



e-News

March 16th, 2022

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

TAKE OUR SURVEY!

We are asking the congregation of First Pres to complete our survey gauging interest in adding a contemporary evening worship service

THE LAST DAY TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY IS THURSDAY THE 17TH!

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

God calls us to be people of prayer. After two years of pandemic, rising anger, uncertainty and now war in the Ukraine, I know we are tired. And perhaps scared and feeling helpless as well. This, then, is a time to renew our call to prayer individually and together.

Beginning this Friday, March 18, at 9:30 am, we will gather together in room 217 every third Friday of the month to share our prayer concerns, and then lift those concerns, along with our church prayer list, to our heavenly Father. I encourage you to consider joining us.

If a weekday will not work for your schedule, please reach out to me. I would love to start a second group on an evening or Saturday morning.
Peace, Pastor Carrie

Lent Soup Nights

We are having Lenten Soup Nights on Wednesdays 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 end. Last Soup Night is 4/6.

WATER WITHIN CONCERT

March 27th 4-6pm

Join us for refreshments, an amazing concert, and meet and greet! We will be collecting free will donations of non-perishables for our Micro-Pantry.

We are proud to say that will also be collecting free will donations that will go directly to emergency humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees.

CALL FOR ACOLYTES

Calling everyone from kindergarten through 6th grade! We need acolytes for this year! If you're interested you can drop your information in the offering plate, contact the office, or contact Tandy Penhale via email at tcpenhale@comcast.net

INFO NEEDED: Name—Parent Name—Phone number—email

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing and recovery for Dave Jefferies

Prayers for Julie Coughlen for more good test results and continued healing.

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

Prayers for Kim Belfield as she battles with Alzheimer's

Prayers for Margaret Lucas as she prepares to have surgery this coming week.

Prayers for the family and friends of Shirley Hill who passed 3/14. Her visitation will be 3/19 10:30-11 at Colson-Holmquist-Sayles Funeral Home.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

Our liturgists read a bible passage on Sunday mornings - please prayerfully consider joining our ranks! This opportunity to actively participate in worship as a liturgist would involve reading only two or three times a year.

If interested, please contact Joan Schultz

at: joanschultz27@gmail.com

or call the church office and leave your

name, phone number and email address -

THANK YOU!!

Linus Project will not meet this month, but will resume in April.

March 16, 2022

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget \$746,307

Year to Date Income \$573,856

Year to Date Expenses \$572,791

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.

Dear Beloved Church,

When I was first contacted by Don Caisley by the Interim Search Committee, I wasn't even sure where Joliet Illinois was. And even though Tim and I were living in the warmth of Florida, harboring no thoughts of getting cold ever again, I looked First Pres Joliet up on the internet. Of all the churches I was talking with this church wowed me from the start. The architecture, windows and worship opened up my mind to the possibilities that this was where God was sending me. I started to listen to recordings of the choir and watch worship on line. The preaching was Spirit led, the Chancel Choir incredible, the Worship band phenomenal. Then I discovered First also has something very few church's have in this day and age... a bell choir! The Glory Ringers fill my heart with joy!

Thinking the Christian Duet "Water Within" was part of your music program I actually emailed my children a video of them. They are so good! And in reality, First CAN claim them for Water Within comes to us once a year to bless us in worship and, this year, by playing an afternoon concert. They also give us permission to use their music in our on-line worship.

But knowing all this, I still wasn't sure it was my call. It was not until I walked into First's sanctuary and felt the strong presence of the Holy Spirit and got to meet all of you wonderful, giving, loving, Christians that I knew it was God's call. And when God calls you answer! Tim and I thank God for you everyday.

Ten days from now, March 27th at 4:00pm, we are hosting a mission led concert to feed the hungry in our area and care for the refugees from the terrible war that has forced upon the peaceful people of Ukraine. The surrounding countries in western Europe are doing their best to house, feed and care for the now more than 2 million people who have left the only homes they have ever known, to literally run for their lives.

Please come and support this important mission. Bring a non-perishable food item as your ticket and when they pass the hat for Ukraine give as God calls you. Let's use this opportunity to bring family and neighbors to First Pres. People who have never entered a church, or haven't for years, will come to a concert with beautiful music for a mission that makes a difference in the world. God calls us to make a difference in this world. And we of First Presbyterian of Joliet answer God's Call!

See you at Lenten Soup my friends!

Dr. Jen

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO:

*There is some good in this world, and it's worth fighting for.-
J.R.R. Tolkien*

What is the first thing that goes through your mind when you wake up in the morning? Please, pause for a moment and really answer that question? For some it might be as easy as being thankful for a new day. For others it might be a long list of things to do. For some it might be gathering the strength to get through the day. The list is so much longer than that, we know it from our own lives. It is part of who we are to experience the full spectrum of emotions and feeling, from joy to sadness, from strength to weakness. When we look at the disciples, and follow their lives into the Lent season and after, we see that humanity in full display, and also we see God at work in their lives. In that surrender to God, we see the disciples live fully, live in purpose, in conviction, and see God manifested in their lives. No matter how hard things might be, all of us are called to be those disciples. I want to encourage you this Lent season to set your mind to the Lord, and find the good around you, be part of it, and let that good speak to the world.

That is what we do as a church every day. We look for the good, and how we can be part of it. In Sunday worship, or Mid-week Family Night, in filling the food pantry every day, or making plans for ministry to come.

- March 27th—Water Within Concert - This concert is more than music, it's about fellowship, about inviting someone that needs a little hope. It's about ministry to the Ukrainian refugees. We will have a special free will offering to be send to the Halchiu Church in Romania to help directly with the refugees as they transition in the country.

- April 9th - Easter Egg Hunt - yes there will be breakfast, eggs, a visit from the Easter Bunny but we will also have a time of learning about Christ sharing those lessons of hope with the young ones. Parents, please plan to bring your kids on Saturday and also on Sunday morning as we will be planning for a special time in worship for them.

- April 10th - Palm Sunday - What a way to kick of Holy Week- a great breakfast, a festive worship, and hopefully some people we have not seen in a while. This is what First Pres. does best, welcome people, reconnect, and encourage.

There are many more things to speak about but that is a lot for now. I pray that you have a great week, doing good for the Lord.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill in below and mail to the church office. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers" Online payment will be available as well. The deadline for ordering is 4/4th.

How many? (at \$15/pot):

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

__ to the Glory of God

__ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones

__ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Name:

(please use exact wording to be posted on our website) This form is also available on our website.