



e-News

December 22, 2021

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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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

Prayers of good health for Barb Rogers and her sister Brenda .

Continued prayer for COVID relief and for God to keep us healthy this holiday season.

The birthday calendar is available on our website.

MIDWEEK

CLASSES WILL RESUME JANUARY 12



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.**

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3 pm : Candlelit Family Service
(nursery care provided)

7 pm : Candlelit Worship Service

11 pm : Candlelit Worship Service

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Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$477,731
Year to Date Expenses	\$421,179

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.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER Jen Stroud, Head Pastor

Dearly Beloved,

Christmas is almost here! The celebration of the time of God's incarnation into our world has almost arrived! The musicians have been rehearsing in order to play their very best for the coming of the Creator of All Things. All the amazing vocalists have guarded their throats to lead the congregation in praises to Christ the King. The Glorious Bell Choir has been practicing to ensure that the Lord will be pleased with their rings. And the staff has worked diligently so God's people will be blessed with a worship where God's people will praise and sing... their **"Joy to the World!"**

We, the believers of First, have decked the halls of God's Holy House. Most of us have already chosen which gay apparel we will don. Our souls have **"Hark (ed) the Herald Angels Sing"**-ing, yes, **"Angels We Have Heard on High"**. They are calling us to come to the **"Little Town of Bethlehem"** to see **"What Child is This"** - born **"Away in a Manger"**.

We, all of us, **"Wonder as We Wander"** on this earthly journey. We ask **"Mary did you (or any of us) Know"** or even realize the enormity of how much God loves us. Only **"The Breath of Heaven"**, the Holy Spirit, can help us to understand that the greatest gift we will ever receive was offered us **"All on That Starry Night"** **"When Love Came Down to Bethlehem"**.

So come, children of God, come to First Presbyterian of Joliet to hear the talented duet of Beth and Michael at our 3:00pm service for Children of All Ages. Our wonderful Worship Band leads us for our 7:00pm service of Scripture, Sermon, and Song. Then at 10:30 enjoy the Musical where the incredible Chancel Choir, amazing Glory Ringers and organist Beverly Adelman will bless us through music telling us that **"Christmas Time is Here"** with the **"Carol of the Bells"**. This Christmas Eve come, **"Come All Ye Faithful"** to First Presbyterian, come on that **"Holy Night"**- that **"Silent Night"** and worship HIM!

Pastor Jen

Praise Yoga will be on a break for the holidays until January

Our Free Pancake breakfast will be held on the 8th of January, not the 1st. Come join our Night Deacons in this great food fellowship opportunity.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

It was the week before Christmas, and the church was not quiet, actually it seems a little busy. Busy as all the people work tiredly to finish all their chores before the big night. So, I thought I would share with you some of the things that we are thinking about and working on:

First week of the year will bring us a new worship time 10 am. There will be a Bible Study on the Book of Luke at 9:10 am with Pastor Jen leading that. The Night Deacons, who are just amazing at creating a nice welcoming atmosphere for us to have fellowship, will prepare coffee and some treats for us, so we can come and have fellowship before the service.

The Saturday Pancake Breakfast in January will be on Jan. 8th from 8:30 am- 10 am. I would like to invite you to come and meet some of the folks that enjoy this breakfast. It is a great moment of ministry, and the food is good too.

We continue to watch the COVID Omicron numbers very closely, and we continue to encourage you to practice safe protocols, not just at church but also around town. At this point our Lunch Bunch and Mid-week Family Night are still on the schedule for the Second week in January.

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, see you in 2022!

(I will be out of the office from Dec 25th - January 8th)

Blessings,
Pastor Bo