

June 22nd 2022

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IT'S VBS WEEK!

Please enjoy some of the pictures from this week so far, you can see much more on our Facebook page. You are also invited to join us Thursday at 6pm for the Monumental VBS Celebration to sing and praise God with our kids.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Jan Weber.

Prayers of healing for Judy Jordan.

Prayers of health and recovery for our custodian Jody's daughter Melissa.



This Sunday is our VBS Sunday! Bring the kids in your life and see a bit of what we learned and did this week at VBS!

June 22, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$118,754
Year to Date Expenses	\$134,601

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.



THE PASTOR'S CORNER *Jennifer Stroud, Interim Head Pastor*

Hello Beloved Church!

I have returned from a short vacation and have had the blessing of being involved with VBS. I am always amazed at the energy and open-ness of children. The young ones are like sponges soaking up all the love we can offer. Their hearts are so open to the lessons of Jesus and the kind and gracious way of the Lord. I have been a part of so many VBS's but this is one of the very best I have ever seen. So many children! So many volunteers! When I look around and see the happy smiles on the little, and the big faces, it makes me smile too. God's love is irresistible, and sooner or later, it knocks down every wall and opens every heart. It's just a matter of time until we find that everyone who calls upon the Lord has a changed attitude. It might take a while but sooner or later everyone gets to a place of non-judgment and open-ness to the Holy Spirit. Jesus' light is so bright it shines through any darkness this world can throw at us!

This Sunday I am preaching in a different way than you have experienced before. My doctoral thesis is in Creative Worship and I have found that people are more interested in worship when it isn't the same every Sunday. That is one of the many reasons why First Presbyterian is so blessed. Bo preaches in his special way and Carrie in hers and I preach in still a different way. How can you be bored with that variety and insight? This Sunday Bo is putting together a beautiful montage of this incredible fun filled week – I can't wait to see it and I know you feel the same!

I want you to know I have missed worshipping with all of you and I have missed my Bible Class studying Luke. I look forward to seeing all of you (new and old students) in the Bible class held in the Fireside Room from 9:15-9:45 on Sunday mornings. And there is always room for more! This Sunday, we will be planning our "special trip" down the street for lunch and laughter. Please attend class, if you can, and we will pick out a date for our little outing that works for as many people as possible.

Life is so precious my friends and our time with one another is fleeting. Please know that I value each and everyone of you, no matter the circumstance, and I am grateful for this time together.

God bless and keep you in His loving arms my dear ones,

In Him,
Dr. Jen:)

Sunday School with Pastor Jen

Class will resume this Sunday!

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Group will not be meeting in July

A Note from Pastor Bo

GOD IS AWESOME! If you walk around First Pres. This week you will hear those words all around you. Kids, youths, and adults filling the whole place with chatter, giggles, lots of smiles - it makes you feel the love around First Pres. This is a small snippet of this church, your church, the place we call our spiritual home. Sometimes we tend to be so focused on Sunday morning worship, on the things that makes us feel comfy in our pews, but when that happens it is easy to lose focus on what we are called to do.

Every year we see kids returning not just to participate in VBS but to help. They become the VOLUNTEERS, they become the next ones to carry on the vision and the mission of this church. If we were to name one thing that this church is about of course the answer will be Jesus, and the way that comes to life is having that impact in the lives of those that come through our church's door. It is teaching kindness, awareness of the needs of people around, and preparing and investing in leaders. It is in the words of the Bible:

"Come and see Jesus, come and follow him, learn from him."

I want to encourage you to continue to pray for the future generations of faith giants, for the spiritual leaders of tomorrow that might be walking our hallways this VBS week. May we all be able to embrace and encourage them in faith the same way we were encouraged and nurtured when we started our walk with God.

Blessings,
Bo M

Night at the Ballpark!

Parish Council is hosting a night out at a Joliet Slammers Baseball Game!

July 22nd—Game starts at 6:35

Cheer on the Joliet Slammers alongside your faith family! Enjoy a fireworks show after the game too!

Tickets are **\$5 each** and can be bought on Sunday morning, and through the office. If you're coming by for VBS you can find Pastor Jen at a table by the front door selling tickets as well!

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

You can support this amazing ministry by helping spread the word, and by stopping in and donating your time !

The program operates from 11:30 am to 1pm through August 16th (M-F) Come join us!