



e-News

April 28, 2021

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



A NEW DAY FOR THE CHURCH—A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

This Sunday we are starting a new sermon series on the book of Acts – **A New Day for The Church – A new Opportunity for you.** The Book of Acts, is a letter from Luke to Theophilus, and captures the life of the early church in the light of the resurrection.

Sunday, May 2 Acts 1:1-11, A Time for Faith

This Sunday we are focusing on Acts 1:1-11- A Time for Faith. The text brings us in the same room with Jesus and the disciples, and where we witness the questions, and the insecurities that are still bothering the disciples minds. Jesus response to their anxiety is the promise of the Holy Spirit, the great advocate, the promises of God for generations, and at the same time a call for faith. This Sunday we are invited to spend time with our Rabbi, and discover what it means to have faith, to wait in faith, and to live out our faith.

Looking forward to worship with you this Sunday, as we gather around the communion table.

Blessings, Pastor Bo

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 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Reservations are required by contacting the office by noon on the Friday before.

THIS WEEK'S BLOG—BOOK OF ACTS—May 3-5

5/3 Chapter 1: 1-7— Christ's 40 Day Ministry

5/4 Chapter 1: 8-9—Evangelize the World

5/5 Chapter 1:10-26— The Promised Return

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing Dixie Balsley.

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

Prayers of healing for Estella Jurkovich.

The May Birthday Calendar is available on the website.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The program will once again be Grab and Go, 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. 9 and 10:30 am Church Services followed by Noon Dinner

Jacob Henry Mansion Estate

Watch your mailbox for more info!

April 28, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$82,182
Year to Date Expenses	\$47,752

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

Thank you so much for a wonderful last Sunday together on April 25. It was my last Sunday as your Pastor. The years have gone by and I am very thankful for our time together in ministry as we have sought to be faithful to the Lord Jesus and his call upon us as a church.

Last Sunday was a very special time together. It couldn't have been any better; you were simply wonderful! My only regret is that because of Covid-19 we couldn't have everyone who wanted to be in worship, attend at either one of the worship services. Other than that, I am most grateful for a great Sunday.

Get to know our new Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Sharon Lenza, has been training and working with Tracy. We met Sharon in March during our interview process. Tracy and Sharon started working together four 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. She is a wonderful person. Very soon, Tracy will begin to function as a consultant to Sharon and the church. Up through the end of April, Tracy and Sharon are working together in the training process

Don't miss our "Faithful Giving" Stewardship Campaign, which 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. Give thanks to God who is at work at First Pres. through the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources.

I am looking forward to seeing you again on Sunday, June 13 to celebrate our time together in ministry, and to say goodbye to each other in terms of pastoral ministry. We won't say goodbye to our friendship and love for each other. I look forward to the worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 am. and then a wonderful lunch time all together.

Many Blessings,

Craig

Starting May 3rd, our first Pres Blog is back online. We will follow the Book of Acts. The blogs and the Sunday Sermons will go hand in hand for the next two month, helping us to engage the Book of acts at a deeper level. The First Pres Blog has been part of our devotional life for the past 8 years, and continues to be an important place for us to connect outside our Sunday morning worship. I would like to encourage you to subscribe to the blog directly on the blog site. This way you will receive a daily email with the latest blog the was posted, and also give you the opportunity to interact with the post by posting a comment and engage in conversations with other bloggers. We are also adding a Video Blog once a week, on Facebook and Wordpress. The video Blog, will serve as a bridge to the Sunday sermons, and also provide a place to ask some of your questions regarding the things we explore during the week.

Hope you can join us in this devotional and discipleship journey.

Pastor Bo on behalf of Kris Hayden, Matt Blaser, Craig Randolph, Karl Darley and Carrie Kapral

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

Sunday, April 25 "Thankful and Grateful People: Craig and Paul"

In our Lenten Easter Series, Team Jesus: Who are you in the Church?, we've been thinking about all the kinds of people, servants of Christ it takes to be the church. And today, I invite you to think about how we need Thankful and Grateful people.

The Philippian Church was, perhaps, Paul's favorite church. He wrote to them,

I thank my God every time I remember you.

⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I hold you in my heart...

My wish for every Pastor and every follower of Jesus, is that they could speak of a favorite church and give thanks for that people of faith.

But not everyone can do that. I think of a Pastor who retired at a church, in a suburb, north of here. He called his last month at the church, a "Cantankerous Finality." They were known for being a contentious church and especially tough to their pastors. How sad.

I am so thankful and grateful for being able to be your pastor all of these years. The Church needs thankful and grateful people; people who give thanks to God for the gracious love and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, and who deeply love each other with the gracious love of Christ.

Love God and Love one another and love your neighbor Jesus taught. I am grateful for your graciousness to me and to all of my family.

This has been a great church for our children to grow up in.

You have helped our family immensely, by being an extended family in Christ, by helping to raise our three children, loved my wife Leslie and when there's been sickness and hardship, you were there for us.

What a life we have had together, thank you so much.

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

The new church guide book/directory will be printed this year so if you need to update your information please contact the office to do so.