



# e-News

December 15, 2021

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

## LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SUNDAY

### "The Holy Family—Not the Perfect Family Portrait" Matthew 1:18-25

Have you ever gotten so excited about something that every day you cannot contain your happiness? As a kid, I looked forward to the first snow, or St. Nicholas Night when I would find some little sweets in my shoes that I cleaned the night before. As I think of Joseph during this season, I think back to those moments of great joy and expectation.

Just think about it, he has worked hard and now he is able to have a place he can bring his future wife. People look at him and see him as a righteous man who seems to be doing well. Then all of sudden his whole little perfect world crumbles when he is told that his wife to be is pregnant, and he is not the father. What would you do at that time? What would your response be when faced with this world crushing news?

This Sunday I would like for us to look at the Christmas story, the reality of it, from the anguish and anxiety that the news of a new born brings to this family. If you would like to, I encourage you to read Luke chapter 1 and 2 before Sunday, and maybe ask the question:

*What if this was me?*

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday,

Pastor Bo

We have **1 worship service** with traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, (YouTube ([firstpresjoliet](http://firstpresjoliet.org)), facebook, our website).

There Is one live worship service at 9 a.m. Sunday morning. With Fellowship Coffee hour after service in Hoffman Hall.

Each Sunday morning the sermon is livestreamed on our YouTube account [@firstpresjoliet](https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresjoliet)

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**3 pm** : Candlelit Family Service  
(nursery care provided)

**7 pm** : Candlelit Worship Service

**11 pm** : Candlelit Worship Service



FOR THE REMAINDER OF  
2021 LIVE WORSHIP WILL  
CONTINUE AT 9 AM

**BUT**

**STARTING JAN. 2ND LIVE  
WORSHIP SERVICES WILL  
BEGIN AT 10 A.M.**

December 15, 2021

### Stewardship Report

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	<b>\$746,307</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$437,774</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$408,207</b>

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

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You can give by mail, by online giving through our website  
using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

**Thank you** for your generosity.

## Greetings Dear Friends!

Tim and I drive around a night just to see the neighborhood - ablaze with light and color! Christmas is the perfect time to notice the beauty in our lives and be thankful for the gifts God has given us.

This year we are also thankful that First Pres. is back to **three services on Christmas Eve!** Beginning with **3pm** where excited children of all ages will learn and sing about the baby born in the manger to save the world! At **7pm**, the praise band will lead us as we sing the lovely old and new songs of this holy season. At **10:30** the Choir and Glory Ringers offer up the gift of music before we worship at **11:00** with Lessons and Carols.

The end of each service will find us all holding a candle to light the darkness as we welcome the new born King singing, "Silent Night!"

*SO COME LET US WORSHIP HIM! AMEN!*

Dr. Jen

### What Does God Want for Christmas?

'Tis the season when we are all thinking about gifts for friends and relatives. What should we get for Grandpa and Grandma, and how about Mom and Dad? What toys do the children want, and what about the neighbors? Do we ever think about what we can get for God?

We already know what He has given us — His only begotten Son to save us from our sins and given us eternal life. We already know that God does not need anything. Nonetheless, we know what He wants from us. God has told us to keep His commandments, further His kingdom, care for those who are in need, forgive others, and love one another.

**WHAT WILL YOU GIVE GOD THIS CHRISTMAS?**

-From Dave Steinberg

### MIDWEEK

Join us for our Wednesday night Bible classes tonight from 6—7pm. After this week we will take a break for the upcoming holidays.

**Classes will resume January 5th,  
so mark your calendars!**

**YOU CAN STILL ORDER POINSETTIA'S!**  
**IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS SO ORDER**  
**YOURS SOON!**

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

You have heard me say before that First Pres. is a busy place, and once again that is true especially this time of the year.

I would like to share with you one thing that brings a lot of joy and also helps the folks of our congregation in a very practical way. In the past month Helping Hands has delivered 24 meals, sometimes 4-5 meals a week, to folks in our congregation. Dave Steinberg and his wonderful team of helpers, picked up meals, knocked on doors and just said: "We love you and we are here for you!" And that is the beauty of this church family.

The Night Deacons had their Saturday Breakfast, and 15-20 people (mostly our regular guests) came to enjoy some fluffy pancakes.

It is these types of ministries that connect us with the community every week and makes First Pres. a church of love and service. If you are planning on joining us for worship on Christmas Eve, our three services (3pm, 7pm, or 11pm) I would like to invite you to support the Night Deacons Food Ministry and also the Presbyterian Assistance Program through giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. 70% of the Christmas Joy offering will go to support our internal ministry while 30% will go to support retired ministers as well as providing scholarships and tuitions for those attending PCUSA schools and colleges.

I want to thank you for your dedication and the way you continue to support First Pres. of Joliet and the many ministries we have here.

Let the light of Advent shine bright in you this season.

Pastor Bo