



SERMON PREVIEW

I Believe

God, Are You There?

Matthew 14:22-33

God, are you there? Are you there when a loved one dies? Are you there when we are overwhelmed with all the stuff of life? Are you there when a treasured friend drifts away? Are you there when a child travels an uncertain path? God, are you there, really there, all the time?

These are questions sincere believers ask. The reality is that it doesn't always feel like God is there. This is one of the reasons we talked about our faith last week. We stand, solid on our faith, based on what we believe to be true because we have invested time in developing this faith. The faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and so on.

God is there. Sometimes in the most unexpected of places. This is what we will think about this Sunday as we read, once again, the story of Jesus walking on water. He meets us where we are. Even when the waves of life are at their most tumultuous.

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.

e-News

September 15, 2021

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for a quick recovery for Pastor Bo as well as his father.

SAFETY REMINDER:

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

Masks and hand sanitizer are available at each entrance.

THIS WEEK'S BLOG, GENESIS—9/16-9/22

9/16 Ch. 39:1-23—Joseph Resists Temptation

9/17 Ch.40:1-23—Joseph, Forgotten in Prison

9/20 Ch.41:1-13—Pharaoh's Dream

9/21 Ch.41:14-57—Joseph, Exalted in Egypt

9/22 Ch. 42:1-38—Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

September 15, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$305,597
Year to Date Expenses	\$223,810

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.

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

Hi, friends! I've been praying for our congregation this week, that as we continue to walk through change we will remember we are united in Christ, we are saved God's grace, and we are called to be the church. Every day.

Today was one of those mornings when I just couldn't seem to figure out what I wanted to read in the Bible, so I just kind flipped around through it, hoping something would catch my eye and my heart. I landed on Galatians 4:1-16 and was reminded, once again, of how we are loved, gifted, and empowered to be the church in our world today. Verse 16 especially resonated with me,

"Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

SO MUCH comfort there. No matter how many changes come our way, we are the church. Fitted together perfectly. Because even when we aren't sure of ourselves, God is. God has a plan and I am excited to see where First Pres. Joliet is headed.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Bo and his family, as well as all who are dealing with COVID or other illnesses., Please pray for Rev. Jen as she prepares to say good by to the church she loves in Florida and joins us in this exciting time to be the church.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Sunday in worship, and any other time our paths cross.

Peace!
Pastor Carrie

YOUTH GROUP IS BACK!

Youth Group is starting up again, on Zoom!

More information has been mailed, so keep an eye out, you should have it soon!

How exciting!

Project Linus

Project Linus is meeting on the 20th from 9 am to noon in Hoffman Hall.

Come join us and help make blankets for those who need some extra warmth or comfort in our community!

DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT!

- September 18th, this Saturday!
- \$5 per car gets you a treat bag.
- "The Biggest Little Farm" (PG)
- Lot opens at 6:45 pm
- Movie starts at 7:15 pm
- more info available on our website!

The Interim Search Committee has some exciting news!

We are thrilled to report that our top candidate, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Stroud has visited First Pres, met with Session, and accepted our offer. Her contract begins November 1st. We are very excited for you to meet her! More details will follow soon.

Thank you for praying for our committee during the search process.