing and recovery for Allen Brooks on his upcoming surgery

“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.

Palm Sunday, March 28 “Someone who Shows Appreciation: the Leper” Luke 17:11-19; Mark 11:1-11

On Palm Sunday we think of the crowds who shouted out their praises and hosannas to Jesus. The people genuinely honor and praise Jesus. This is a different crowd than the one, which was organized by the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law to shout out crucify him to Pilate, very early on the morning of Good Friday. The crowd on Palm Sunday shows their appreciation of Jesus as he rides into Jerusalem. We also see true appreciation of Jesus from the one Leper who was healed and returned to praise God and offer thanksgiving. We will think about the value of appreciation as we worship together on this Palm Sunday.

We have **1 worship service online** with traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, (YouTube (firstpresjoliet), facebook, our website).

There is one service at 9 a.m. Sunday morning. Reservations are required by contacting the office by noon on the Friday before.

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.

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.

March 24, 2021

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$612,464
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 613,522
2020-2021 Bequest/Gift Income Received	\$6,200
Angel House Mission	\$2,255
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

Palm Sunday, March 28, Come and Worship, come and worship to celebrate the Lord Jesus as King on this Palm Sunday. In Live Worship at 9:00 a.m. there will experience a variety of music. There will be hymns, a solo, the Glory Ringers will play, and the Worship Band will play and sing. For our Online Video-Worship there will also be a variety of music. We are wearing masks and social distancing in our Live Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.

On Palm Sunday we are having a Rally in the parking lot across the street after the 9:00 a.m. Live Worship Service. There will be special treats for all of the children as well as adults. Watch for more details.

We are offering Live Worship on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. We will also celebrate communion together in the service. We will also have an Online Maundy Thursday Worship Service on Holy Week.

On Easter Sunday we will have two Live Worship Services. Both services will be the same in terms of music, hymns, songs, and sermon. The Live Worship Service times are **9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** Please make your reservations for either service as soon as possible to reserve a place.

For Easter Sunday, April 4th, we are ordering Easter Flowers to celebrate! You can order Lilies, Mums, or Tulips for \$12 each pot. You can mail in your order to the office or you can also order flowers online as well. We will publish the names of those who ordered flowers in memory of loved ones and to the glory of God, as we have done in the past. This Sunday, March 28th is the last day to order.

The Men's Study Group is starting up again tonight, Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. Mark Morrison is leading the study. See the details in our E-News.

"Jesus forgives freely, unconditionally and eternally." "Give thanks to the Lord, his steadfast love endures forever."

Craig

Men's Study Group

If you are looking to be motivated, uplifted or inspired? I have the book for you "Love Does" by Bob Goff. We start Wednesday March 24 at 6:30 P.M. We will be using a hybrid model. If you want to meet in person we will be in room 210, for those of you who would rather Zoom we will be using it also. You can pick up your books in the church office. I really miss meeting with you guys and I will see you soon.

The link for the Zoom call is available on our website and social media.

Last Sundays Sermon

Sunday, March 21 "A Lesson About the Power of Grace: Zacchaeus" Luke 19:1-10

The encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus is one of the most beloved stories in Sunday School. We all know the tune and how catchy that is. What stands out in this story is how grace reaches out in a powerful way.

That grace translates as acceptance and understanding. That grace opens the door for grace filled conversations that lead to change.

Transformational grace is not about a sermon, or telling people how wrong they are, transformational grace is about an invitation, where one can see who Jesus is. Too many times we forget to walk across the room and get to know people.

Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus and said

"I must spend time with you."

I would like to encourage you to remember those words: "I must spend time with you."

People need the presence of Jesus in their lives, and the people of faith are just that. Some people need a little help to see Jesus. Let us all be people of grace, a grace that welcomes, a grace that is open for conversations, a grace that lifts people up.

Have a grace filled week,
Bo M.

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

Bible Study

There is a Men's Bible Study group meeting each Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. This group meets in room 210 at First Pres.

PALM SUNDAY RALLY!

Sunday March 28th 10 - 11 a.m.

After the Palm Sunday Worship Service, hop in your car and come drive through the lot and get some nice goodies for all ages!