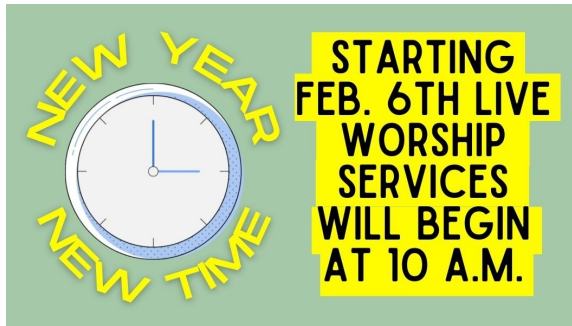




# e-News

February 2, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for the Haldorson family as Lee is working through recovery. If you know of someone who would be willing to help in the mornings or evenings please reach out to Pat.

Prayers and sympathies to family and friends of Don Bossen who passed away on the morning of the 26th.

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

Prayers of healing and recovery for Doris Alderson .

Prayers of healing for Duke Barnes who is in the hospital.

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. The birthday calendar is available on our website.

Our Free Pancake breakfast will not be held this February 5th. Our Night Deacons are planning for the Breakfast to resume in March

### Sunday School!

Pastor Jen will be teaching a class on Luke each Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:45. Grab some coffee, join her in Fireside, study together, and still have time before live worship at 10!

This class will be starting this Sunday, the 6th as we return to Live Worship Services once more.

### Officers (existing and new) Meeting

We will be holding a meeting for ALL current and new Elders and Deacons. This will serve as training for new officers and good refresher for existing officers. *This meeting will be held 2/19 at 10 AM with lunch at noon.*

### **Lunch Bunch is coming back!**

Bring a lunch and come join us for this weekly Bible study, Tuesdays at noon, resuming 2/15th!

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

There is one live worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. With Fellowship Coffee hour after service in Hoffman Hall.

Each Sunday morning the sermon is livestreamed on our YouTube account @firstpresjoliet

## Women's Day Out MARCH MADNESS!

### **Save the Date: March 20th!**

Brunch, the Rialto, and fellowship! What's not to love? Head to our website for more information and a registration form!

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### **Stewardship Report**

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>2021-2022 Budget</b>      | \$746,307 |
| <b>Year to Date Income</b>   | \$525,807 |
| <b>Year to Date Expenses</b> | \$491,902 |

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.

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER Jen Stroud, Head Pastor

Good, Good Day Dear Ones!

As of this morning at 3:30am, Tim is heading off to work for Will County. He will labor shoveling and blowing snow so that people will not slip on the sidewalks. As I write this I can see, by the brightness of the street lamp, soft, beautiful white flakes falling while a snow plow makes its noisy way past my house.

I find myself grateful that I don't have to go outside and find myself even more grateful for the people who work, like Tim, those who clear our roads and fix our downed cable, phone and electric lines so that we might stay safely sleeping. It makes me think of Jesus, who chose to leave the paradise of heaven and give His hands to the nails and die only to rise again defeating fear and stress and sin. All to keep us safe from harm's way. Too often we forget what God has done for us, what God continues to do for us. Like those who take care of us, the selfless doctors and nurses who put their lives in jeopardy trying to help those with COVID, Educators who tirelessly teach our children despite the fact that schools are a breeding ground for this virus. The road workers, garbage collectors, grocery clerks and truck drivers who bring us our food. The brave ones who walk the wall and say – you will not get past us; the police, firefighters and military who serve and protect us. And so many others I have forgotten to name. Many of them are not in their beds. They are doing their jobs, so that we can stay warm and safe.

Jesus says,

“Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

God gives comfort to those who labor and care for others. When we work and live and act in love God holds us close in His arms and blesses us with strength to continue. In John 3:6 Jesus tells us that “The Spirit gives birth to Spirit.” Through the Holy Spirit we are reborn, given the way and will to carry on. We have all worked so hard during this, once in every 115 years, event that has changed our lives and our world forever.

God has seen our diligence and our care for one another. Our Lord has witnessed our masks, our distancing, our denying ourselves the respite of one another's company out of love for our neighbor. As of this moment, at 4:27am, the positivity rate is 11.3 and falling.

This Sunday at 10:00am we will be worshipping our Great God together again. And for those of us who wish to study Luke, I will be teaching a Bible Course on that amazing Gospel from 9:15 – 9:45, giving those who attend enough time to grab a cup of coffee and greet their fellow faithful.

We have done the work and will continue to labor for the Lord. This Sunday it is time for rest and renewal, Beloved of the Most High. So come to the House of the Lord and worship Him. Let us be re-born in His Love!

In Him,  
Dr. Jen:)

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

What a beautiful snowy day we have today! I love the white blanket of snow covering all that my eyes can see. A day like today, reminds me of how God's forgiveness, God's grace is present in our lives and we are made new, that our sins, transgressions are covered by Jesus's perfect sacrifice and we can live a new life in that grace.

By now, you know that we will be in person at church this Sunday, and I am looking forward to seeing you and sharing the worship with you. I will be preaching on John the Baptist and his call to repentance. If you would like, I would encourage you to read John chapter 1 and get familiar with this fascinating prophet of Jesus's time.

With all of us in the office thinking and working on fully being open as a church, there is a lot of work to be done for sure. The councils are meeting and thinking about reopening activities, fellowship, and study opportunities for all. With spring around the corner, we are starting to plan for the Lent season, Easter Egg Hunt, and even in person Vacation Bible school. At the end of March Water Within, our friends from Nashville, will be with us for one Sunday, and we are talking about a concert. So many things to look at and be excited about, wouldn't you say?

As the councils work through all the details around these events, we will communicate with you the dates and I want to encourage you for now, to make room on your calendar for all these things. We missed a lot over the last few years, but this is the time, God willing, for us to get back into the swing of things that make this church vibrant and full of life.

Please put on your calendars, Officers (existing and new) Training Meeting on Saturday February 19th. Also Sunday February 20th, we will have our congregational meeting, and the installation of new elders. If you ever thought about serving on any church council, this might be a good time to talk to someone from session, or ask the staff about what the councils are doing and maybe get to know some new people as you serve with them.

You might of heard me say before: Prayer is so important to us, all we do as a church from a council meeting, to serving a cup of coffee, or teaching in Sunday school, has to come from prayer. I want to encourage you to pray for the church, the leaders, the councils and for all of us. A church that prays, is an amazing church. And you are part of that.

I pray that you are safe and enjoy a little warm on this day, see you Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo