



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

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, June 27th: What is your name? Acts 4: 32-37

This Sunday we have Mark Morrison as our Guest Preacher!

TAILGATE DINNERS ARE BACK!

Starting 6/2 Tailgate dinners will be every 1st and 3rd Wed. through September. Grab dinner and join us at 6pm in the parking lot across from the church.

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the children of Angel House and the board of Grassroots, thank you for your longtime and continued support of Bhoke, Rhobi, and Lucia!

They have grown tremendously in so many ways and are thriving. We are so grateful for your prayers and your financial support across so many years!

What a beautiful blessing you are to the kids and to the world!

God Bless You

Vacation Bible School!

Registration is open through the end of the month and that's it! This is your last chance!

e-News

June 23, 2021

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Family and Friends of the Westphal & Krause families are respectfully invited to attend the memorial service for Carol S. Westphal, who passed away on December 30, 2020. The service will be held here in the sanctuary at 1:30 pm on July 11, 2021.

Following the service, a Celebration of Life gathering will be held at Rock Run Forest Preserve. Please use the entrance off of Essington Rd. Refreshments will be provided as we enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing of memories.

THIS WEEK'S BLOG, BOOK OF ACTS—6/24-6/25

6/24 Ch.26:24-32 — Paul's Appeal to Agrippa

6/25 Ch.27:14-44 — The Storm

PROJECT LINUS

Project Linus is back! Bring your scissors and join us in Hoffman Hall! We are excited to get back to making blankets with you! We are meeting from 9– Noon on the 28th. Let the Office know if you're coming.

We have **1 worship service** with traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, (YouTube (firstpresjoliet.org), 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.

June 22, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$185,574
Year to Date Expenses	\$124,093

This includes \$23,487 of Employee Retention Credit.
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... Bo Mircea, Pastor

This Sunday we are finishing our two month walk through the book of Acts. I hope that you had enjoyed it as much as I did! Between the daily blogs and the Sunday Sermons, I had a chance to experience this Book anew. Focusing on the way the Spirit lead that little group of disciples from Jerusalem and seeing them witness to Christ all the way to Rome, has been eye opening and challenging. I found myself asking: What if we are to be as open to the Holy Spirit today as they were in the early days? What would the Church look like? We will continue to look at what it means to open to the Spirit during the month of July, and then focus on Radical Hospitality in August. We always have room for you on Sunday morning, I hope we can see you there!

Also **this Sunday, we will celebrate a baptism** with Matt & Laura Pritz as they bring forth their baby Jacob for baptism.

Sunday School is now open and ready to welcome up to 8 kids! Our classrooms go through a deep clean every week, and our Sunday School teachers prepare exciting lessons every Sunday. Vacation Bible School is live and online on YouTube. Even if you are not of age it might be fun for you to head over there and check it out, and see what this trip to Egypt looked for Moses and his crew.

Please continue to pray for each of our wonderful councils as they are walking through the details regarding reopening and what September will look like.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship on Sunday,
Pastor Bo

Still Grateful and Many More Thanks!

The Retirement Celebration Committee was larger than I realized when I expressed my appreciation last week, in the E-News. Here are all the wonderful people who worked so hard to make the celebration so wonderful. Again, I am so appreciative for all of the members of the committee led by Sue Lee: Kendra Albers, Sue Bornhofen, Sherry Buffington, Mary & Don Caisley, Pat Costion, Jen Gabl, Mary Gajcak, Mary Jane Johnson, Jill Strimel, and Ed Schultz.

I am still thinking about my Retirement Celebration and reflecting upon this remarkable, wonderful, and special gift. Thanks again, everyone!

Craig

The poem Allison and Aubrey wrote, and Allison read at Pastor Craig Herr's Retirement Celebration is available to be read on our website [HERE](#)

Last Sundays Sermon

Sunday, June 20th :Do You Understand

Do you (we, I) understand? It's a valid and important question to ask ourselves, and each other, as we read and do our best to apply God's Word to our life - to our decisions, our actions, our words and our thoughts. We find this addressed in this week's text (Acts 6:26-31) as Philip encounters a man pondering words from Isaiah. Philip takes time to help the man understand what he is reading, and then takes the extra step to introduce the man to Jesus. There is some really good stuff here.

Philip leads us to understand that God often presents opportunities to share our faith, and this reading, in particular, reminds us that sometimes, we don't understand Scripture ourselves. Scripture is highly contextual -- and that can make the "so what" a little puzzling to discern. And so we study, together, and individually, God's Word.

The further we wade into our relationship with Jesus through scripture, the better prepared we are to answer questions - because I'm pretty sure many questions people who don't know Jesus may have are the same ones we have had, or still do.

When I read the Bible, I often jot down my questions. One question I had this week was "Why on earth was the man reading out loud?" Well, it turns out that it was customary in the first century to read out loud. Why you may ask? Well, I don't know the answer to that just yet. I will need to dig a little deeper into ancient customs for that answer. I'm sure someone in the congregation knows the answer already! :)

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

Habitat House Dedication

The Habit for Humanity House that First Pres had volunteers help with, has a dedication soon!

June 25th at 9 am, at 1517 N Raynor.

The pre-school is reopening!

We are starting with a limit of 8 children per service. As always the preschool is for children age 3 through 5th grade. The nursery is remaining closed for the time being. Safety protocols are being followed within the preschool rooms. Kids will be dismissed after the Children's Worship portion of the service as we have done, and kids should be picked up after service from the two regular classrooms.