

May 18th, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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TIME TO THINK VBS!

Save the Date: June 20th through 24th!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

8:30 to 12:30 each day at the longest. Volunteer hours and recommendations are available!

Contact the office to ask any questions and let us know that you're interested in helping this VBS!

An Annual Report Working Meeting

will be held in Hoffman Hall on Wednesday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to review the Annual Report in detail and discuss the ministry and mission of the prior year.

Evening Worship Meeting

Saturday the 21st at 5:30 pm

Worship & Growth Councils are holding a Planning meeting for the Evening Worship Service. If you are interested in helping plan and engage ideas on this subject please plan on attending.

Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting May 22 at the worship service for the purpose of approving the Terms of Call and for electing the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Next Meeting: May 20th at 9:30 am

All are invited!

The full schedule is available on our website.

A Big "Thank You!" To Girl Scout Troop 75824!



This week Girl Scout Troop 75824 planted pansies, violas, and a geranium in the planter near our parking lot entrance. How amazing!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of recovery for Holly Cowgill.

Prayers of health and strength for Rebecca, who we sponsor at Angel House.

Prayers of good health to those who may be experiencing health-related uncertainties.

An Ask for Assistance

As she recovers, Emmie Ostrem is asking for some help. She would like someone to help with some light housekeeping 4 hours a day and driving her to appointments when necessary. She will pay hourly.

Ukraine Update Prayer Meeting

Join Pastor Bo Saturday 5/21 at 9 am to hear some insights on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. After the discussion there will be time dedicated to prayers for those impacted by the crisis.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

June 4th at 10 am

Pastor Jen will be teaching a New Member Class for all who are interested.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about First Pres!

May 18, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$81,602
Year to Date Expenses	\$82,890

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 Dear Friends!

As I write this to you it is raining outside. Rain is almost always associated with tears and trouble, with storms and struggle. Storms are feared for we are uncertain of the destruction they might cause. But when we know Christ, when God rules in our hearts and lives, we see the storm as a prelude to something greater, like when the sun shines through a good rain and the water glistens on all it touches. Everything is washed clean and made new.

When you're a Christian you celebrate the rain because you understand God's creative power to bless us through it. I think of Gene Kelly in that great old movie. He was "Singing in the Rain". That's what people of faith do – we don't wait until the rainclouds pass, we find a way to accept them because we know we are not alone in the storm – God is with us.

God is with us, here, at First Pres. I can feel Him in the smiles and the kindness of the people of this wonderful congregation. I can see Him in First's programs and ministry. I can feel Him in the love and welcome every member of this fellowship extends to, not only members, but strangers as well.

Our Carrie is, now, in a bit of a storm. She fell on Tuesday and might have broken a bone. But she will still be leading the prayer group at 9:30am this Friday morning. And she will still be preaching this Sunday. Still serving, worshipping and leading God's people as we thank the Lord for all He has done and continues to do for us. Carrie will be here, singing in and through the rain. God bless and heal her in Jesus's Holy Name!

This coming Saturday, at 9:00am, Bo will be leading a prayer vigil for the people of Ukraine who are fighting through their storm, fighting for their democracy, fighting for their families, fighting for their faith. Please attend and pray that God blesses them and strengthens them in Jesus Holy Name!

I, and members of the PNC slate, will be attending a Discernment Workshop, taught by the Presbytery this Saturday from 9-3. This teaching will help to lead the entire congregation in discerning God's will for the church; where First is going, who we are, and what we are called to do.

As a faithful fellowship, we trust God through these uncertain times. Together, through the rain, we fearlessly sing our praise to God our King. And by doing so find ourselves made new, glistening with the light of the Lord in Jesus Holy Name!
Alleluia! How we glisten! Amen!

In God's Love,
Dr. Jen:)

CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!

We will have our Graduate Board in the Narthex, with photos and little bios for our graduates! If you have a graduate you'd like to celebrate you can fill out our Graduates Form available in building and on our website.

How about the rain? After the early summer we had last week, today's rain feels like a blessing. It reminds me of Psalm 147:7-8 "Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills." When I think about the steadfast love that God has for us, I also think about us as people and how finicky we can be when it comes to being thankful. As people of faith we are called to cultivate a heart of thankfulness, of recognizing God in our lives. Would you take a little time today in your prayers and thank God for each and every blessing we enjoy and that sometimes they go unnoticed? Sing to the Lord with Great Praise!

Here are a few things that are happening this week and coming weeks at church, that might be an interest to you:

1. Tonight, Wed. May 18th at 7 pm - you are invited to come to the Annual Report Review. We will meet at 7 pm in Hoffman Hall and look at all the ministry aspects of last year. Bring your questions, ideas and prayers.

2. Sunday May 22 - Following our worship service, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Annual Ministry Report, and also to vote the slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee.

3. Saturday Morning at 9 am - Hoffman Hall - I will host a time of prayer and a time of sharing about the ministry to the Ukrainian Refugees in Romania. There will be donuts.

4. May, has been our month to focus on Angel House ministry, and raise the funds for the three young ladies that are continuing their education. Please watch the monthly mailing for more details and updates from Tanzania

5. Vacation Bible School this year is going to be MONUMENTAL! June 20-24 ! Please share this with anyone that might be interesting in helping out. In the past we had a great group of young people from our church and outside our church, that had done a tremendous job. And if anyone ask, We do provide service hours for those that need them for their school requirements.

6. Friday May 20th at 9:30 am - Prayer group with Pastor Carrie.

A little side note, more on the practical side of things: Please be careful when driving in the main parking lot, we have a new sink hole that we are working on getting fixed. And as you know with a big building like ours there is always a maintenance issue going on, this week is Air Conditioning. If you run into the Stewardship folks, or our custodians I would encourage you to express how thankful we are for all their work and ministry.

Praying for you, and for the church,

Blessings,
Pastor Bo.

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 (M-F)