



# e-News

September 8, 2021

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## SERMON PREVIEW

### I Believe

**“Faith, more than a feeling!”**

I am so happy to be writing these words today: This Sunday I will be preaching on “Faith! More than a feeling...” I am happy because I get to join with you in worship after being gone on vacation in Romania (my parents have asked me to say Hello to you all and also Thank You for letting me be away). I also want to say thank you to Pastor Carrie and all the people involved in the Sunday worship, and all the committees that work so hard during this time. (BTW - Have you seen the re-modeled bathrooms?)

Anyway, this Sunday I am preaching about faith:

What is faith?      What is saving faith?

What is the faith that the bible speaks about?

Where am I in my faith journey?

All these questions follow us in our spiritual life in the different stages of faith journey. This Sunday I would like for us to explore our faith, look at what makes faith work, and some of the things that distract us in our quest for faith. I would encourage you to read Hebrew chapter 11 and try to discover or ponder what Paul is trying to tell us in verse 1:

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday morning in worship!

PS. If you choose to worship with us in person, there will be a special little treat from my homeland for coffee hour.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

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.

Masks and hand sanitizer are available at each entrance.

## THIS WEEK’S BLOG, GENESIS—9/9-9/15

9/9 Ch. 34:1-31—The Sin of Jacob’s Family

9/10 Ch.35:1-29—Jacob, the Wanderer

9/13 Ch.37:1-19—Joseph, Jacob’s Beloved

9/14 Ch.37:20-37—Joseph, Cast into a Pit

9/15 Ch.38:1-30—Judah’s Sin

September 7, 2021

### Stewardship Report

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	\$734,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$275,583
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$208,264

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!

As I think about the last several weeks, and about Christian hospitality, prominent in my mind is John 13:15 wherein Jesus said,

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Pastor Bo is back from Romania now and I know we are so very happy to welcome back into the life and ministry of FPJ. In his absence, we, the body of the church, were tasked with carrying on the work of the church. And we did. Because God has gifted each person here to contribute to the church body. We are each able to serve God and one another in love, and we all stand on level ground at the foot of the cross. I also want each of you to know how grateful I am for your generous and gracious spirit toward me as I took a dive into the deep end, so to speak, while Bo was away.

And speaking of deep water, this Sunday is Back to Church Sunday. Pastor Bo is preaching about the flow of faith and we are celebrating a baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of an inner reality; we go into the water as sinful people and come back out of it forgiven and free. As the seasons change it feels like a time of renewal. The waters of baptism are a symbol and reminder that in Christ, we are washed free of our sin, we are loved, we are redeemed, we are secure in Jesus.

I hope you are able to join us this Sunday in person (or if you cannot be here in person, online) so we can connect and worship God together. We are individuals in the use of our gifts and talents to serve God and one another, we are one in our faith and love for neighbor and God.

Peace be with you and see you Sunday!

Pastor Carrie

### Back to Church Sunday!

First Pres will be welcoming everyone back this Sunday, **September 12th!**

If you haven't come back to worship with us live this is a great chance to do so!

For those comfortable joining us live we plan to have some extra fun following our theme of the flow of faith!

### 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.

### 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!

The interim search committee will be hosting an interim candidate on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.