



First Presbyterian 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.

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

It’s been a while since we’ve had to give much thought to crowds. It seems as more and more of us receive vaccinations, those days are coming to a close and we will, once again, resume navigating crowds in stores and restaurants, at festivals and craft fairs.

Jesus was familiar with crowds - they followed him, begged him for healing, learned from him, ridiculed him. Jesus viewed the crowds through a lens of compassion, seeing them as harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Crowds can make us feel that way — harassed and helpless.

Crowds can divide or unite, heal or harm. If we think of crowds as groups of people with a common goal, we can see all manner of gatherings - political, religious, activist, pro this or anti that. As followers of Jesus, we are a crowd who gathers around our Savior, our Shepherd. The early Christian church was a crowd who sought to make sure all were cared for and no one went without. Was it perfect? Of course not. Crowds are made up of individuals and no individual is perfect. When we look at the church in Acts, when we view people through Jesus’ lens of compassion, it can be easier to define a ministry or goal to work toward for Jesus. This is something those who gather as a church community can excel at. Our crowd is part of Team Jesus!

This Sunday we will take a look at those who gather around Jesus, the crowd, and try to see as Jesus saw as we continue to do our best living our lives as faithful disciples.

Peace be with you!
Carrie

e-News

April 7, 2021

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

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.

If you purchased Easter flowers for the sanctuary, you may pick them up Wednesday, April 14 or Thursday, April 15 between 10 am-noon. Pull up to the door in the rear parking lot and we will bring them out to you.

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.

April 7, 2021

Stewardship Report

2020-2021 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$621,875
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 637,250
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 this Sunday, April 11. We are in the Easter Season! We will Worship Live at both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. this Sunday. Please call the office or make your reservations. We have people for both service times in terms of reservations. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at the 9:00 a.m. service.

We continue to observe social distancing and wearing of masks, as we have been doing in Live Worship.

You can also join us for Worship at our Online Worship Service, which is available on both Facebook and YouTube. Join us for worship this Sunday in the Easter Season.

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.

The Session meets this Thursday evening as usual on the second Thursday of the month. We are meeting via Zoom. **This will be my last Session meeting as your pastor.** That is hard to believe after some 32 years and 353 session meetings plus any special meetings that were called. We have a wonderful group of leaders on our Session and I know that they are up to the task of leading the church in this upcoming interim period, as is Pastor Bo and all of the staff. They could use your prayers and encouragement in this season of transition.

May the Lord bless you and make his face to shine upon and give you his peace.

Craig

Spots are filling up!

If you are interested in joining us for our Live Worship Services in April, make sure to contact the office to make a reservation! Spots are filling up for April.

Call or email the office with the day, service time, and how many people will be joining us. A confirmation will be given if space is available. Make sure to reach out by noon on the Friday before.

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

Sunday, April 4 "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 thought 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.

The Sermon looks at these ideas in more depth. I invite you to take a look and see.

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

Thank You

Gregg and Mary Kessling 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.

Men's Study Group

If you are looking to be motivated, uplifted or inspired? I have the book for you "Love Does" by Bob Goff. We start Wednesday March 24 at 6:30 P.M. We will be using a hybrid model. If you want to meet in person we will be in room 210, for those of you who would rather Zoom we will be using it also. You can pick up your books in the church office. I really miss meeting with you guys and I will see you soon.

The link for the Zoom call is available on our website and social media.

Bible Study

There is a Men's Bible Study group meeting each Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. This group meets in room 210 at First Pres.