



e-News

April 13th, 2022

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

Ladies Kentucky Derby Progressive Luncheon

May 7th from 11am to 2 pm
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

More information is available on our website.
Printed registration forms are available in the Narthex, in Hoffman Hall, and in the office.
Online registration is available on our website as well.

Sunday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Jen will not be meeting this Easter Sunday, but will resume next week.

What a successful Egg Hunt and Palm Sunday!

1,600 eggs were found, the Easter Bunny posed for countless photos, and every palm was waved with a prayer of "Hosannah!"

Huge thank you to everyone who helped us make this such a wonderful weekend, by volunteering or by coming and celebrating with us!



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30
Good Friday Worship at 6:30
Resurrection Sunday Worship at 10 am

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of thanks and continued healing for Maureen Fumagalli as she is on the mend and has completed the last of her cancer treatments.

Prayers of strength for the children of the world, for strength against the pressures of today's world.

Prayers for the people of Ukraine in need of help, and for the people doing what they can to provide that help.

Barb Rodgers and her sister thank everyone for their prayers and cards during and after their sister's passing. "Everyone in my church family has been such a blessing."

Congratulations to Dan and Jessie (Kapral) Hakala on the birth of their son Jackson on April 10th.

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.

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

April 15th at 9:30 am.

Pastor Jen will be leading group this Friday, while Pastor Carrie is away.

The full schedule is available on our website.

April 13, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$38,673
Year to Date Expenses	\$19,030

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.

Happy Holy Week Beloved of God!

Tomorrow, Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 6:30pm, the faithful of First Presbyterian Church of Joliet will gather together to re-live, through music and God's Holy Word, the last hours of Christ's life on earth.

Tenebrae is an ancient form of worship where the sanctuary grows increasingly darker as the light of this world, our Lord Jesus the Christ, is beaten and scorned and forcibly taken from those who loved Him through death on a cross. The Word, the music, the hymns we will sing will help to transport us into a deeper understanding of what God sacrificed out of love for us. I believe you will discover that Tenebrae is transformative.

A new and different worship will be held at First Joliet this Good Friday, April 15th at 6:30pm. As soon as you enter the Narthex you will experience what the followers of Jesus felt on that Good Friday night. Become aware of what it was like for them as they saw Jesus die. As, in fear and pain, they hurried to bury their Lord before the sun set and the Sabbath began. You will join in their unbelief, their memories and their sorrow with special vignettes of the apostle's relieving what had newly transpired. Then, just as all seems lost, you will remember, along with them, the words of our Savior and the promise He made that all is as it should be – as it was foretold in order for the new age of Grace to begin.

And then this Easter Sunday at 10:00am we celebrate Christ's Resurrection! We praise God for this day, the day that changed the world forever. The day Jesus broke the bonds of sin and death and set us free. What a celebration! The Word, the music, and the joy of being together praising God and Glorifying His Name! What a day, what a beautiful, beautiful day it will be!

So, Come All Ye Faithful, As Together We Worship Our Great God!!!

In His Love,
Dr. Jen :)

TIME TO THINK VBS!

Save the Date: June 20th through 24th!

We're planning to be in-person once again and **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Give it some thought, reach out with any questions, and let us know if you're interested!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO:

Updates from 805 Western!

This past week has been a great week of ministry here at 1st Pres. If you're out of the loop with what happened last week let me try to catch you up:

- **Saturday** - We had a building filled with lots of laughter and joy, with kids excited about chasing Easter eggs (we had 1,600 eggs spread all around the church). Between taking pictures with the Easter Bunny (dressed in a tutu I might add) and all the crafts, the kids learned a couple songs and heard about Jesus and His friends. It was so good to see the little ones fill the church again, and to catch up with their parents that we had not seen in a while.

- **Sunday** - What can I say about Sunday? The Night Deacons did a terrific job, and served a really good breakfast that gave so many of us the chance of enjoying fellowship and catching up. During the breakfast we raised \$337 that the Night Deacons will match and send to the Canaan Church in Romania as part of our refugee effort for Ukraine. But the breakfast was not the only highlight on Sunday! We had a nice group of kids leading us in worship, singing and waving their palms, reminding us all of how important it is for us to come and rejoice in the promises of God.

- **This morning** I had a chance to reconnect with Pastor Ovi in Romania. As you can imagine, the last few weeks have been busy helping the people looking for shelter. This morning they had close to 60 refugees between the two camps they use for housing. Pastor Ovi expressed how thankful they are for everything that we are doing for them, and asked for our continue prayers for their ministry, especially in the next couple weeks as they are planning to drive into Ukraine and bring relief aid to the Ukrainian people.

Once in a while I get a question, especially on social media, about what do the Easter Bunny and Jesus have in common? And while some of the comments regarding churches losing their faith when they entertain bunnies and Easter eggs are pretty harsh, I want to share this with you: Faith is about redemption. A redemption that goes beyond just our own salvation. It has the ability and the power to transform culture. Karl Barth said at one point: "[We must hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.](#)" I want to encourage you to find that redemption in the things around you, in the family gatherings, or when you go and hide eggs for the little ones. I pray that in your celebrations and traditions Christ will be at the center of it all. And all of us will be better people of faith because of knowing that Christ has overcome not just prejudice, cultural divide, or anything else that we can think of. Christ has Overcome All.

Have a blessed Holy Week, and if I do not see you on Sunday: May the Hope of the Risen Christ be with you and all your dear ones.

Christ has Risen,
Pastor Bo