



e-News

October 6, 2021

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SERMON PREVIEW

I Believe

The Cross: Redemption and Hope
Philippians 3:17-4:1

What comes to mind when you think of the Cross? This image is capable of evoking many feelings, or in some cases, maybe not. We see it used as jewelry, printed on tee shirts, on wall art, on bumper stickers. We see it in our sanctuary. Like so many other things in life, if we see it or hear it often enough, it's easy to stop thinking about it, to stop noticing it. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul cautions against this -- and he encourages his readers to keep following the examples of those who live mindfully aware of the redemption and hope found at the foot of the cross.

One of the resources I use, Homiletics, describes the cross this way,

"There is nothing static about the cross of Jesus Christ: it is dynamic, flowing and continual; it moves us between states of sacred suffering to gracious gladness, between creative wandering and functional stasis, between participative community and energizing solitude."

This, friends, is the cross of Jesus Christ. We are forgetful people, and so our lives are filled with symbols that remind us of who we are. Family pictures. Heirlooms. Treasured memorabilia. Above all these reminders stands the cross. A symbol of redemption and hope - a symbol that is dynamic, flowing and continual.

I can't wait to unpack this a little more with you this Weekend!

Peace,

Pastor Carrie

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for the recovery for Pastor Bo's father in Romania

Prayers and sympathies to Evelyn Mbi and her family on the loss of her brother Moses

Prayers of healing for Dave Jeffries as he recovers from surgery

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

Prayers of healing for Al Nielson, Kristina's father

Prayers and sympathies for Amy Gibson and her family on the loss of her mother Elizabeth Holman

Congratulations to Melissa Lee who married Michael Ursitti on Oct. 2nd

Doris Alderson will be joining us for coffee hour on Oct. 10th to spend time with everyone here at First Pres.

October 5, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$349,100
Year to Date Expenses	\$245,064

Income includes \$58,143 of Employee Retention Credit
Per Capita: \$38.50

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.

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.

Happy October Day to you all!

I hope you are enjoying all the pumpkin flavored treats and caramel apples you can! This is the season for all of it. As you know this Sunday it is our Blood Drive organized by Versiti Blood Center and you can schedule your appointment right now via phone or on the website. There are lots of spots available as of right now.

I know that Back to Church Sunday for some of us is a day in September, but in the light of everything that has happened in the last year, it feels to me that we all need a little more time and to be comfortable with being in person in worship. As you heard many time before, we are doing our best to welcome everyone on Sunday morning, and provide a safe place for you and your family to worship and fellowship. I would like to encourage you to join us on Sunday mornings to worship, fellowship, and rejoice in the Lord with the rest of your faith community.

At this time we are still working to find an organist, and we ask your prayers for the right contact to come our way. We are making some progress in being able to play recordings on the organ on Sunday morning (technology is a wonderful thing) but we know there is more to do before we are in our "comfort zone".

Also a quick reminder for the women of First Pres. : Pastor Carrie is trying to start a conversation and care group, using text to connect with you throughout the week. Please watch her video on Facebook, or contact her via email.

As I said on Sunday, this is an important time for us to reach out to our friends that we have not heard in a while. Over the last few weeks I had great conversation over the phone with people that I have not seen in church, but it was so nice to connect with them again. Please reach out to those you have missed, and remind them they are loved and cared for.

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday,

Pastor Bo

DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT!

One more this month!

October 23: Blue Miracle

more info available on our website!

"Texts on the Text"

Hi, friends! I hope you have had a chance to see the Facebook post about a new small group opportunity for the ladies! I'm super excited about it - it's a text small group where we will share our questions and thoughts about the sermons and, as time goes by, maybe even work together to figure out the "so what" of Scripture as we apply it to our daily lives.

This is a new concept for me, and I'm not sure how it will all go -- so I'm committing just to the month of October. If it is a good thing for us - we will keep on doing it! If it doesn't go very well, we will move on and try something else. I'm praying that it does work well - it has been on my heart and in my prayers for a few months now.

If you haven't seen it on Facebook, or if you don't have Facebook, let me know and I will send you the video clip. If you are interested in joining me in this, send me an email or a text and we'll get started! Here is where you can find me:

carrie.kapral@firstpresjoliet.org

or you can text or call me at
815-919-8714,

My prayers are for you as we move through this week!

SAVE THE DATE: BLOOD DRIVE

We will be hosting a **blood drive** on **October 10th**. You can make an appointment ahead of time to donate blood . There is a **blood shortage** in our area, so please consider donating, especially if you have type O or O– blood. More information is available on our website.