



e-News

August 11, 2021

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OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No information

THIS WEEK'S BLOG, GENESIS—8/13-8/18

8/13 Ch.22:1-14—Offering of Isaac

8/14 Ch. 22:15-24—Abrahamic Covenant

8/16 Ch.23:1-20—Death and Burial of Sarah

8/17 Ch.24:1-33—A Bride Sought for Isaac

8/18 Ch. 24:34-67—A Bride Brought to Isaac

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir is currently on hold.

Notice will be sent when it is possible to resume Summer Choir and regular Choir.

Sue and I want to thank everyone for your prayers, calls, and cards. It certainly makes a difference in the recovery process. I also want to thank Don Caisley and the entire interim search committee for continuing on with this process while I was out of commission.

Reed and Sue Mott

Men's Bible Study

Each Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in room 210.

SAVE THE DATE: BLOOD DRIVE

We will be hosting a blood drive on
October 10th

Radical: something extreme, unexpected, beyond the norm, non-traditional. **Hospitality:** the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers. **Radical Hospitality.** This is our focus for the next four Sundays. As Christians, we are truly called to be radically hospitable. In this world, that doesn't usually happen in the context of our homes - at least, not with strangers. But it CAN happen within the context of the church body.

This Sunday, we start where radical hospitality begins, in Revelation 3:30 with Jesus. We have a choice when Jesus knocks - we can let him in, or we can close the curtains and pretend we don't hear him. My prayer is that we let Jesus in and then let him take us way past our comfort zones - to a place where each one of us is known for our unwavering love and generosity toward all of God's people.

Peace!

Pastor Carrie

PS - One way to be hospitable is to reach out to those who are living only within the confines of their home due to health, COVID, or other reasons. Many of our homebound folk would gladly welcome a phone call and chat. I've had some great response to setting up a phone tree for Doris Alderson, but there is room for more! Please call, message, text or email me if you would like to be added to this hospitable phone tree. :)

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 PASTOR'S CORNER
Carrie Kapral, Comm. Lay Pastor

Peace be with you! As I write this, it has just finished storming (again!) and I am noticing how beautiful the flowers look now that the storm has passed. I'm amazed, because for a few moments there I thought some of the flower pots were going to blow away.

This reminds me, once again, of God's constant presence in our lives. This brings to mind Matthew 6:23-34. God takes care of the birds and the flowers, he surely will take care of us, even in unusual times such as these.

Thus far, we will continue to worship as we have been. We are keeping a close watch on the CDC guidelines and will let you know if anything changes. In the meantime, friends, may the peace of God surround and comfort you.

I'm going to meditate on the Matthew text for a little while now. I hope you have a chance to do the same this week. It's like a breath of fresh air.

Peace!

Pastor Carrie

PS - Pastor Bo, despite many obstacles due to weather, has made it safely to his parent's home in Romania.

SAVE THE DATE

Back to Church Sunday!

First Pres will be welcoming everyone back on **September 12th!** If you haven't come back to worship with us live this is a great chance to do so!

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

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 the office to be put in touch with Stephen Ministry.

The letter for Bev's retirement has been mailed ! As a reminder her last day as our organist is August 29th. We thank her for all she has contributed to our First Pres Community!

CHURCH PICNIC IS CANCELLED

Due to low response and in the interest of safety the Church Picnic scheduled for August 29th has been cancelled.

Don't worry, Parish Council will have some more fun events for you soon!

TAILGATE DINNERS ARE BACK!

The next Tailgate Dinner is next week, 8/18! Grab a good dinner and join us at 6pm in the lot!