



e-News

March 30th, 2022

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

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Next months meetings are April 5th at 6 pm, and April 15th at 9:30 am.

The full schedule is available on our website.

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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing and recovery for:
Dave Jefferies, Mary Haas, and Marilyn Bisching

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

Congratulations to Carol Randolph and Nathan Wilhelms who were married here at First Pres. on Saturday, March 19.

If you would like to send a card or reach out to anyone on our prayer list but don't have their contact information feel free to call or email the church office.

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders for Easter Flowers are due April 4th! Make sure to order yours now! The form is available on the back of this, in your bulletin, in the narthex, and on our website.

Ladies Kentucky Derby Progressive Luncheon

Save the Day! May 7th from 11am to 2 pm

Mint Juleps, southern food, and Derby fun! We'll even be making our own Derby hats!

More info and registration coming soon!

March 30, 2022

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$633,984
Year to Date Expenses	\$610,490

Income includes \$6,227.66 received for Ukrainian refugee relief

And \$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 to everyone who came out for our Water Within concert!



If you couldn't make it or just want to see it again, head to our YouTube page to see the whole concert!

@firstpresjoliet

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!!

Hello Family of Faith!

I might as well confess to you all right now that I hate mirrors. When I was younger and wearing the whole Max Factor I spent some time looking into them to see if I liked the image all the makeup created. But only from the head up. My body was a whole other story. Below my face I would see a part of me that I never really liked. I found that instead of trying to change my life and fix what I didn't like, it just became easier and easier to ignore. But only if I walked fast, very fast, by mirrors...and store windows...and shiny, freshly washed cars.

The point is I have never felt good about looking in a mirror, because instead of seeing things I liked, I was always seeing the negative stuff – the stuff I wished I could change but couldn't seem to.

Lent is like that. It's like looking in a mirror and noticing the things we would like to change, the things that stop us from being all we can be. With prayer and study in the Word, God gives us the strength to look at ourselves, honestly, and see where we "miss the mark" (one of my favorite Greek words, translated as sin, in the New Testament). And then God blesses us with Holy Spirit Power to change, and meet the mark Jesus has set for us. Praise God!

Today is the next to last Lenten Soup. If you haven't attended one come and experience the deliciousness of Jody and Keith's creations. Bo will be teaching this week so come to church at 6:00pm and after you are fed with warm yummy food, you will be fed with the beauty of God's Holy Word.

God bless us all on this journey and I am looking forward to seeing you tonight and on Sunday!

IN HIM, Dr. Jen :)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO:

Last week was quite an amazing ministry week for us here at First Pres. Despite being Spring Break and many of our people enjoying the calm southern sunshine instead of the cold rainy Illinois weather, we had a great time at the Water Within Concert. Walking in Hoffman Hall on Sunday afternoon and seeing folks chatting, laughing, enjoying a great spread of snacks made me smile: Presbyterians do love fellowship and food. As I was sitting in the pew during the concert, I was reminded of the history we have with Water Within. You see, they just celebrated their 10 years anniversary as a band, and for 8 years this little Christian band from Nashville, has been part of our ministry and worship life. Over the years we were blessed with their gifts, both in person and also for online worship, and we blessed and supported their ministry along the way. Whitney and Mary Pat have matured and grown not just as musicians but also as spiritual leaders and their ministry to us on Sunday was so meaningful. It was a great reminder of loving God and living in that grace. If you missed the concert, or want to watch it again, you can see it on our YouTube @firstpresjoliet.

As part of the concert I got to share an Interview with Pastor Ovi, about the ministry to the Ukrainian Refugees that Romanian Churches are helping with at this time. The link to that interview is available on the digital version of this newsletter.

In the last two weeks and over the weekend First Pres raised \$6,627.66 to directly provide emergency humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees transitioning to or through Romania. This is in addition to the \$2,500 that we had already sent through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program. Our church has a heart for ministry and service and that is something that amazes me each and every day.

Trivia question: Do you know how many meals Helping Hands and their wonderful helpers/drivers/deacons/visitors/friends have delivered this month? 22 meals made a few people happy, and reminded us all we are a family of faith. If you want to get connected and involved please let us know. This is such an important part of our ministry here.

Please do not forget to check your calendar and make plans for: Easter Egg Hunt - April 9th at 9 am; and Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 10th at 8:30 am and worship right after.

Thank you so much First Pres for being a loving and caring church. Let that light shine each and every day.

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.