



e-News

July 7, 2021

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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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 July,11: Guest Preacher Mark Friend

This Sunday we will be welcoming a guest preacher, Mark Friend.

He will be preaching on the Parable of The Good Seed

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.

PROJECT LINUS

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



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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies and Prayers to the family and friends of Allan Somers who recently passed.

Prayers of recovery for Cindy Warf.

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.

THIS WEEK'S BLOG, GENESIS—7/8-7/14

7/8 Ch.3:1-13—The Temptation and Fall

7/9 Ch.3:20-24—The Adamic Covenant

7/12 Ch.4:1-26—Birth of Cain and Abel

7/13 Ch.6:1-22—Cont. Of Human Race

7/14 Ch.7:1-24—Judgement of the Flood

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!

July 6, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$209,082
Year to Date Expenses	\$138,905

Income includes \$34,681 of Employee Retention Credit
Per Capita: \$38.47

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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

Summer days drifting away ...

One might think that churches take a vacation during summer, but I have to say that is not the case for First Pres.

We just finished our **Virtual Vacation Bible School** for the kids.

Everyday kids come through for the **Summer lunch Program**.

All **councils** are working on making plans for September and there are quite a few things to work through.

There is a lot of work going into **remodeling** the downstairs bathrooms, and getting the whole place ready for Back to Church Sunday in September.

One can even say: This place is busy. And that is a good thing. I have one request from you: **Please pray for all the busy bees**, for all the people that are keeping things moving along. Pray that their contagious energy and passion for the vision of this church will just reach out to so many people, and at the end of this Summer maybe First Pres will look and feel a little different- good different- full of energy and a lot of vision for the future.

This Sunday we **welcome Mark Friend** as our guest preacher. Mark has been a pastor for many years see sing as a District Pastor at Family Harvest Church in Tinley Park for 14 years and also served in numerous ministry along the way. Mark will share the message this Sunday, and I would encourage you to read the Parable of the Good Seed - Matthew 13:24-48

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday,
Bo

TAILGATE DINNERS ARE BACK!

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

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 4th: Freedom From So We Have Freedom To Romans 6:12-23

There's some good advice in Romans 6:12-23. Not EASY advice. GOOD advice. IMPORTANT advice. Paul says we need to let God know we're available to do the right thing according to his Word. He also makes it clear that eternal life is comped. Free. Available through Christ. Only sinners need apply. Not how we like to think of ourselves, I know. We are many things. Sinner is one of them. It's part of the human condition.

Paul wrote, in verse 13:

Offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

Paul is utterly sure and convinced that Jesus has broken the power of sin in people's lives. Therefore, evil should not be in control any more. Not a word we use much. Evil. God trounces evil. Paul invites us to truly recognize the grace and mercy of God present ourselves to him. Because of the resurrection of Jesus we have been brought from death to life. That means we are FREE to trust in him and do God's work in the world. I can't think of anything more liberating than that. We are free to do God's work in the world as we are gifted and able.

My friends, true freedom is life in Christ. May we feel peace as we remember that.

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

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!