



e-News

December 29, 2021

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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NOTICE:

All in-building
gatherings are cancelled
until 1/10/22

Session will re-evaluate
the situation on Jan.
10th.

Our recorded online worship services are available on our
YouTube (@firstpresjoliet),
on our facebook (@firstpresbyterianchurchofjoliet) ,
and on our website (firstpresjoliet.org)

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

Prayers of good health for Barb Rogers and her sisters Brenda and Becky .

Prayers for Betty

Praise for successful recovery for Jim Huey

Prayers of good fortune for Mark and Christina and their family, in our community

Prayers for church leadership as we navigate the COVID surge

Prayers for all as we enter a new year!

REMINDER:

With some potential COVID exposures at our 3pm and 7 pm Christmas Worship services, please make sure to get tested if you start to feel any cold or flu symptoms .

If you have been with us in-building at First Pres please notify us if you or your family test positive.

December 29, 2021

Stewardship Report

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 2021-2022 Budget | \$746,307 |
| Year to Date Income | \$485,582 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$439,547 |

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

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Thank you for your generosity.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN

Dearest People of God!

Christmas Eve worship was one of the most blessed I have ever experienced, and the reason is because of all the places God could have sent Tim and I, He sent us to First Pres. Joliet and to you incredible people who call this wonderful church your faith home. Your presence in our lives has been our Christmas present. Thank you God! I loved this Christmas – Tim laughs at me because for it to be a full and complete celebration, I must worship and sing old beautiful carols, I must have chocolate and a LOT of it and I must watch a list of movies which include “A Christmas Carol”, “A Christmas Story” and last but not least “How The Grinch Stole Christmas”.

I fulfilled my list and I was ready to go into the New Year with energy and excitement like someone going to a fancy New Year’s party with a new dress. I was revved up to work with all of you making First Pres., an already incredible church, even better – more ministry – more care for the poor – more studying of God’s Holy Word – more worship – more growth in the Lord. Then COVID hit harder and the church’s wise and thoughtful Elders decided to close the church’s doors for two weeks to see if this latest surge in numbers will pass. Tim and I are praying for the health and safety of each one of you.

The staff is preparing the online service, working on the mid-week newsletter, paying bills, and speaking to everyone who phones in with a concern or a question. Remember no matter the virus, or the weather, or the troubles of this life, we are all still connected through the bond of love found in our Lord Jesus the Christ. That will never change – it is a constant that remains through this life... and into the next.

I think of one of my favorite Christmas movies, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. After the Grinch has stolen all the bang-booslers and fang-dooslers, all the gang-gongers and dang-dongners. After all the decorations, the presents, the lights, even the food for the feast, the much loved roast beast, were gone, the Whos down in Whoville gathered in the snow – with bare wires over their heads in an empty town square and they...sang.

They sang of their gratitude for each other – just as we sing of our gratitude to God and the gift of fellowship. We are the family of faith and NOTHING will separate us from God or one another. So when you’re feeling down or sad or just plain lonely, sing dear ones. Sing to God with thankful hearts for (with apologies to Dr. Seuss) “Jesus Christ is in our grasp and we are blessed with hands to clasp. Our Great God will always be and in HIS love we have we!”

-Pastor Jen

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARRIE

Hi, friends!

I can hardly believe another year is coming to a close. When I was walking Mayhem (my dog) this morning, I was extra aware of the snow on the ground and the smell of the crisp air. It was such a great reminder to me of the awesomeness of God. He has put so much detail into this world he created. Next time you are outside, try to notice all the details - the smells of winter, the appearance, the feeling, the way the light looks. It’s just astounding!

As beautiful as God’s creation is, unfortunately, as we leave 2021 behind, the pandemic is clearly going to follow us into 2022. The COVID positivity numbers are up in Illinois, and are quite high in Will County. Session met on Monday, and after prayer and discussion decided that we will not have in person worship on January 2 and 9. As a church, we want to care for all of our members, and one way we can help prevent the spread of COVID is to avoid gathering indoors for a (hopefully) brief period of

time. Session will meet again on January 10 to pray together and take another look at how the numbers are trending. If you have any questions or concerns, please give one of the pastors a call. If you have a spiritual need, absolutely give one of us a call. The building may be temporarily closed, but we are here for you.

Of course, all other activities that take place in the church building are also on pause. Stay tuned for further updates.

Most importantly, don’t lose sight of God’s love for you in both joyful times and in the more trying times. We will gather online for worship. We will uplift and pray for one another. We will rely on our faith that God has a plan and that it is good.

Peace be with you as you celebrate the beginning of a new year.

Pastor Carrie