



**“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, March 7 “Someone who Provides: Lydia”**  
**Acts 16:11-15, 40; Mark 12:41-44; Proverbs 30:7-9**

Every church needs providers and supporters; those who give of their time, talents, and resources to make the life, ministry, and mission of the church a living reality. This week we will think of a variety of Christ-Followers in the New Testament that provided for the support of the early church. Each one gave in their own way out of how God had blessed them. They understood Jesus’ words, “It is more blessed to give than it is to receive.” Some were poor, some were rather wealthy, and others were ordinary middle class folks; yet all gave in some way as they were led by God. We can learn from their faith and example as we seek to follow Jesus in our day and time.

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

March 3, 2021

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

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Martha Haines who passed on February 25th.

### EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill in below and mail to the church office. Please make checks payable to “First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers”. Online payment will be available as well. The deadline for ordering is March 21st.

How many? (at \$12/pot):

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies \_\_\_ Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Mums

Our/ My Easter Flowers are given:

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(please use exact wording to be posted on our website)

This form will also be available on our website.

### March 3, 2021

#### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$560,641
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$ 583,789
2020-2021 Bequest/Gift Income Received	\$5,200
Angel House Mission	\$720
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, March 7,** On this Third Sunday of Lent we are celebrating the Lord's Supper in our Live Service at 9:00 a.m. and in our Online Worship Service as well.

The Worship Band is playing and singing and Holly Tomashek is singing and leading us on some Hymns for Live Worship. We are wearing masks and social distancing very well as we come back to live worship services

**We continue to enthusiastically support our International Mission** through our church budget. Mission Council just gave \$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.

**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.

**We are ordering Easter Flowers to celebrate this coming Easter, April 4!** You can order Lilies, Mums, or Tulips for \$12 each pot. We will have the order form in the E-News. 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.

Yesterday's reading in **our Lenten Season Devotional "Places of the Passion"** by Reed Lessing, taught us, "If you're self-righteous, you'll never be happy. That's because humble and happy always go together."

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Craig

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

### **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.

### **Last Sundays Sermon**

**Sunday, February 21 "Oceans of Want: We All Need the Shepherd"**  
**II Corinthians 8:7-12, Matthew 6:19-24, Psalm 23:1**

The Ocean continues to capture my attention. It's so vast and expansive. I've been to the ocean many times. I've seen the vast ocean-scape and felt the waves. The waves just keep rolling in, there's no stopping them. And there's the fascination of high tide and low tide. The edge of the waves and water recede at low tide; and return at high tide.

Most of us, at least once, have been to the ocean and stood before the vast expansive waters. And there's a sense in which we all do this; for we stand and live before or in the midst of that vast ocean called want.

Our world, society, and social media create a vast Ocean of wants, the waves relentlessly roll in upon us, washing up all over us. Oceans of want lapping up into our lives: we want bigger, nicer, faster, thinner, younger, shinier, better, brighter, newer.

The wants can be subtle like the high tide slowly returning to the shores of our desire. just one thing will do; One new job, new car, new spouse, new computer, new boat, new landscape, room, or house.

We are tempted to think that when we have that one new thing...we will be happy, content, the oceans of desire and want will be calm, and smooth.

But then it happens, the fresh paint dulls, the new car gets a ding/scratch. The new job gets boring. Our neighbor builds a better deck. The new spouse or significant other has irritating habits. Folks we missed during the pandemic and see again, disappoint us. The sizzle, fizzles; the freshness fades, the mundane maligns our joy. And the high tide of want returns.

Sometimes wants storm into our lives, and we long for low tide, places we can stand against the ocean of wants rolling discontent across our days and lives.

If our joy, or purpose, or meaning is one package away, one trophy away, one purchase away then we are swimming in an ocean of want.

Max Lucado said it so well, "if your happiness comes from something you deposit, drive, drink, or digest, then face it---you are in prison, the prison of want."

"If we feel better when we have more and worse when we have less" we are drowning in discontent; the waves of want are winning.

But wait, there's good news in a world of want. There's a place where discontent vanishes.

Scripture reassures us, that there's a place where the ocean waves of want become still waters.

Scripture says listen, listen like you do when you put a sea shell up to your ear on the beach where you first found it.

Listen, listen to this, can you hear it? David says, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. With the Lord, the shepherd, wants and discontent disappear. The Lord is our real treasure in the ocean seas of want and desire.