



e-News

March 23rd, 2022

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

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

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. We will gather 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.

Tuesdays at 6pm

April 5th
May 2nd
June 7th
July 5th
August 2nd

Fridays at 9:30 am

April 15th
May 20th
June 17th
July 15th
August 19th

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

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.

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!!

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

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Nancy Schelkopf who passed on March 21

Prayers of recovery for Mary Haas.

Prayers for Barb Rodgers' sister Brenda as she transitions to at-home hospice care, and her other sister Becky as she moves to assisted living and copes with her sisters declining health.

Prayers of post-surgery recovery for Marilyn Bisching.

Congratulations to Libby Hall for 1 year cancer free!

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

Thank you to all the wonderful ladies who joined us for lunch and an evening at the Rialto for our

March Madness Ladies Day Out!

March 23, 2022

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$588,152
Year to Date Expenses	\$576,301

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.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

We, the Faithful of First who have attended the **WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S LENTEN SOUPS**, have enjoyed the very best Chicken Noodle, Cream of Broccoli, Unstuffed Pepper and Cream of Potato ("stuffed" and "straight") Soup in the entire world! Yum! Yum! Yum! I cannot wait until tonight and see what Jody and Keith are making. And there's more! There are always delicious sandwiches (meat and cheese) and now...deserts to tease and tempt the most discerning of palates. But the real pleasure isn't the terrific food (although that can't be beat!) it's the fellowship, the time together in feeding our bodies and then feeding our souls with the teaching of the God's Holy Word.

Lenten Soups are the BOMB! But there is a negative aspect to them – **THEY END!** Lenten Soups are here for such a short time (Five Wednesdays) and then they're gone for a whole year – Bummer! **Tonight, from 6:00 – 7:00pm** is the third one. So, everyone needs to take some time away for yourself. Leave the work of cooking and cleaning, the hassle of driving to a restaurant to spend yet more money and come to your wonderful church and hang out with your family of God. This time of food and faith is disappearing fast and you don't want to miss any of the free, fun and fellowship.

Sunday God has something to say and worship will be unique for we are blessed to have **Water Within** play one of their amazing songs for us. Then later in the day, **at 4:00pm**, we will host an important concert that highlights not only feeding the hungry in our area but feeding the refugees from war torn Ukraine. Water Within is so amazing. Their music fills me with awe and hope. They are truly Holy Spirit led and gifted with incredible talent. Could there be a better way to spend your late Sunday afternoon? They will be present to meet and greet all of us. Tim and I plan on buying an album (do they still call them that?) or two so we can enjoy their music for years to come.

Please bring, as your ticket to the concert and sweets and treats before and afterward, a non-perishable food item for the church's micro pantry. You would not believe how many people use it. First Joliet follows Lord Jesus and truly feeds the hungry. And please bring a donation for the offering. It goes directly to providing emergency humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees transitioning to or through Romania. Since this conflict started, they have been Christian soldiers on the front lines of showing God's love and care.

See you at "Soup" and on Sunday Dear Ones, Dr. Jen:)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO:

For someone working in a church, I start to get used to every week looking different, and every week has its own charm and challenges. But in the last few weeks it has been constant, the need to pray for Ukraine and those that are trying to find shelter from this terrible conflict. If you wonder what it looks like to be a refugee transiting Romania, I want to share a few pictures that I received from the Canaan Church in Romania. When a refugee first arrives in Romania, they are welcomed at the border and given shelter and food, as in the picture below. During this time, through the network of churches and other Not for Profits, more permanent and more comfortable solutions are being made available. Canaan, is one of those churches that will go and pick up refugees, house them, and provide food, clothing, diapers, and so on. Just to give you an idea about the amount of shopping needed in a week.

I want to encourage you this week, to keep these type of ministries in your heart, notice I did not say "prayer", but in your heart. Let God's care for His people as they seek shelter, let that grace hug your heart, and in response picture those refugees and hug them as tight as you can. Somewhere on the other side of the world someone will actually go and hug them, and welcome them with a warm meal and kind words. This is how faith works, and this is what we do. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday in worship and at 4 pm for the concert.

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.

