



e-News

June 22nd 2022

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

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VBS VOLUNTEERS!

On behalf of Pastor Bo and the rest of First Pres we give thanks for all of our volunteers' hard work that made VBS 2022 truly **MONUMENTAL!**



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of continued healing for Jan Weber.

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

Prayers for Margie Caisley, Don and Mary's niece, who has been fighting cancer in her brain and now is in Hospice.

Prayers for good results for Pastor Bo's mother as she has some medical tests done this week.

Prayers of health for Maureen Fumagalli.

Prayers of healing for Jeannette Miller.

The July birthday calendar is available on our website.



June 29, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$141,429
Year to Date Expenses	\$146,361

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.



Good Day Faithful Church!

From the very first moment we set eyes on FPJ, we were amazed by its beauty. But as lovely as the building is, as we got to meet the people of First Pres, we soon realized where the real beauty could be found. It is in all of you. In your kindness and service to others, in the love we have felt and shared. It is that love which has led me to this decision.

The Lord created all of us different, not better or worse, just different, and some embrace change more easily than others. And let's face it, COVID did a number on all of us didn't it? Not only did it cause us to fear for our and other's lives - It closed down the church and when it re-opened the smaller numbers necessitated two worship services get blended into one. A beloved associate and head pastor retire and then here comes this wacky upstart who wants more change? Forgive me about it! It was a perfect storm for rejection and for part of this congregation – that is exactly what happened.

So, in my love for all of you and my prayer for your future, I asked God what this was all about? Why He would have Tim and I pull up our roots and disrupt our lives only to see a divided church become even more divided? God's answer was clear. This wonderful church had been going the same way for so long, the well-traveled road had become a rut. The church needed a shock to pull it out. So, God sent me. The Lord made it plain that in order for First to have a successful future with your new long-term pastor – you needed to hear another fresh voice besides mine – maybe even two. You need more “different”, more “new” so that when the pastor God is preparing for you arrives, your hearts will be open and your minds will be free to love him/her as she/he will most assuredly, as I do, love you in return.

I know that many of you are upset, as we are, that we won't be having more time with you. But our love for you is greater than our sadness. We will be leaving at the end of September so there is plenty of time for us to enjoy our fellowship of faith with one another. Give me a call and we'll take you to lunch or coffee. Together we'll smile and celebrate the beauty of a God who surprises and shocks us as He directs all our paths toward our bright and glorious futures!

In God's Love and with Our Own,
Jen & Tim Stroud

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.

A Note from Pastor Carrie

Hi friends!

I am very excited to preach on this holiday weekend Sunday. A few weeks ago, we read Acts 4:1-13, and found that we live in a kind of an augmented reality, wherein we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to God's work in this very real, tangible world. In particular, Acts 4:13 taught us that although Peter and John were “unschooled, ordinary men” they so astonished the folks in charge that the leaders took note that Peter and John spoke with knowledge and authority, because they had been with Jesus.

Friends, **we** have been with Jesus. This reality is core to our lives, to our belief systems, to our choices. We may live in an “augmented” reality, but we are real people. This week we will take a closer look at what this means through the words written in Acts 4:23-31 and Psalm 111. What does it mean for us real people to live out our faith? This is the question we will ask ourselves (and hopefully answer!) this Sunday.

On the fourth of July, we celebrate the freedom we have in this country. It is a privilege to live here - to have the right of free speech, the right to gather to worship, the freedom to live our lives as we choose. As Christians, we have an even deeper freedom - the freedom that comes with forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in Galatians 3:26-29:

You are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

I pray that we all exercise our freedoms with grace, humility, honesty, and kindness.

May God bless you and keep you safe. See you Sunday!

Peace,

Pastor Carrie

PS - A reminder - prayer group will not be meeting in July. We will resume meeting in August. If you would like me to pray with you between now and then, please text, call or email me.

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!

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Group will not be meeting in July