



e-News

January 12, 2022

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 CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Pat and Lee Haldorson

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

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

Prayers for Christa Desiderio as she does mission work in Zanzibar before heading to Angel House in Tanzania.

Prayers for health for Aaron, Jon, James, and Linda of the Caisley Family.

Prayers of healing for Keith Farr

Prayers for those of our leadership & Session as they guide through the dangers and complications of this pandemic.

Poinsettias are still available!

We still have many lovely poinsettias available for anyone who would like to come pick them up!

January 12, 2022

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$500,018
Year to Date Expenses	\$467,113

Income includes \$58,143 of Employee Retention Credit
Per Capita: \$40.00

If you made contributions to First Pres in 2021, please wait to file your taxes until you receive your statement. Statements will be mailed in the next few weeks.

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.

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

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN

The wind is strong and fierce, the air is clean and cold. But God is in our midst and gives us His hand to hold.

Hello Wonderful Church!

When Tim and I first began this call we went out and explored this beautiful city. We were told where to get home-made corned beef (can anyone say one Rueben please?), delicious pizza, and Italian Beef sandwiches extra juicy (YUM!). Tim and I spoke to folk everywhere we went and told them that I was the new Interim Head of Staff at First Presbyterian of Joliet and invited them to worship. When people heard we had moved here from Florida, they told us we were crazy. "Why right before winter?", they asked with quizzical brows. We answered, "Because when God wants you to do something you do it and you are blessed because of it". And that is so true. We are blessed to journey alongside of you for a time, working for God's Kingdom together. One of the most intriguing and inspiring things (of many) that happened to me during our first few

weeks here, occurred after worship one Sunday. I was approached by a lovely lady who told me she knew that Tim and I moved here from Florida and what a shock it must be to our systems. I laughed and told her it was getting a mite cold. She smiled and said, "Hold onto your hat because this is nothing!" She then told me she had a theory that the good people who live in this area are modern day Vikings, strong and resilient and I see that it's true. We have now been with you for little over two months and as the winter has grown colder, we have found that your kindness and welcome has warmed Tim and I better than our boiler ever could. First Pres. is truly a wonderful church to call your faith home. But dang it! This awful Covid seems determined to keep us away from our beloved church family. But, take heart dear ones, there is a ray of sunshine on the horizon. Session will meet and decide what markers must be met to re-open for worship again. The numbers are dropping and the experts say this just might be our last big bout with this awful bug. I pray they are right. In the meantime remember this you Valiant, Virtuous, Vibrant Vikings that nothing can keep us down for we are Victorious in the Lord!

Keep warm in HIS Love,
Dr. Jen :)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

How many of you have seen the movie "Groundhog Day"??? It feels like 2022 is starting in the same way as last year. Another COVID spike, another week to worship online and not in person. Just another day doing the same things we have done for the last year, wash your hands, wear a mask, and self distance. I know how disappointing this is to you, as it is to me. And yet, every day I wake up in prayer for us as a church, praying for this pandemic to end and for every one of us to be safe. This has been a challenging time in regards to pastoral care. Even as I was taking some time off, I was in touch with folks from our congregation dealing with COVID or other health issues. I want to encourage you to pray for each other, call or text, just reach out and bring a smile to someone that might need a reminder that God loves them.

Tomorrow, we will meet with session and talk about the current situation and the high rate positivity rate for our county. As staff, we are monitoring the information available and are trying to look and plan ahead so we can be ready for in person worship when it resumes. Last night, meeting with the Night Deacons, we talked about missing another breakfast for the community, but also set a plan for being in person again and are ready to serve in a heart beat. I want to encourage you to have the same approach as we go through this Groundhog Day once again.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo M