



# e-News

May 19, 2021

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

We have started 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 23rd: Pentecost

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. It is, really, the third major church holiday. There is Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ; there is Easter, when we celebrate His resurrection; and there is Pentecost - when we commemorate the incredible arrival of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost doesn't get as much press as the other two, but it's important. Other than the Sundays in ordinary time (I absolutely LOVE just plain old regular Sundays), Pentecost is my favorite Sunday of the year. It's a huge birthday celebration for the Church.

In Acts 2:1-21, we see the unbelievable POWER of the Spirit. And in John 14:15-18, we receive comfort from Jesus as he prepares to leave the disciples and promises them they will not be alone, for the Spirit will come.

God has always had a plan, and that plan continues to unfold. We don't have Jesus walking among us like the Disciples did; but we do have the Spirit, and the Word of God. Did you know that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us to God in the first place? God, through the Spirit, gets our attention. First God loves us, then we love him. The Spirit of God says "you're mine" and we can know for certain that, through the Spirit's guidance, through Jesus' sacrifice, through God's grace and mercy, we are forgiven and free to love God and love others.

This, then, is what we will dig into together. How blessed we are. See you Sunday!

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.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

### Save the Date! June 13th, 2021

### Pastor Craig Herr's Retirement Celebration

Remember to contact the office to make your reservations for worship service !

### Praise Yoga is meeting again!

Tuesdays @7pm and Thursday @ 8:30  
In the Narthex, bring a mask!

## THIS WEEK'S BLOG—BOOK OF ACTS—5/20-26

- 5/20 Ch. 6: 9-15—3rd Persecution: Stephen
- 5/21 Chapter 7: 54-60—Stephen: 1st Martyr
- 5/24 Chapter 8: 1-25 The 1st Missionaries
- 5/25 Ch.8:26-40—Phillip & the Ethiopian
- 5/26 Ch.9: 36-43—Peter Resurrects Dorcas

## **CONFIRMATION—June 6th**

Join our Confirmation class: Kellen House, Aiden Fagan, Roland Frey, Malik Taylor, Cameron Paul. Evan Lundeen

**This will be one of Parish Council's Special Sundays!**

**Meet our class : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBPXGaSfNlg>**

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Bo Mircea, Pastor

I love walking by the front of the church at this time of the year, the lilacs are in bloom and the air is filled of their great perfume. Every-time I walk by I think of how a little thing can change so much around it, just like that great fresh lilac smell can cheer my heart. I think of that and I think of each of you, making the world around you a better place because of you are and you love for Jesus.

Here are a few small things that will make a huge difference for our worship community in the coming weeks as we plan to return to normal. These are things that Session voted on last week as our guidance for the coming month.

- a. While we are moving into the Bridge phase - we will increase our Sunday Worship sanctuary capacity to up to 150 persons.
- b. While in the Bridge phase we will still require Sunday church attendees to sign up prior to the service or the morning of, in order to help us plan and provide a safe and pleasant worship experience for everyone
- c. While in the Bridge Phase we will require that masks will be worn properly at all times while in the building.
- d. Starting this week we will be moving to a Summer Worship schedule with one 9 AM Service on Sunday and continuing our online services on YouTube and Facebook. One exception to this is Sunday June 13th, when we will plan on two services 9 AM and 10:30 AM as we celebrate Pastor Craig's ministry.

I want to thank Parish council for organizing a great Movie Night last Saturday. Keep your calendars open and check for more dates for fun activities as we return to the Summer schedule. Parking Lot Dinners and more Movie Nights are in the works.

This Sunday in worship The Glory Ringers are going to lead us in worship, and Pastor Carrie will be preaching. We hope to see more special music from other groups joining us on Sunday morning in the coming future (there is always a surprise around the corner). Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday,

Blessings,  
Bo

### Last Sundays Sermon

Last week we hosted Reverend Eric Heinekamp, as he brought the Word of God to Us. Rev. Eric, spoke about Apostle Paul's encounter with Jesus on the way to Damascus and how that encounter turned his life around. One of the main points of the sermon was that while we might not have the same experience as Paul, seeing or hearing God speaking to us directly, God is still seeking for ways to speak and be present in our life. Through the Holy Spirit, that daily guidance we find in the word, becomes more than the voice of God, it becomes an audience with God.

So while we might be looking for guidance or waiting for that miracle encounter, we might need to embrace the quiet of the day or night and make room for God's voice.

### **Vacation Bible School!**

VBS is virtual again this year! Registration will be open soon, keep your eyes open! VBS week will be June 21—25. The theme is Wilderness Escape. We are very excited to bring this opportunity for the families and kids of First Pres. !

### **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**

Do you know a graduate? Let us celebrate with you! Check out our website to find the form to fill and send in. We will be creating a Graduate Board again this year. We are very proud of our Graduates!

All of our virtual Worship Services are available on our YouTube page and 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](mailto:barbrodgers1945@sbcglobal.net) or (708)744-2161

For teens needing volunteer hours this is a great opportunity!

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.