



**First
Presbyterian
Church**

e-News

January 5, 2022

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

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 Lee Haldorson

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen

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

Sympathies and prayers for the friends and family of Joyce Scheidt who passed on 12/29/21.

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

Prayers for all as we enter a new year!

POINSETTIA PICK UP

**Poinsettia pickup will be Jan 6
from 10 a.m.-noon.**

Pull up to the back door and someone will bring them out to you.

If these times do not work for you, please contact the church office at 815-727-9259 to make other arrangements.

January 5, 2022

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$495,563
Year to Date Expenses	\$439,580

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

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

Hello Dear Friends in the Faith!

I pray this message finds you all well and safe. And that those of you who have COVID or whose loved ones have COVID, are healing quickly and completely in Jesus Holy Name! Amen! While we are dealing with the last months (Please God!) of this pandemic I am comforted by our amazing online worship. You cannot believe how many hours it takes to prepare for those services. After it is filmed it must be uploaded onto YouTube and that can be the most exasperating process you have ever experienced. Bo has told me that he can upload the service (a two hour ordeal) and just before the entire worship is downloaded, YouTube will just stop accepting the recording and reject it. And there is nothing to do but start all over again! YIKES!

We have now been closed for ten days and I join you in mourning the loss of one another's presence and the loss of live worship. There is just something about being in God's Holy House with the music and the fellowship that strengthens a believer's walk with the Lord.

Just know that we are here for you. Carrie, Bo and I are ready to speak to you about your concerns and cares, to pray with you for God to heal your illnesses, your sorrows and your stress. We are praying for all of you, every day, and we are praying this pandemic will be over soon.

Your wise and faithful elders and leaders are also praying for the discernment of when to re-open this incredible church for worship again. But utmost in their minds and hearts is their concern and love for you. That love is only eclipsed by their love for the Lord.

I am going to church every day, working alongside Bo, Carrie, Jen, Scout, Jodi, Lester and Mike holding up the fort. We are writing, researching and recording. We are praying and discerning and reading the Word. And we are cleaning and rearranging and beautifying First Presbyterian in anticipation of the day we are all re-united in the work and worship of our Great God! Until that much awaited day, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, keep warm, keep safe and keep the faith!

In God's Love and with my own,
Dr. Jen:)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARRIE

Hi friends,

Welcome to 2022! It's incredibly cold and windy as I write today. We are still hunkered down under COVID precautions. The pandemic is still with us. Yet, that's not all - we are also STILL the church and we are still absolutely enveloped in God's love. We are warmed by the light of Christ.

The Session is meeting on Monday, January 10, to pray and discuss what FPJ's next steps are as far as reopening for Sunday services and resuming our regular ministries and activities. We will pass along the Session's decision as soon as possible, so please check your email, Facebook and the website for information.

I've no idea what this year has in store, but I am so grateful to know God is with us through everything, and that he is always just a prayer away. I've been reading a book by Timothy Keller about prayer and wanted to share something I learned. Martin Luther once suggested that it is wise to paraphrase the Lord's Prayer, using different wording, each day. I've been doing this and have found it to be a great way to enter into prayer time. It focuses me more on God, less on me. More on the needs of others, less on just my own. It also leads me more naturally into writing out some of my prayers.

I pray for all of you - our church body - every day. I am grateful that God has placed us together in this church family.

Peace,
Pastor Carrie