



e-News

April 27th, 2022

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

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 interesting in helping us make this 2022 VBS amazing!

Keep an eye on communications from the office for more information and updates.

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.

Prayers of healing for Emmie Ostrem.

Prayers for Barb Rodgers and for her sister who is experiencing continued health issues.

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.

Make Sundays "Stock Our Micro-Pantry With Food Day"

As we enter our church each Sunday why not help those in need of food by adding a can of fruit or can of vegetables, a can of tuna, a box of cereal, and /or a plastic bottle of juice etc. to our micro-food pantry or the blue tub (inside the Western Ave doors)? God has blessed us with so much – food, housing, clothing. But in the neighborhoods around our church there are people who are in need of food. **We can easily help our neighbors simply by bringing even just one food item.**

To keep our micro-pantry safe and healthy for those in need we can **ONLY take** canned food, boxed food, food in plastic bottles/jars, sealed bagged food or items store-sealed in plastic. We **CANNOT** put fresh fruits or vegetables, dairy products, meats (unless in cans), home-made items, chocolate or any food that has expired in the pantry.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Our Summer Lunch Program will be in-house again. We are hoping to add some new activities as well.

The program will operate from 11:30 am to 1pm from June 7th through August 16th (Monday—Friday).

Ladies Kentucky Derby Progressive Luncheon

May 7th from 11am to 2 pm
Fee is \$22

Registration closes next Wednesday, 5/4 so register now!

Registration forms are available in the Narthex, in Hoffman Hall, in the office, and online.

April 27, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$56,567
Year to Date Expenses	\$35,149

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.

Hello Fellow Believers!

May this message find you safe, sound, satisfied and growing in the Lord.

The words of that beautiful old hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee. Grant it Jesus is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee. Dear Lord let it be – Let it be!" shows our hearts but misses our responsibility. For God does not "grant" that we walk closely to Jesus. God encourages it. But our gift of free will makes the decision our own.

When we claimed Jesus as our Lord and Savior – it was our choice. When we became members of this incredible church – it was our choice. When we support the work of God's Kingdom – it's our choice. When we choose to pay our per capita and help the finances of this church – It's our choice. Did you know that all it takes to be a member of a PCUSA church is to claim the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? That's it! First Pres doesn't make you promise to tithe ten percent of your income, or attend a set number of services on Sundays, or mandate that you be an elder or a deacon. Instead we encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit, love God, love others and walk closely with Christ. We encourage those wonderful things.

And we encourage you to pay your per capita, a once a year gift to your National Church and to God. Your yearly gift of 40.00 is used in so many ways. It supports the work of the Presbytery. It supports the National Church and its programs of love and mission all over the world including the Disaster Relief Fund that sends workers and relief to national and international disasters.

Most don't know this fact about the PCUSA. While other churches and agencies leave a place and go to the next disaster PCUSA also goes but we also stay where we are, and continue our work there. Because we understand that just because there is a need elsewhere doesn't mean the old need goes away. PCUSA is in Ukraine but we are also in the USA supporting those still hurting from natural disasters.

Your choice to pay your per capita not only enables all that amazing ministry here but all over the world as well. Your gift also frees our wonderful church to do even more than we already do to make a difference with God's love.

This year First wrote a check for 27,000 for per capita and most of that amount came out of our General Fund. Please consider, dear friends, choosing to pay your per capita.

Your blessed choice will bless others as you walk closer with the Lord!

In God's Love,
Dr. Jen:)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARRIE:

Hi friends! Can you believe it is already the last week of April? All of a sudden, flowers are blooming, even with the chilly weather. It is a joy to see the color and hear the birds singing.

I missed all of you during Holy Week, but have heard it was filled with wonderful times of worship - all the way from the Palm Sunday breakfast (thanks to all who helped with that!) to worship on Easter Sunday. We are still in the Easter season - a time set apart to reflect upon the salvation we have through God's grace and mercy. In the busyness of life it is easy to forget that we have the joy of living as Easter people every day.

Pastor Bo is in Romania enjoying time with his family and friends, and I know he is in your prayers. He will be back in the church office early next week.

May is shaping up to be another busy month at First Pres! We will have a congregational meeting during worship on May 1st to amend the church bylaws and to elect our church nominating committee from the membership. We will convene for an additional congregational meeting on May 22 for the purpose of electing the pastoral nominating committee. Please be in prayer about both of these committees - for the people who will serve and also pray about whether or not God is calling you to serve on one or both of those committees. If you have questions, please feel free to speak with one of the pastors.

Prayer group meets on May 3 at 6:00 pm. I hope many, many of you can come! We will share prayer concerns, both "big" and "little". I will talk a little bit about breath prayer, and we will pray together. No pressure - I lead the prayer, and the group follows each lifted prayer with "Lord hear our prayer." This gathering lasts for 45 minutes, allowing time to go to yoga afterward of to simply go about your evening.

Ladies - don't miss the Kentucky Derby Progressive Luncheon! It is Saturday, May 7, from 11-2. We will make fun, festive derby hats (we have all the supplies, but feel free to bring something fun to add to your hat if you want to!) and enjoy some lite derby day food as we move from room to room on the second floor of the church. Spots are going fast - so visit the church website and sign up before you miss out!

My prayer for you this week is that you take a moment each day, to be still, and to know that God is God and that we are never alone.

Peace,
Pastor Carrie

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 1st during Live Worship Service

This Congregational Meeting will be to elect the Nominating Committee . Read Pastor Jen's letter for more information on the Nominating Committee.