



# e-News

April 20th, 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!

Southern food, non-alcoholic Mint Juleps, and Derby fun!  
We'll even be decorating our own Derby hats!

You can bring your own decorations if you'd like, but  
plenty will be available as well.

Don't forget to wear your Sunday Best!

The all-encompassing fee is \$22.

Printed registration forms are available in the Narthex, in  
Hoffman Hall, and in the office.

Online registration is available on our website as well.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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.

Prayers of health and good results on upcoming medical  
tests for Kaleigh Belfield.

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 FLOWER BOOKLETS

Easter Flower Booklets are available in the Narthex.

## TIME TO THINK VBS!

Save the Date: June 20th through 24th!

### **VBS 2022 IS GOING TO BE MONUMENTAL!**

We're planning to be in-person once again this summer  
and **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

We ask that you give some thought to volunteering, take  
some time to pray on it, and reach out with any questions  
you may have!

Call the office to let us know if you're interested in helping  
us make this 2022 VBS amazing!

Registration for participants will be open in late May. Keep  
an eye on communications from the office for more  
information and updates.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 1st during Live Worship Service

This Congregational Meeting will be to elect the Nomi-  
nating Committee . Read Pastor Jen's letter for more in-  
formation on the Nominating Committee.

April 20, 2022

### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	\$772,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$47,178
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$34,600

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.

What an amazing Easter at First Pres! Of all the churches I have served I have never experienced such an incredible worship. The music, the flowers, the faithful! What a Blessing to follow Jesus on our journey!

Another wonderful thing about following Jesus is the joy we receive by giving to others. When I think of all the people involved to make this Easter so special it boggles my mind. Thank you, thank all of you, for being who you are and doing what you do for all of us!

And God continues to call us to serve one another – to ensure that God's love – the one thing we all need and yearn for – is shared with others. For a follower of Christ, love is seen and felt in service and service is seen and felt in love.

Very soon, we will be given an opportunity to share loving service in a short Congregational Meeting to elect a Nominating Committee. I truly enjoy serving on this committee. One cause of enjoyment is it only meets twice or three times a year and, still, this committee makes a huge difference in the life of the church.

The only "work" to be done as a member of this committee is truly a joy - attending worship as much as you can and looking around to notice who is present praising God's Holy Name with you. Making a mental (or physical) note of who shows up at church activities and cares, truly cares, for those whose need is great and help is rare. Noticing who is committed to the work of the Kingdom and is spiritually ready for a role in leadership.

In the next month, once voted in, the Nominating Committee will be selecting the very important members of the PNC (The Pastor Nominating Committee). Chosen through purposeful prayer and the Holy Spirit, the PNC is the beginning of the bright and purpose-filled future God has in store for First Presbyterian Church of Joliet.

Our Church's Constitution (the Book of Order) tells us that the PNC will be chosen by the Nominating Committee which is chosen directly from the congregation. So, at our next congregational meeting, when I call for names from the floor, please consider becoming a member of this short term but very important ministry.

Through this act of service, the search for your next pastor begins!

Glory be to God!!!

In the Love of and for the Lord,  
Dr. Jen:)

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BO:

Happy Easter!

Sometimes I wish that we could just use Happy Easter as a greeting all year long. You see, for me, Easter the resurrection is more than one day or one weekend a year. The resurrection of Jesus, with all it brings, hope for now and for eternity, is and always has been that ongoing new reality for the believer.

We are people of the resurrection, people that each day profess 'Christ is risen through our words and our deed'. Each day we live, we live out the promise of 'I am with you till the end of days'. Each day we have is another day for 'My peace I give to you'. As people of resurrection we live out that promise again and again as we go into the world to make disciples, to share the good news and to proclaim 'Christ is alive'. I pray that each one of us can live that joy and hope of the resurrection each day of our lives.

And since I am talking about Easter, I want to share with you that this coming Sunday is the Orthodox Easter that most Romanians celebrate. After 20 years of being in the US, I thought this might be a great year to go and celebrate Easter with my parents. I am actually writing this to you on the plane.

While in Romania, I hope to have the opportunity to visit with family and friends and maybe help with the refugees camp for a day. Last week I mentioned that Pastor Ovi was planning on going to Ukraine. Earlier in the day I got news that he is back home safe and sound. I am excited to hear what God has done through their ministry.

While we had a nice Easter Sunday at church this past weekend, I want to encourage you to put Sunday worship on your calendar for every week. As people of faith we come together, not just at Easter time, but each time the church doors are opened.

I would also encourage you to continue to pray for our session, for the elders and the deacons serving at this time.

Also Pastor Carrie is back from Texas, and I hear there might be pictures of little Jackson on Sunday. So you surely do not want to miss that.

Have a great week, and see you when I get back on May 3rd.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo