



e-News

May 25th, 2022

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

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!

Participant Registration will be up this week!
It's officially time to get excited!

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)

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 printed and on our website.

Reminder to Dress Red!

Don't forget to wear red for Pentecost on June 5th!

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Next Meeting: June 7th at 6pm

All are invited!

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 (11am—3pm) and driving her to appointments when necessary. She will pay hourly.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Prayers of successful treatments and stability for Tony Sneed through his life struggles.

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

This Memorial Day we remember all those who served our country and have passed to Glory. Our prayers are with the families and loved ones of those we remember this Monday.

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!

CAUTION: CONSTRUCTION

We are having construction done on the driveway entrance on Western Ave. We recommend parking in our lot across the street or entering and exiting via the alley entrances on Buell or Prairie.

May 25, 2022

Stewardship Report

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|------------------------------|-----------|
| 2022-2023 Budget | \$772,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$90,431 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$82,911 |

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!

We have amended the Bylaws, cleaned the rolls, elected a Nominating committee and now the PNC has begun their ministry! Praise God!

My job as your Interim/Transitional minister continues as I introduce change, preach Biblically based sermons two to three times a month, attend councils, moderate the session and the meetings of the congregation, give pastoral care, visit shut ins and those in the hospital, teach Bible study, offer counseling, take part in VBS, Pancake breakfasts and Ladies events. I have just had the blessing of baptizing a family in the name of our great Triune God.

And by God's Grace, First will soon offer a night time service for those who love contemporary worship and to grow the church by attracting new people to the Lord. And always, Tim and I will continue to pray for and with the people of this incredible church. And please don't forget...

On Saturday, June 4th, at 10:00am, I will be teaching the new member class for anyone who is interested in joining the church and for anyone who would like to learn, or be reminded of, what it means to be Presbyterian. Long time members are welcome. There will be snacks!

All the above ministry will continue but my work for the PNC is done. **To be clear - I will not be leading them or influencing them in anyway. The Session will not be leading them or influencing them in anyway.** The decision of who your next Senior Pastor will be is the PNC's and, ultimately, this congregation's alone. **But, above all things, the PNC must be influenced and led by God.**

The faithful and hardworking members of your PNC, through prayer and study of the Word, will discard personal ego and prejudice and become so in tune with the Will of the Holy Spirit there will be no doubt whom God has prepared for First Presbyterian of Joliet.

Please pray for them. Pray they find the patience, time, strength and commitment to fulfill their call from God. I have been a member of two PNC's myself and I know, first hand, that it takes determination and energy to successfully complete this important ministry. But every single member of this PNC is strong and faithful – they love this fellowship and they love the Lord. They will quiet their minds and hear the Voice of the Holy One who loves us and leads us if we just listen to His Voice. This wonderful group of servants WILL find your next pastor and together First Pres. will shine the Light of Christ so brightly all of Joliet will be warmed by its glow! Alleluia! Amen!

In God's Love,
Dr. Jen:)

19 children/students and 2 teachers ...Let that sink in.

My heart and mind cannot fully comprehend or give the appropriate response to this tragedy. I know that I hurt. I know that my faith is asking questions I cannot answer. I know that even my most carefully thought out response or words might be causing more pain, or questions. But I also know that I am not alone in experiencing this. I know that maybe we woke up this morning saying "God! Why? Where were you yesterday?". I know that we hurt for the parents of the 19 children, for the families of the teachers, for the community around that school. And while I do not have words myself, I do want to say this: Faith is like a seed. It sometimes looks small and maybe hope is gone. Today we might be looking at another moment in time when hurt and tears make us wonder and question everything. Faith is forged in times like this. When doubt comes in, so does faith. Because of that, I pray: Lord have mercy, and help our unbelief even in times like this when we have nothing to hang on. Lord have mercy.

If you ever find yourself confused and hurting, please take time to talk with someone about that. As a pastor, I know I can listen, I can pray with you. Please reach out.

Here's what is going on at church this week:

- 1. Angel House** - Please check your mailbox for our monthly letter, and you will find a nice brochure about Angel House. As you read in the prayer requests, Rebecca had some health issues and was in the hospital for some blood work. Please keep praying for her health.
- 2. Ukraine refuge update** - Last week we sent out an email update from Pastor Ovi and on Saturday I hosted a prayer meeting and update after my visit to Romania. We also discussed my conversations with the Romanian pastors that are doing the humanitarian work there. Please continue to pray for that part of the world.
- 3. Monumental VBS - June 20-24** - Registration website should be up and running by the end of the week, as we hit a snafu on some technical issues. Please watch your email for that. Also for your calendar Volunteer Training days - June 15th at 6 pm and June 18th at 9 am. Spread the word about teenager volunteers, we need their help.
- 4. When you drive in** the main parking lot you will notice a sink hole. We are working on that. In the event that the repairs are not done by Sunday morning, please plan to drive in through the alleys from Buell or Prairie, or to park across the street.
- 5. Growth Council and Worship Council** met this past Sunday with those interested in supporting an Evening Service at First Pres. More details will be available as the team continues to shape up the vision for this great ministry opportunity .

Praying for you and your dear one,
Blessings, Pastor Bo