



TEAM JESUS:
Who are YOU in the Church?



“Team Jesus: Who are You in the Church?” Sermon Series

In this series we have been thinking 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 and Easter Seasons, we are looking at those who followed Jesus in the New Testament and seeing what we can learn about ourselves and about the Church of Jesus Christ.

**Sunday, April 18 “Someone who Mentors: The Centurion”
Luke 7:1-10 (NIV)**

This Sunday we will think about mentors; those who have spoken into our lives, guided us, inspired us, and nurtured us. Everyone needs a mentor, a coach, a teacher, or someone wiser from whom to gain wisdom, experience, knowledge. Isaac Newton once said, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Each of us in our own way stands upon the shoulders of others. We should also think about who we might mentor as we make our journey of faith. Jesus said of the centurion, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” The Centurion in Luke 7 is a mentor in faith for us in the scripture.

--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.

e-News

April 14, 2021

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

Save the Date!

Pastor Craig Herr’s Retirement Celebration

Sunday, June 13, 2021

First Pres. 10:30 am Church Service
followed by Noon Dinner
Jacob Henry Mansion Estate
Details to follow soon!

To my First Pres Family;

Thank you all so much for the going away gift and your kind words and messages. It has been a joy to spend the last 23 years working in this church. I have truly loved the time that I have spent here and the people who have become a part of my life through First Pres. With much love and appreciation,
Tracy Norris

April 14, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$62,511
Year to Date Expenses	\$ \$15,135
2021-2022 Bequest/Gift Income Received	\$0
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

Worship with us this Sunday, April 18. We continue to celebrate the Risen Christ in Worship. Come and Join us. Please call the office or make your reservations. We will Worship Live at both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. this Sunday. We have people for both service times who have made reservations. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at the 9:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. Worship services. Please remember to social distance and wear masks in our Live Worship Services.

We still have a good worshipping community on our Online Worship Service, which is available on both Facebook and YouTube. Our Online Worship Service is usually available by 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

Pledge cards are still arriving at the church office for our "Faithful Giving" Stewardship Campaign. Please mail in your pledge card or bring it with you to Live worship on Sunday. The Lord is faithful and gracious. We partner with God in ministry through the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources so that the Light of Christ may shine through us.

We have a new Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Sharon Lenza, who is training with Tracy to be our new Treasurer. We met Sharon in March during our interview process. Tracy and Sharon started working together several weeks ago and I could see that they enjoyed one another's company. Sharon has a background in accounting, bookkeeping, and finance management. She is a person of faith who enjoys and finds meaning in serving the Lord through the local church. I hope you get to know her as she is a wonderful person. At some point in the training period Tracy will begin to function as a consultant to Sharon and the church. Right now they Tracy and Sharon are working together in the training process.

This Sunday, April 18 and Sunday, April 25 will be **my final Sundays leading worship and preaching** as your Senior Pastor. I look forward to seeing you in Live Worship or in Online Worship these final two weekends. If you wish to attend Live Worship make your reservation very soon.

Live in the grace and the joy of the Lord Jesus.

Craig

Spots are filling up!

The 9am service for the 18th AND 25th is fully reserved, with spots filling up quickly for the 10:30 services in April.

Make sure to make your reservation with the office by Friday at noon!

The service is the same at both times.

Last Sundays Sermon- "Team Jesus: Who are You in the Church?" Sermon Series

Sunday, April 11 "Those Who Gather: The Crowd" Matthew 9:35-37; Acts 4:32-35

Jesus was familiar with crowds. Elated crowds, crowds who wanted physical healing, or spiritual healing. Crowds who were hungry to learn more, crowds that were angry. Crowds were drawn to Jesus. He saw that they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd; and his overall response to them was COMPASSION.

As we gather together, in person or online, to worship, we are a crowd. We can feel harassed and helpless. Yet, we gather as a crowd of people who love and follow Jesus; a crowd that can be found around the globe. A crowd WITH a shepherd. A shepherd who invites us to join with him in extending compassion to people.

The early church was made up of ordinary people who did their best to follow Jesus' preaching and teaching with compassion. There is so much to be said for just being an ordinary Christian - starting with the greatest commandments - Love God and love neighbor. That's what the early church did. Not perfectly, but prayerfully. It was ordinary Christianity being practiced by a unified community of believers.

We are unified when we worship and pray together, when we commit to studying God's word together and when we have common ministry goals. Just as each person is different, each church is different. Each church crowd has a mission to fulfill, in addition to sharing Jesus. How could we not? I mean, knowing Jesus means knowing we are saved and loved and VALUABLE.

The early church was all about expanding their reach - Jesus isn't a secret. He didn't hide from the crowds, he was among them. He saw them. He loved them. And he loves us.

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

If you purchased Easter flowers for the sanctuary, you may pick them up Thursday, April 15 between 10 am-noon. Pull up to the door in the rear parking lot and we will bring them to you.