



e-News

June 8th, 2022

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

TIME TO THINK VBS!

Save the Date: June 20th through 24th!
8:30 to 12:30 each day

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!

REGISTER NOW!

(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 of health for Donna Hudak.

Prayers of health and recovery for Kaleigh Belfield during and after her surgery this Thursday.



A big welcome to our newest members!

Left to right: Becky Schmidt-Rutkowski, Carolyn McBurney, Georgene Venske, Mary Lou Delk

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Our Summer Lunch Program is back in-house again, and with activities!
The program will operate from 11:30 am to 1pm through August 16th (M-F) Come join us!

Sunday School with Pastor Jen

This class will not be meeting Sunday the 12th, and Sunday the 19th. Class will resume back on June 26th.

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.

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Next Meeting: June 17th at 9:30 am
All are invited!

The full schedule is available on our website.

Make sure you take a moment to introduce yourself!

This is also a great time to pause and think about who in your life you would like to introduce to First Pres, and invite them along on Sunday!

June 8, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$104,205
Year to Date Expenses	\$112,024

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.

Dearly Beloved Church,

This Thursday, after the Session meeting, I will be taking my first vacation since I arrived a little more than seven months ago. I decided when I first came here to this wonderful church that I would not take a day off because First deserved my best. I wanted to give this church my all so I am a bit worn out.

Consequently, I will not be here for the next two Sundays or be teaching my Bible class – the study of Luke. Interestingly many from the class will also be gone for those two weeks, so it makes leaving for the time being so much easier.

My job here as your Interim, is to bring change and help the session to discern where tweaks in their ministries need to be made to best care for the people of this wonderful congregation. Also to insure that their work of ministering to others of the community continues. However, the real work of the church belongs to all of you, the faithful believers of First Pres. This church is an incredible presence of Christ in Joliet and in the world and it deserves to be as strong a fellowship as the work you do for others in Jesus Holy Name. That is why I am asking each one of you to please invite friends and family, neighbors and the friendly strangers that you meet, to First Pres. of Joliet. Here they will experience the love and light of Christ. I know once they experience it for themselves they will want to return. Who can resist the love of God found and felt in this faithful fellowship?

Did you know that the best way to grow a congregation is by inviting people personally and then sitting with them in the sanctuary so they don't feel alone? Then after a meaningful worship and a few introductions (and perhaps a coffee and cookie in the Fellowship Hall or even better going out to lunch) the person feels cared for and hopefully, prayerfully, has found a spiritual home!

As Tim and I are showing my sister, Ter-Bear, and my brother in love, Bob, around Joliet (for 6 days) and Chicago (just one), please know that Tim and I pray for all of you every morning together, and I pray for you in the middle of the night when the Lord wakes me up and has you on my mind. And you, the wonderful people of God, are always on my mind!

God bless you and keep you safe and joyful in His Loving Arms,

Dr. Jen:)

This Sunday I am preaching on Act 3 - The healing at the temple. I am especially taken by the words of Peter:

"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

These words are important for us today, in part because they help us center when life is filled with uncertainty. As you know, we are living in uncertain times. In times like these it is easy for us to lose focus of what we have. The little faith we might have left might feel like it is being overshadowed by what we see and hear all around us.

For Peter the treasure he had was Christ, and Christ alone. Out of that treasure he was able to do everything set before him, everything that God called him to do. For some it might not sound like much, but it was everything that he needed. I hope that on Sunday we all can rediscover that treasure that God has put in these clay jars. I am looking forward to worshipping with you on Sunday.

Here's what is happening at First Pres:

- **Summer Lunch Program:** Started back on the 7th and we had 13 kids stop by and get some lunch. Barb Rogers and her crew were filled with smiles, welcoming words, and excitement about this summer ministry starting back.
- **Ukrainian Refugee Update:** I just received word that Pastor Ovi returned safely today from delivering aid in Ukraine. The ministry team had left for Kiev and Harkov on Sunday night and returned safely today. As soon as I have more information about this trip I will let you know. This past month we have sent \$1,674 to help with this humanitarian aid effort.
- **Vacation Bible School:** We have 49 children signed up so far. We also have a good number of volunteers getting ready to welcome kids for a week of discovering God's love through the story of Joseph. Registration is open online and it is not too late to volunteer or sign up the kids! For volunteers please plan on attending the training meetings on June 15th at 6pm and June 18th at 9am. For the preschool volunteers this will be a good time to get familiar and receive instructions about the classroom and lesson plans. For the elementary volunteers we will go through the rotations and look at the program.
- **June 23rd:** Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our VBS Celebration. That Thursday at 6pm we will open the church and invite kids, parents, and grandparents to come and sing and hear about the VBS week. Perhaps most importantly we will have an ice cream party (provided by Walt's). I'm sure you won't want to miss that!

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

(below is a recent photo from Pastor Ovi)

