



e-News

December 8, 2021

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SUNDAY

Mary Believed: Luke 1:39-45

Hi friends! I hope you have been able to carve out some time during this busy season to spend time with God - maybe in prayer, maybe through the devotional First Pres. sent out, maybe just in beautiful silence.

Relationships grow when we spend time on them - whether it be between friends, or with the Creator himself.

I speak of relationships because this Sunday, we will focus on Jesus' mom, Mary. On her faith, her belief, her willingness to do what God called her to do. It is an amazing story, in so many ways. It is amazing that God chooses to work through his people. As astounding as Mary's story is, we note that her faith didn't happen in a vacuum. She was surrounded by other people of faith throughout her childhood. She grew up steeped in her faith tradition, aware of God's awesome power. This, I think, is great food for thought as we figure out how to help our children and grandchildren navigate this new world.

We have **1 worship service** with traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, (YouTube (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

Information on our Christmas Eve Worship schedule can be found on our website www.firstpresjoliet.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson

Prayers for Mary Lynn Keir

Sympathies to Amber Korach and her family after the loss of her mother, Judy Korach. Memorial to be held 12/11 at 11am here at First Pres. For all who wish to attend.

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MIDWEEK CLASSES FROM 6-7 PM

Join us for a bag lunch dinner and lively discussions of the Bible!

Don't forget that Santa's working on his Naughty and Nice lists!

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Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$431,228
Year to Date Expenses	\$361,125

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.

Happy Christmas Season Beloved Congregation!

Tim and I were blessed this last Sunday by seeing our daughter, son in love, and baby grandson Leviticus John. The little family stayed at a hotel on Magnificent Mile, so as soon as Fellowship ended we headed off for Chicago. We were so excited to see them and, together, explore such an historical, massive city. Chicago is so beautiful and impressive, all decked out in Christmas lights this time of year. We were awed by the sights and sounds. I am not sure whose eyes were bigger – the adults or Levi's!

We watched as our grandbaby partook of his first real Christmas, saw him enjoying the festivities with the dawning understanding of how something special was happening. The pure enjoyment of Christmas was on his face. Delight coursing through him, he laughed as he scampered down the street barely holding on to the loving hand of one of his parents. Seeing Levi give himself up to the joy of this season helped me to realize that all of us, young and old, should re-imagine the wonder of this time when God became one of us. To experience, once again, the dawning understanding of a baby, born into this world, to one day rule it in love!

See You in Worship Dear Ones!

Pastor Jen

POINSETTIAS

**MAKE SURE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
BEFORE THIS SUNDAY 12/12!**



**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.**

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