



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 25 “Thankful and Grateful People: Craig & Paul”**

**Philippians 1:2-11; Matthew 5:13-16, 9:13; Mark 10:45, (NIV)**

This Sunday I am going to reflect on our years of being the church together. It’s been a joy and a privilege to serve with you in the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. as we have sought to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

--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.

**NOTE The April 25th services are BOTH FULL**

# e-News

April 21, 2021

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies and prayers for the friends and family of Char Gurney who passed on April 16th.

Prayers of healing and recovery for Donna Nelson, mother of Kris Hayden.

## SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The program will once again be Grab and Go. This will run from June 1—Aug.17th from 11:45 to 1 pm.

Volunteers are needed. If you are interested please contact Barb Rodgers at barbrodgers1945@sbcglobal.net or (708)744-2161

## 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!

## April 21, 2021

### Stewardship Report

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$69,850
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$30,342

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.

**Thank you** for your generosity.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Craig Herr, Pastor

**Worship with us this Sunday, April 25. The Easter Season continues as we worship together and give thanks for the Risen Christ.** We will Worship Live at both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. this Sunday. **Both services are completely full this Sunday.** Please make reservations for Sunday, May 2 and on. Please remember to social distance and wear masks in our Live Worship Services.

One of the good outcomes during the Covid-19 pandemic has been the creation of a worshipping community for **our Online Worship Service.** We are still worshipping online and the service is available on both Facebook and YouTube. Our Online Worship Service is usually available by 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

**Our new Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Sharon Lenza, is training and working with Tracy.** 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, Tracy and Sharon are working together in the training process

**Our "Faithful Giving" Stewardship Campaign is coming to completion.** If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please mail in your pledge card or bring it with you to Live worship on Sunday. We give thanks to God who is at work in us through the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources.

**A brief Congregational Meeting has been called for this Sunday, April 25.** This Special Congregational Meeting is for the following purposes:

- To elect Elders and Deacons for 2020-21 and 2021-2022.
- To approve the Pastoral Terms of Call for 2020-21 and 2021-2022.
- To dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Herr and the church as of May 1, 2021.

I can hardly believe that this Sunday, April 25 is **my final Sunday leading worship and preaching** as your Senior Pastor. I look forward to seeing you in Live Worship or in Online Worship this weekend. **I am so very grateful and thankful for you.** Thank you for your caring love, encouragement, and support over all these years as we have served the Lord Jesus together.

In Christ,  
Craig

**This Sunday, the 25th, is fully reserved!**

No space is available at either the 9 am or 10:30 service this weekend.

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

**Sunday, April 18 "Someone who Mentors: the Centurion"**

Everyone needs a Yoda- a mentor, a coach, or a teacher along the way, If we are to live a complete and faithful life, to which Christ calls us, we need mentors.

I invite you think with me today about the mentors in your life.

Each one of us needs someone to look up to, someone wiser, someone who inspires us in the faith, someone more experienced than us, someone who displays skills for life and faithfulness to Jesus.

Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Whose shoulders are we standing on?  
Who do we look up to?  
Who do we see and say, I want to be like them some day?

The greatest example of mentoring in history is that of Jesus with the disciples.

In the scriptures there's Elizabeth and Mary, Elijah and Elisha, and Moses and Joshua, we read of this morning.

God says to Joshua, "Be strong and very courageous.

Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

The Roman Centurion is a mentor figure for us, I believe.

For Jesus said of him,

"I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

We learn a number of things about this Centurion from our text.

The Centurion is a mentor for us because we can see and learn from his compassion, genuine worship of God, humility, and extraordinary faith in Jesus.

Check out the sermon online to think about mentors in the life, ministry, and mission of the church.

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