



# e-News

January 19, 2022

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

## NOTICE:

Our doors will re-open once Will County's COVID rate is in a downward trend and has lowered to 15% positivity.

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for Haldorson family as Lee is working through recovery.

Prayers of healing for Don Bossen and his family as he receives hospice care.

Prayers for Barb Rogers as she is helping her sister navigate through health issues.

Continue to pray for our church as we continue to be affected by COVID. We pray for the safety and health of everyone in the congregation.

If you made contributions to First Pres in 2021, please wait to file your taxes until you receive your statement. Statements have been mailed.

January 19, 2022

#### Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$515,297
Year to Date Expenses	\$469,673

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

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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

Dear People of God!

I pray this message finds you all are safe and warm. I must confess that when God called Tim and I to First Joliet we were nervous about facing winter weather after so many years spent in warmer climates. But that nervousness has all been for naught. And even though we are definitely cold at times, the stark beauty of frozen branches laden with snow is worth the shivering. The other day we were masked and bundled up and drove to the store for groceries. When we got out of the car I noticed that neither of us zipped up our coats. I pointed it out to Tim and said that our bodies' memory of our northern childhoods must be kicking in. And we laughed claiming that a bit of Viking vitality was returning and making us more vigorous. "WINTER? SCHMINTER!", we said to one another, "We'll make it through – we can hang on till spring!"

We have all been facing a winter of sorts going on two years now haven't we? We have lost loved ones and we have mourned their absence from our lives. We have learned, sadly, that to be healthy and whole we had to give up a lot of the things that make life wonderful; time spent with family and friends and strangers who could grow to be friends. We have had to give up, what the Word says is essential for spiritual growth, worshipping together. It has been disappointing hasn't it? And most of us are done with it – done with this winter of COVID, the masks, the distancing, the loneliness.

But take heart dear ones. The Lord is with us. The Word tell us that in this time of trial we will be victorious. Just as Jesus was victorious after His beating, suffering and painful death on the cross. Death could not keep Him down. Our Savior rose from the grave to show us that, we too, will rise!

The Word tells us in Romans 5:3-5

"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance and perseverance brings proven character; and proven character gives us hope; and hope does not disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us".

So, through this tribulation we will persevere. We will develop into patient, kinder and more loving souls. We will become more like Jesus. And because of that growth we will never lose hope because God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that lives within us!

So be filled with hope gentle, loving people of God. Let's be done with disappointment and hang on because... SPRING IS COMING!

In HIS Love,  
Dr. Jen:)

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

### **Sunshine! Sunshine! Sunshine!**

We love sunshine this time of year, it makes us feel happy, optimistic, and for a little while we forget how cold it is outside. As you know we are still closed on Sunday for in-person worship. We are looking at the numbers, and they look to be going in the right direction. To me that is just like the sunshine. The reality around us tells us to be careful as we go about our day to day life. As the session voted last week, we are watching for our county to hit the 15% threshold and we will be reopening. As with everything, we will need to get all the right people in place, communicate, plan, and open. We are excited about that, and we will communicate ASAP with you in regards of Sunday morning.

Every week in the office we try to keep up with the life of the congregation, and it seems that some weeks are filled with more prayers requests than others. I told Dave

Steinberg, that one of these days he needs to call me with some good news and not just another name to be added to our prayer list. Especially at this time, when we feel disconnected, please call us in the office, and let us know how to pray for you, if you need some help, and how we can do that.

Also, a little note on the online worship: If you would not mind sharing the worship video on your Facebook, give us a like, or leave a comment, we would appreciate that. Those types of engagements help our channels to gain traction.

Remember as you go out today, that God's grace is new each and every morning, and you are a person of grace.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo M.