



e-News

November 3, 2021

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A Note from Dr. Jen

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ! I cannot tell you how happy my husband Tim and I are to be here.

In the last two weeks we have been blessed to share worship with you, not as leaders but as congregants. We have felt the movement of the Holy Spirit in First Pres's beautiful sanctuary and have encountered the love of Jesus through First Pres's incredible people.

Tim and I have been using this time to put our house together – literally! Poor Tim! Sometimes he feels like a screwdriver has become an extension of his arm. The poor dear has been assembling furniture while I have been looking for all the many things a house needs that you just don't think of, like towels, hangers, and ice cube trays.

In the meanwhile we have been welcomed and gifted and fed. It is an awesome thing to pastor a church who already gets it and lives it and teaches others how to love. God has called me here to help you and to care for you but, so far, it is all of you who have helped and cared for us.

Your kindness and generosity have warmed our hearts and made us more grateful than you can know. Thank you so very much.

Tim and I have been sent to share in your joys and burdens and see where my creativity and experience can help First Pres to become an even stronger Body of Christ while we all recover from this once in every 115 years pandemic.

This tragic event has touched all of us in one way or another. Some of us have gotten sick and some of us know someone who has become ill. There are even those among us who have lost loved ones to this terrible disease. We mourn those whose presence is now gone from our lives but, as Christians, we celebrate the truth that they are not dead. They are now more fully alive than they ever were in this life. And they are not lost from us, because God's amazing Grace, gifted to us through our Lord Jesus the Christ, assures us that we will see them again! Alleluia!!!

Now it is our time to pick up the mantle they left behind and begin to work, again, for the Kingdom of our Great God. As Covid begins to wane now is the time to call the community of faith to return to the worship and work of First Pres. of Joliet! We must spread the "good news" that joining the fellowship of believers of First Pres. will help all people to feel and experience the love, comfort and joy of God that no happenstance in this life can take away. Our work was, is, and always will be, to be a blessing and, in and by sharing God's love, we are blessed.

So let us go boldly into the future God has prepared for us and when, someday, our time of common journey is through, we will find that we have all been changed. We will be stronger, more flexible, more open and responsive to the call of the Holy Spirit. By becoming the light of our Lord Jesus the Christ we will become our best selves. The bold and faithful people God means us to be.

See you on Sunday! Alleluia! Amen!

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.

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Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$379,872
Year to Date Expenses	\$286,863

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.

Save the Date:
LADIES' PAINT NIGHT OUT!

The Women's Ministry team is making plans for a **FUN PAINT NIGHT** on Thursday, December 2nd.

There are limited spots available so
REGISTER NOW!

More info and registration link are on
our website!

Help is available if needed for
registration or transportation

Pancake Breakfast is back!

The first Saturday of each month, starting Nov. 6th, the Night Deacons will be serving a pancake breakfast! The breakfast is free and open to everyone, from 8:30 –10.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for health and recovery for Pastor Bo's father

Prayers of healing for Jim Huey.

Prayers of healing for James Brownold.

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

Prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson

STARS OF HOPE IS BACK!

Keep an eye out for our tree coming up soon! As we do each year stars will be available with either a child's 'need' list or 'want' list for this Christmas.

What a wonderful opportunity for each of us to make this holiday season truly beautiful for our community!

Helping Hands Update!

Our Helping Hands food ministry is going to look a little different for awhile. In an effort to continue their work, our Helping Hands team has a new structure.

Food will be ordered ahead from restaurants, paid by Helping Hands, then a congregation member will pick up the meal and deliver them to those in need.

If you know anyone who could benefit from this food ministry please reach out and let us know.

If you would like to help support Helping Hands you can donate financially by making a note on your check, or going on our 'give' page online and note "Helping Hands".