



e-News

March 9th, 2022

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

TAKE OUR SURVEY!

FPJ Wants to hear from you!

We are conducting a survey of interest among our congregation for adding an **evening worship service** each week. We are excited about this ministry and it is very important to hear your feedback! This **short survey** has been shared via email and is available on our website.

HELPING HANDS UPDATE

During the month of February, we were able to provide 23 meals to members of our congregation. We would like to thank the Night Deacons, Day Deacons, and members of the congregation for their support in keeping this ministry possible. If you are willing to deliver meals or know of someone in need of a meal, please contact the office or Dave Steinberg.

Mission Council Note on Ukraine

The Mission Council of our Session has sent a check of \$500 assistance to the Fund Disaster Relief—International Refugee Program. We felt there was much love and support for helping with the suffering of the Ukrainians. Please keep them in your prayers for peace.

Thank You.
Emmie Ostrem, Sue Fordyce, Lisa Haldorson

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 end.

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

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 5th day (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) when there is a 5th day. If interested, please call Sherry Jones [815-733-5610] or email me [we1plus1@live.com] and I will give you more information about the pantry.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing and recovery for the following:
Dave Jefferies and Estella Jurkovich

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

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 and sympathies to the family and friends of Don Laasch who passed away March 5th.

Prayers for Shirley Hill as she enters hospice care.

March Madness Women's Day Out

SOLD OUT!

Call the office if interested. Additional tickets may be available in separate seating from the group .

REGISTRATION CLOSING THURSDAY MARCH 10TH!

Spring Ladies' Retreat

May 13th—15th

Contact Kris Hayden (815-258-8617) for group booking and discount registration info. Details can be found at www.cedarlakeministries.com/ladies-retreats-spring/

March 9, 2022

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$746,307
Year to Date Income	\$567,090
Year to Date Expenses	\$545,183

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.

Friends in the Faith,

When my father passed onto Glory I was devastated. I cried every day and night for months. My daddy, the anchor that had always kept me moored and safe, had disappeared from my life and I was in a terrible storm from which I could not escape. I looked for solace and saw other members of my family were equally distraught and adrift. Only the Lord stood by me – whispering words of comfort and calm into my soul. I survived the loss and in that terrible time my awareness of God’s presence grew. I found consolation amidst the pain. Balm for my aching heart.

The people of Ukraine are at war with a terrible adversary. The population is being targeted by a mad man who realizes that to break a country one must first break its people. To him, war crimes mean nothing if the outcome is the return of a powerful communist kingdom. But most of his soldiers are unwilling to fight, destroying their own armored tanks rather than kill the innocent. The Ukrainian people are strong and resilient through this storm. We hope that, as bombs and missiles thunder around them, they become aware of the Lord’s presence. That God is, indeed, with them, whispering words of comfort and solace into their souls.

As believers, our Lord has given us un-earthly power – the divine gift of the Holy Spirit. We doubt this power and too often we pray half-heartedly – never really believing our prayer can change the world. But it can. Our job is to “see” the war ending and the balm of the Most High poured upon Ukrainians and Russians alike. “See” and praise God for the healing of that war stormed land. We claim in the Holy Name of Jesus an end to conflict and a growing knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and the godly love to which He calls us all.

Our most important job is to call people to Jesus Christ by our words, our deeds and our worship. In your emails is a survey asking you if First Presbyterian should start a night service to call the unchurched to the Lord. To help young families to attend worship by offering a more convenient time in their busy lives. To reach out to the alone and lonely so that they might know the blessing of a faith family. It is our call to share our faith with others and to help them to find their own. Please fill out the survey – support this work of evangelism - for the growth of this beloved church and the growth of those beloved of God!

In His Love,
Dr. Jen:)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO:

“For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them.”

– Saint Augustine of Hippo

I have been thinking a lot about grace lately. What does it mean to Live God’s Grace? How are we to live up to the challenge of being like Christ to our neighbors? As I think about those things, I always come back to this simple thought: God has called us to be people of grace. And that might look different for each one of us. And yet we are called to live that out.

This last couple weeks, reminded us in the blink of an eye, how quickly peace and lives can be shattered. While so many times all we can do is just pray, or cry as we watch the news from Ukraine, we have to remember grace. Grace is action. Grace that cannot be ignored. As I watched the news or talked to people in Romania involved with first response to the refugee crises, I saw that grace. Even more than that, I saw that grace working in the conversations and the actions here in our church.

In the past week the Mission Council donated \$500 to the first response refugee fund run by the The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Last Night the Night Deacons Board approved another \$2,000 to go to the PDA of PCUSA fund. According to their site, this money will be used for: " emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc. “.The need for help can be overwhelming when you are to think about it as an individual, but God called us to be a body, a community of faith exercising grace.

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.



Image: Emmie Ostrem with the numerous boxes of whiteboards donated to Farragut Elementary School.

I would also like to share with you that this morning together with Emmie Ostrem, I visited Farragut School where we dropped 300 individual white boards to be used by the kids in their classrooms. So, while we can feel overwhelmed by the situation around us, we are not to stop in doing the work of the Gospel that we are called to do.

I want to encourage you today to look for forms of grace, to seek that grace in your life and pray that you too can extend grace when called upon.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo