



# e-News

July 14, 2021

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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

### THIS WEEK'S BLOG, GENESIS—7/15-7/21

7/15 Ch.8:1-22—The flood Subsides

7/16 Ch.9:1-29—Human Government

7/19 Ch.11:1-32—Man's failure at Babel

7/20 Ch.12:1-9—Abraham's Covenant

7/21 Ch.12:10-20—Abram Fails

### **Keep an eye out!**

In this month's letter from First Pres there will be a new version of the monthly Servants' Light. This will be another good way to keep up to date with what's going on at First Pres!

This will also be available on our website and in-building.

### **We still have many books from Pastor Craig's library!**

These books will be in Hoffman Hall. You can come check them out anytime during office hours or search them on Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity!

July 12, 2021

### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$214,719
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$142,869

Income includes \$34,681 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.

We have started a **sermon mini-series** focusing on Freedom. Freedom as it relates to who we are as people of faith, and also when it comes to personal freedoms.

Sunday 7/16: Genesis 37:1-11 **When God Looks at You**

This Sunday I am preaching on Genesis 37:1-11, looking at Joseph and his dreams. I think it is a really appropriate Scripture for us, as a congregation. There are times when we find ourselves in a place where some might say we are stuck, and lose a little bit of heart and excitement. For Joseph that place was a deep hole he was thrown in by his brothers, a place with very little hope or positivity. And yet, even in that situation God makes a way. From the depth of that place God raises Joseph to be a "prince" in Egypt. That does not happen over night, it took a while, and was quite an eventful journey. At times we might feel like Joseph, but we need to remember who is on our side- An heavenly father watching over us.

Hope to see you Sunday morning as we worship together. I almost forgot: **COFFEE HOUR IS BACK**

We have **1 worship service** 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. With Fellowship Coffee hour after service in Hoffman Hall.

### **The pre-school has reopened!**

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 now.

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

Peace and grace to you on this nice summer day. Soon we will look back and ask: Where did the summer go? Sometimes I feel that I am already in the Fall season, in part because we are in the middle of planning and looking at how Fall will bring to our faith family.

### There are quite a few things happening our community:

- Our beloved organist Bev Adelman announced her retirement at the end of August
- We have started the process to have Pastor Carrie Kapral commissioned to serve as a Commissioned Lay Pastor in our congregation
- We are starting a search for a new organist and also Youth/Children Director (more details will follow)
- Our Interim Committee is hard at work with a new set of names for the Interim Pastor search.

So you can say things are a little busy in the office these days. But there is so much more to our church than this. This past Sunday, we had a guest preacher Mark Friend that reminded us how important is to plant a seed of faith and then watch it grow. And as you look around this place you can see God's faithfulness, something to inspire us all and give us the strength to pray and be faithful even on busy days like today.

Today, I would like to encourage you to pray for the church, for the leadership, the session and all the people that are doing so many things in this place.

Blessings,  
Bo

## 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.

## Last Sundays Sermon

Sunday July,11: Guest Preacher Mark Friend

This Sunday we welcomed a guest preacher, Mark Friend.

He preached on the Parable of The Good Seed

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

## **TAILGATE DINNERS ARE BACK!**

The next Tailgate Dinner is 7/21! Grab a good dinner and join us at 6pm in the lot!

## PROJECT LINUS

Project Linus is back! The next meeting is July 26th. Come join us!

