



TEAM JESUS:  
Who are YOU in the Church?



**“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.

**Maundy Thursday, April 1 “A Lesson about Mission on God’s Grace: Judas”**

**Matthew 26:14-30, Exodus 12:1-14**

"On Maundy Thursday the church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three key events in Jesus' last week: his washing of his disciples' feet, his institution of the Lord's Supper, and his new commandment to love one another. This service begins the

Triduum, the three-day period from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day. The name "Maundy Thursday" comes from the Latin *man datum novum*, referring to the "new commandment" Jesus taught his disciples (John 13:34). In other words, this is "new commandment Thursday."

(The Worship Source Book)

As we look at this new commandment that Jesus has for his disciples, we have to confront Judas and his decisions. As we read Matthew 26:14-30, let us remember that the Last Supper is a place of grace, a place of love and each and everyone of the disciples are welcomed by their teacher. As we look at Judas - A story of missing God's grace, I would invite you to think about Judas as one of the people that followed Jesus, of all the things he got to experience what might of lead him to the decision he made. At the end of the day Judas' story is still a story of grace and of unrealized potential. Let us look with hope in your heart, toward the last supper, toward the cross and let us invite our teacher, our Lord to come and dwell once again in our midst.

Be Blessed, Bo M.

# e-News

March 31, 2021

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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for healing and recovery for Allen Brooks.

### EASTER SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

**Easter Sunday, March 28 “Someone who Stands With Us: Mary, John, and Jesus” Matthew 28:1-10; I Corinthians 15:3-8, John 19:25-27**

On Easter Sunday we think of those who stand with us when we walk through the valleys of disappointment, discouragement and the shadow of death. Mary and John and three others stood nearby the cross where Jesus was crucified. They stood with Jesus during his most difficult pain and suffering. Who are those who stand with us? Who do we stand with in their dark valleys? On Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus and we give thanks that he stands with us always as we make our way through this life.

--Craig

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.

### March 31, 2021

#### Stewardship Report

<b>2020-2021 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$621,590
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$ 637,444
2020-2021 Bequest/Gift Income Received	\$6,200
Angel House Mission	\$2,730
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

**Worship with us on Maundy Thursday, April 1.** We will celebrate the Lord's Supper together in both Live Worship at 7:00 p.m. in our Worship Center/Sanctuary and in the Online Worship Service available on Facebook and YouTube. We will focus on the amazing grace of Jesus in suffering for our sins and for us all.

**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 immediately for the 10:30 a.m. Service.** The 9:00 a.m. service is completely filled up with reservations. Call the office as soon as possible, and before noon on Friday, for the remaining seating at the 10:30 a.m. service. We are social distancing and wearing masks, as we have been doing.

**You can still order flowers for Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**The Men's Study Group is meeting on,** Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210. Mark Morrison is leading the study. See the details in our E-News.

**Our "Faithful Giving" Stewardship Campaign is still going.** Pledge cards are being received. Please mail in your pledge card or bring it with you to worship on Sunday. The Lord is faithful and gracious. We offer faithful service through the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources so that the Light of Christ may shine through us.

May you know and experience the grace, strength, and peace of the Lord Jesus.

Craig

**Last Sundays Sermon- "Team Jesus: Who are You in the Church?" Sermon Series**  
**"Someone who Shows Appreciation: the Leper and the Crowd"**  
**Mark 11:1-11, Luke 17:11-19**

Only one of the ten lepers returns to give thanks to God and to Jesus for his healing. This story points out the ingratitude of nine lepers. However, we see the gratitude of the one leper highlighted for us. Jesus accepts the thanksgiving, praise and gratitude of the leper who returned. Thus, this story can teach us about showing appreciation to God and to others.

On that first Palm Sunday we see Jesus accepting the gratitude, adoration, and worship of the crowds who cheered him with their Hosannas.

This sermon focuses on the importance and significance of celebrating who God is and being grateful to others in our lives. Only everyone needs to receive genuine appreciation and love. How sad it is to see so much contentiousness, hatred, and demonization for other people in our society today. We can be encouraged and learn from the appreciation of Jesus in both the Palm Sunday Story and the Leper Story we find in the Gospels.

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

**Thank You**

Gregg and Mary Kessler wish to thank you for the lovely cards and expressions of sympathy extended to them in the passing of Mary's mother, Clarabel Riddell. You made her feel right at home worshipping with us and she loved her adopted church family.

**The Spots for the 9 a.m. Service for Easter Sunday are filled!**

If you have not made a reservation and would like to worship with us on Easter Sunday **MAKE SURE TO RSVP WITH THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY AT NOON.** Spots are only available for the 10:30 service. Spots are **NOT GUARANTEED** without a reservation!

**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.**