



# e-News

June 1st, 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!

### **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

(For both participants and volunteers!)

Pick up a postcard from around the church and put it on your fridge! Or grab some to share with others who might not know about this wonderful program!

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for Jackie Brooks.

Prayers of healing for Joyce Bossen after her surgery.

Prayers for the community of Uvalde.

## FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday June 4th from 8:30 am to 10 am

All are welcome to join us for this free meal!

## 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!

## 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  
this Sunday June 5th!**

## Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Next Meeting: June 7th at 6pm

All are invited!

The full schedule is available on our website.

## INFORMATION UPDATE!

If your contact information has changed let us know!

If you or your family have added, removed or changed your phone numbers (home and cell), addresses, or emails contact the office.

1(815)727-9259 office@firstpresjoliet.org

June 1, 2022

### Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$97,819
Year to Date Expenses	\$103,343

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 Ones!

One of my favorite Christian holidays is Pentecost. It's the day those of us who follow Jesus Christ were gifted from power on High. Our worship will be extra special. When you enter the sanctuary, you will see how wonderfully decorated it is by our faithful decorating committee. Thank you, lovely ladies of God!

You will hear Hebrew being sung and see pictures of Jerusalem. You will relive that first Pentecost by imagining yourself as one of the Earliest Disciples of Christ, worshipping in the temple – praying night and day for the gift Christ promised would come from on High, from the Great Triune God.

Many Christians, throughout hundreds of years have questions about the Trinity. I just gave a sermon on the fact that the Greek Word that describes God's "Essence" is homoousios, which means "same substance" and has been translated in English as "Persons".

But for modern day Christians that word can cause confusion, because in our current vernacular, a person is seen as an individual and not as part of another "whole". Three persons, to most of us, means three separate entities. But that isn't what Homoousios means. It means that God is One Entity who touches us in three different ways as Creator, Savior and Guide. One God who uses three ways to love us and help us as we travel with HIM.

Think of it this way. God transports us through this world He created and holds us close – like the seats of a beautiful sleek sports car. Jesus is the driver who shows us the road and leads us where we need to go. And the Holy Spirit is the power – the gas – that gives us the strength for the journey.

This Sunday we celebrate that Power! The strength and guidance that gets us through and helps us to do extraordinary things in, not only our lives, but the lives of others as well, as part of the family of God.

Speaking of family, this Saturday at 10:00am, I will be teaching a new member class. It will be filled with fun, facts, and food! How can you beat that?

Anyone who wants to learn, or be reminded of, what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian please come! There is no stress or pressure. All are welcome. And for those who choose to join this wonderful church they will be joining the very next day – on Pentecost! Yea!!! Don't we all belong to such an amazing world-wide Family of Faith? This Sunday morning, by God's Grace, First Pres. will have a little bigger branch on the Family Tree! Alleluia! Amen!

Don't Forget to Wear Red!

In God's Love,  
Dr. Jen:)

This past Sunday, for the children's sermon, I talked to the kids about winning and losing when it comes to playing games. We always play to win, we have that desire in us to always triumph. Yet, as we have learned from the events of the last few weeks, sometimes the evil wins over good.

While we all come from a good place where we try our best every day to be better people, when something like that happens, we feel the pain and the weight of the world on our shoulders. This is where our faith comes into play. In faith we get up, and we reach out to those around us. When hate is on the rise we are called to love. When disappointment tries to settle into our hearts, and tries to shake our faith, it comes down to us to stay steadfast. Faith is a daily walk, even through 'the valley of the shadow of death'. We don't get to enjoy the peaks of life without some of those hard to walk moments.

So what do we do, as pilgrims in this journey? We look for direction. We look for a moment of respite. We remember the faithfulness of God in the steps we have taken so far. While we might not see the whole path ahead of us we know, deep down, that in the end love wins. God will triumph and nothing can stand against it.

#### Here are a few things happening at church:

- The parking lot **sinkhole has been fixed**. Thank you Stewardship Council for watching over all of the churches needs so our building can always be a welcoming place.
- **Second Service planning** - Growth and Worship Councils will meet on Sunday to review the findings from the survey and make their recommendations to Session.
- Last week we had a **Building Security Survey** with an officer from the Joliet Police Department. We have done this in the past, but with the ongoing challenges that we are facing in our society, it is important for the elders of the church and those serving, to be able to have an actionable plan in place so we can conduct safe and meaningful services on Sunday morning.
- The **Food Pantry** has seen a lot of activity in the past few weeks. Please ask Sherry Jones how you can help or call the church office with your questions.
- **Summer Lunch Program** is about to start- if you are still thinking about helping out please reach out to Barb Rogers.
- **Vacation Bible School** registration is live. Go to the church website and register today. Kids and volunteers are welcomed. Training days for the volunteers are June 15th at 6 pm and June 18th and 9 am

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Galatians 6:9

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo