



e-News

September 1, 2021

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SERMON PREVIEW RADICAL HOSPITALITY

“Grace Not Grumbles”
1 Peter 4:7-11

Over the last several weeks, we have been looking at hospitality through the lens of our faith in Jesus. This hospitality, we discover, is RADICAL. It goes above and beyond, becoming as much a part of us as our breath and our faith. This week is the last sermon in the series. We will be taking a look at 1 Peter 4:7-11. Of note is verse 10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” Kind of sums up the whole series, right? Each of us should use the gifts God has given us to serve others. Gifts we have received through God’s grace.

In exploring this radical hospitality thing, I found that scripture has many verses that offer clarity. Romans 12:13 reads,

“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

The study notes in one of my Bibles (I LOVE study notes and other resources, by the way. The Bible comes first but we are blessed to have so many other resources at our disposal!) says that Christian hospitality is different from mere social entertaining. Entertaining focuses on the host: the home must be spotless, the food must be well prepared and abundant, the host must appear good natured and relaxed. Hospitality, by contrast, can happen in a messy home with a can of soup and chaos all around. I love that. Christian hospitality, radical hospitality, can happen anywhere, anytime. No preparation necessary, other than a heart that opens the door to Jesus’ knock, love for God and neighbor, and acts of kindness as a way of life.

I’m looking forward to being with you this weekend, whether it be online or in person.

Peace be with you, friends.
Pastor Carrie

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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue praying for our search committees as they continue their hard work for First Pres.

SAFETY REMINDER:

Masks are required at all times when in the building. This includes live worship on Sunday morning, and all small groups.

The interim search committee will be hosting an interim candidate on September 8th, 9th and 10th. This candidate will meet with our committee, our church staff, and Session. Please pray for the decisions that will be made during this time period.

THIS WEEK’S BLOG, GENESIS—9/2-9/8

- 9/2 Ch. 31:1-13—Jacob Returns to Bethel
- 9/3 Ch.31:14-55 Jacob’s Flight
- 9/6 Ch.32:1-32—Jacob Renamed Israel
- 9/7 Ch.33:1-16—Jacob Forgiven by Esau
- 9/8 Ch.33:17-20—Jacob Worships

August 31, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$262,832
Year to Date Expenses	\$202,300

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

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Thank you for your generosity.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER
Carrie Kapral, Comm. Lay Pastor

Hi, friends!

“Continue to love each other with true Christian love.” (Hebrews 13:1)

I've experienced a lot of that around First Pres the last several weeks. From the outpouring of love for Bev as she led us in worship with her music ministry for the final time last Sunday, to the care and concern you have expressed for Pastor Bo as he spends long awaited time with family. I see it in the various committees who are searching for just the right folk to come join our church staff, I see it in the ministries you lead and pray about, in the smiles and conversations both before and after service. This true Christian love is what we then carry with us out of the church doors and into the communities around us. How blessed we are to worship together, serve together and grow together.

Our “fall” season begins on September 12 with Back to Church Sunday. Please consider joining your church family (safely, with masks on :)) in worship and fellowship, if not this Sunday, then next Sunday! If you've been away due to COVID, or just summer busyness, now is the time to come back to church! Pastor Bo will be back from Romania and I know he is looking forward to being back with his church family again.

I hope you are enjoying the last bits of summer with this slightly cooler, less humid weather. I'm looking forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Peace,
Pastor Carrie

I would like to thank the congregation for such a special retirement celebration. It was wonderful to see so many people in church again, and I could hear the difference during the hymns! First of all, I want to thank everyone for the generous monetary gift which was deeply appreciated. Also the flower arrangement and the orchid are beautifully displayed in my home to remind me of the day. The special treats in Hoffman Hall during fellowship were amazing. And lastly, the numerous cards filled with warm wishes and sentiments of special memories were overwhelming. I surely felt loved and appreciated! First Pres is a wonderful church to be a part of. Thank you all so much.

Love, Bev Adelmann

ATTENDANCE NOTICE:

Do you join us for live worship on Sunday mornings?

If so, **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO STOP WITH ONE OF THE GREETERS AND EITHER HAVE YOUR NAME CHECKED OFF OUR LIST, OR WRITTEN IN.**

It is important for us to know how many people are joining us and who. This is just a little different from the pew pad system we typically use, but the same information we ask for.

If you'd like to share current contact information with us please contact the office during office hours.

NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK!

September 3rd

Gates open @ 6:05 Game starts @ 7:05

Join us for a Slammers Home Game followed by a firework show!

All our tickets have sold, but don't worry! You can still get tickets at the box office at the stadium, ask for section 110. Vouchers are not guaranteed unless you got your tickets through Parish council.

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!

Thanks to everyone for the prayers, phone calls, and cards after my recent surgery. My recovery is going well.

- Judy Turner