



# e-News

February 16, 2022

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

### **Girl Scout Cookies!**

This Sunday our very own Scarlett will be selling Girl Scout cookies with her troop in Hoffman Hall. They will be selling both before and after Worship.

### **March Madness Women's Day Out**

March 20th 11am-2pm

Join us for some after-worship lunch, and a trip to the Rialto to see the "Basement Church Ladies" show! Lunch and the ticket costs \$35 each. Registration closes March 10th.

### **Sunday School**

Each Sunday morning grab some coffee and join Pastor Jen in Fireside for a study of Luke!

The class runs from 9:15 to 9:45, still giving you some time before Worship begins.

### **Lent Soup Nights**

Starting March 9th and ending April 6th we will be having Lenten Soup Nights from 6 to 7 pm. Join us for a fellowship dinner of soup and socializing. Each night one of our pastors will give a ten minute teaching.

### **February 16, 2022**

#### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	\$746,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$546,560
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$519,465

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 CHURCH FAMILY**

Prayers for Barb Rogers and her sisters Brenda and Becky as Barb helps them navigate through health issues.

Prayers of healing and recovery for the following: Lee Haldorson, Dave Jeffries, Duke Barnes, as well as Jan Weber.

A memorial is being held for Frances Burkey who passed near the start of the pandemic. It will be held at the Croatian Club in Joliet 2/27 from 3-4pm.

Prayers for the family and friends of Doris Ross who dies on 2/10. Services at Dames Funeral Home on 2/25. The visitation will be at 10, service at 11 am.

We continue to pray for the ministry of Angel House to the young people of Tanzania.

Let us pray for the widows and widowers in our faith family here at First Pres.

### **All Officers Meeting**

February 19th from 10—12

All Deacons and Elders are asked to attend

Lunch will be provided at 12 so **make sure you let us know if you're attending or not!**

### **Congregational Meeting**

During the 10am Worship on Feb 20th

A congregational meeting will be held during worship Sunday, the 20th, to elect our new Officers.

We will also be asking for people to put their names forward to join our Nominating Committee.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN

Hello Beloved Church!

Today, it is 48 degrees and there is the promise of Spring in the air. It is glorious! But the weather man says there will be a 7-10 inch snow fall on Thursday and yet you couldn't tell it by the songs the birds are singing. But, wish it away as we may, it is incontrovertible. Winter is still here. We are still cold, shivering and struggling with shovels and salt, boots, hats and gloves. It is not the easiest season of the year to live through. But there is a Divine secret to enjoying winter, the winter weather and the winter of our lives.

Our attitude, our decision to concentrate on the good, rather than the bad, can help us face the harshness of winter. God's word tells us to "give thanks in all things", calling us to see the beauty all about us. And there is beauty to be found. In the sparkle sun creates when it hits a white bank of frost at exactly the right angle. The stark loveliness of frozen branches waded down with glittering ice. Even the white breaths that leave our mouths in soft clouds are testaments that we are here, surviving, even thriving, while the world is frozen over around us. It is no coincidence that Lent begins in winter.

Ash Wednesday is just two weeks away. Jesus turned His face toward Jerusalem and walked, willingly, toward His fate. Our fate. If we knew, as He knew, what awaited us, could we have done it? Jesus is in the winter of His life on Earth and yet Matthew tells us Jesus continues to "heal great crowds". Christ feeds thousands with a bit of bread and a few fish. He walks on water. But Jesus also saw the cold of this world, felt the pain created by kindness frozen in the strife of jealousy and hatred. But that did not stop Him from moving forward toward the destiny God had planned for Him and for all of us.

Our Jesus looked around and saw the beauty of people who were worth saving, who are still worth saving. We will soon enter into Lent that time of self-examination and discipline. Are we ready to be honest with ourselves? Are we ready to see the truth of our walk with God and one another? Are we ready to brave the winter of our frozen inaction and discard the sin of negativity? Are we ready to turn from the things that hurt us and others and walk with Jesus toward the cross and then, like our Lord, enter into Glory?

In Hope of our Growth and In His Love,

Dr. Jen:)

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

After finishing with Lunch Bunch Bible study, as I returned to my office, I saw an alert on my phone regarding the situation in Ukraine. As I started reading the article, I was reminded of a conversation I had in church on Sunday about prayer and prayer needs. About how we need to pay for peace, for the whole world as it is in turmoil.

Thinking back to a class way back in seminary I remember, a professor saying: The world will always be in turmoil, but we will always have something that the world does not have, a peace that is so deep, Jesus's peace. With that peace in our hearts we pray boldly for those that do not know peace. That is my prayer for us this week, Lord let the world catch a glimpse of your peace!

This Saturday, all our deacons and elders are coming together for the all officer's training. This is a good time, for those that serve this church in so many ways, to be together, to be inspired, and think about the ministry of this church for the new year. We will meet on Saturday at 10 am to about 12pm. I hope to see you then.

I want to also take time to share with you some of the things session talked about last week.

1. As we are now on a down trend in regards of COVID, we will resume food ministry for our Saturday Breakfast, and for Wednesday Nights. During Lent we will host a Soup and Lent Study on Wednesday Night at 6 pm.

2. As we worship on Sunday morning some of our worship in person protocols will reflect the lower rates. Pew Pads and Offering Plates are back in use.

3. The session has approved a congregational survey regarding a Second Service during the week. In the following weeks please watch out for communication from the office regarding this. We are looking for some directions as we are praying about this ministry opportunity.

4. Starting March 27th, you will see communication about this year's Stewardship campaign: Living God's Grace.

Last week I shared a little teaser about Lent, and Palm Sunday. I hope you will run to your calendar and put Palm Sunday Church Breakfast on your Calendar for April 10th. (details to follow but I hear there is French toast). Also the Easter egg Hunt is back on the schedule for April 9th.

Have a great week and see you this weekend in worship,

Pastor Bo M.