



# e-News

February 23, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
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## 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 to wrap up .

**Join us 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, and 4/6.**

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday at 6:30. This worship service will include Communion and the receiving of ashes. Online worship will also be available for this service.

## CALL FOR ACOLYTES

Calling everyone from kindergarten through 6th grade! We need acolytes for this year!

More info is on our website

## Sunday School

Come to Fireside to study Luke with Pastor Jen from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday morning.

## 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. Reserve your ticket now! Registration closes March 10th.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing and recovery for the following: Lee Haldorson, Dave Jefferies, 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.

Prayers and sympathies for Gwen Pelech and her family at the loss of her mother-in-law.

Prayers for Marueen Fumagalli for strength to go through the treatments and healing of her cancer.

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.

Joyce Bossen would like to give thanks for all of the prayers, cards, and support given after the passing of her husband Don Bossen.

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### Stewardship Report

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	\$746,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$551,645
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$521,580

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

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You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

**Thank you** for your generosity.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN

Greetings Faith Family!

We believers know that as we grow in the Lord we discover that stewardship is a blessed opportunity to live in God's Grace. And when we give to the work of the Lord, and live in God's love, we can experience miracles. Just ask Bob. Bob is from North Carolina and he has an amazing story.

During worship one Sunday at Bob's church, a husband, wife and their three little children came to the front of the sanctuary asking for help. Everyone had heard of their misfortune. A fire had consumed their home, a farmhouse which had held five generations of their family. The fire had been all consuming, the devastation complete. They were now alone in the world with no insurance, no money, no place to live, no clothes to wear. Bob told me the little family was poor but proud. It took everything in them to stand in front of their church and ask for help.

The congregation responded immediately. One elderly couple took them into their home, telling the family they would be a blessing as there were so many chores around the house the old couple could no longer do. Some offered the little one's clothing saying their own children were grown and their clothes didn't fit anymore could they just take them off their hands? Bob offered money saying he had extra that month. So, the little family took everything offered to them, tears of gratitude flowing down their cheeks. Everyone's eyes were bright that Sunday. It was a worship none of them would ever forget.

However, the truth was, Bob didn't have any extra that month. He didn't even have enough for his rent. But Bob saw that family's need and he grew quiet. It was in that stillness Bob heard God's voice...

*"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."*

Matthew 19:21

Bob knew that money was not as important as his living God's Grace by giving to this family. After worship, Bob went home and tried to figure out what he was going to say to his landlord because his rent was due. That very night there was a knock on the door. Nervous, Bob opened it to find his landlord who, instead of demanding the rent, handed Bob an envelope. The landlord said a lady had left it with the instruction that it be given to Bob when he came home from church. In the envelope was three hundred dollars. Bob asked people who she was but one knew. But Bob did. She was an angel, sent from the Lord to make good on God's promise.

That was how Bob discovered that when we live in God's Grace, miracles occur. This year we have a chance to live and learn that lesson for ourselves. Let us chose Grace!

In Him!  
Dr. Jen:)

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

Happy eNews day to you!

Next week we start a new season in our spiritual life calendar. We enter Lent, the season when we all are called to follow the Lord as he heads towards Jerusalem, and learn along the way what it means to Love God and Love people. Lent is more than a few weeks, where we might do a fast, skip a meal, or not drinking soda-pop. Lent is our yearly spiritual check-in, where we put aside all that we are and look at the Lord and his teachings, so we can learn in humility, and pray to fully comprehend His sacrifice.

Next week, we invite you to join us for Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm. As we gather we will receive the imposition of ashes, a reminder of our ephemeral nature, but we will also be reminded of the eternal promise we have in Christ as we are celebrating the Lord's Supper. If you

have never participated in a Ash Wednesday Service, I would invite you to consider attending. I remember my first time attending an ash service, and how meaningful it became to me, especially that little reminder of "dust to dust" and "forever you are mine".

Throughout the Lent season, we will host Lenten Soup Wednesday Nights from 6pm-7pm, starting on March 9th and ending on April 6th. I know I am not selling anyone short, when I say that Jody and Keith have cooked some wonderful soup for us in the past, and this Lent we will be in for a treat. Come for some yummy soups, fellowship, and a little time to center ourselves in the Word. Kids and adults, young and old, all are welcomed.

I hope that you will run to your calendar and mark it down right now. See you soon:)

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo