



# e-News

March 2nd, 2022

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

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

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

### Mask Update:

We are no longer requiring masks to be worn in-building, but we welcome anyone who chooses to continue wearing a mask and/or distancing.

### 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.**

### 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](mailto:tcpenhale@comcast.net)

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

### Call For Micro Pantry Volunteers

Looking for volunteers who can pledge to stock our Micro-Pantry the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of each month thru 2022. We are also looking for someone who would stock the 5<sup>th</sup> day (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> day. Examples: March 2022 has a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, April 2022 has a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday, May has a 5<sup>th</sup> Monday, etc. If interested, please call Sherry Jones [815-733-5610] or email me [[we1plus1@live.com](mailto:we1plus1@live.com)] and I will give you more information about the pantry.

This is the second year of having Monday, Wednesday and Friday always stocked for those in the area who need our help. The clients are always thankful and appreciative, and the volunteers have the blessing of serving.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing and recovery for the following:  
Lee Haldorson, Dave Jefferies, Duke Barnes, Jan Weber, and Estella Jurkovich

Prayers for Julie Coughlen for good news from doctors from tests this week .

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

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

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

## Free Pancake Breakfast

Our Night Deacons will be hosting our Free Pancake Breakfast this Saturday, the 5th, from 8:30-10 am. All are welcome!

### 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.**

March 2, 2022

### Stewardship Report

<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	\$746,307
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$555,988
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$542,102

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.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN

Greeting Fellow Believers!

Transparency thy name is Presbyterian! After the kick off to this year's Stewardship Campaign I have been approached by some folk who want to understand the slight difference between this year's budget and that of 2021. I answered those faithful by saying, that as a new member of this congregation's wonderful staff, it was neither logical nor prudent that I receive any increase on my compensation. And I did not. The other ministers and front office staff who have worked tirelessly for the work of First Pres Joliet throughout this pandemic, had to readjust their duties and add even more responsibilities to their work load when your last, beloved pastor, Craig, retired. Recognizing their extra labor, your wise and Spirit led Elders voted in a compensatory increase. The congregation approved their change of calls this last fall. The other members of your wonderful staff have served this church long and well and have also received a small cost of living increase in their wages. A few members were given a small increase and a bit more as the Lord and the state have mandated the church make its way, over the next three years, to insure our childcare/nursery workers are given a living wage. The results of First Joliet's sense of God's call to take care of our own are reflected in the budget for 2022.

If there is one thing this truth has taught me is that we of

First Presbyterian of Joliet put people before things and that we take care of the folks that take care of us! Glory be to God! Another truth I have learned about this incredible congregation is the people of First Pres are faithful. You are faithful in your worship. You are faithful in your service. You are faithful in your love for God and your fellow human beings. This Wednesday we will faithfully congregate together to receive ashes as a reminder of our body's mortality. We will hear the wisdom of our Divine God by the reading of the Word. We will sing of the selfless sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we will celebrate our Lord's Supper as a reminder of the immortality of our Christ-saved souls.

There is a reason this church is filled with kind, generous, giving people. It is because we are cognizant of how kind, generous and giving God has been to us. How can we be HIS disciples and be otherwise?

Dear Brothers and sisters, as we enter into Lent let us strive hard to continue in the strengths and the wisdom we have already achieved. Let us continue to grow in the Lord and share what we have learned with others. Let us become even brighter in the love of Jesus! I look forward to seeing your beloved faces tonight at 6:30. Pray for Ukraine!

In HIM –  
Dr. Jen :)

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO

If you are a little bit like me, for the past week you might have spent a little more time paying attention and reading the news about everything that is going on in Ukraine and in Europe. For me, this has been a little too close for comfort, as Romania is sharing borders with Ukraine. I am troubled and worried, I wake up in the middle of the night to check the news and say a prayer and try to get back to sleep. But for the thousands of kids, mothers and fathers, for thousands and thousands of elderly, and all the young people in Ukraine their prayers, their worries are so much more than we can ever understand from being far away. I would encourage you to pray, pray for Ukraine, For Europe for the World. Pray for Peace. You are familiar with the saying: when disaster happens you have to look beyond it and look for the helpers. I would encourage you to be that type of praying person, faithful in prayer and ready to help when the opportunity presents itself. Lord have mercy on all of us.

As you know, this past Sunday we had started our Stewardship Campaign - Living God's Grace. This Sunday I will be preaching on "learning to celebrate God's abun-

dance" as to what it means to live God's grace. We are called to be a blessing in everything we do. I want to encourage you to take time in this season of Lent and take count of God's presence, of God's blessings in your life, and in response maybe pray:

*Lord, help me to be a blessing.*

As we enter Lent, we look forward to the Ash Service on March 2nd at 6:30 and all of the Lent Soup Nights every Wednesday from 6 pm to 7pm running from March 9th to April 6th.

This March/April is going to be busy at church and we need you to help us out. It might be the Saturday Breakfast, Soup Night, Water Within Concert or Sunday morning, we need you to spread the word. A simple way might be to just share with your friends the Lent Brochure you got in the mail with the devotional. More are available around First Pres, but if you need another one just let us know.

Praying for you this week,  
Pastor Bo