



e-News

July 13th 2022

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GUIDEBOOK

Our annual Guidebook will be published soon. If you own a small business and would like to advertise in the book, please contact our sales rep:

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HR UPDATE

Dear First Pres Family,

Your Human Resources Council wants to notify the congregation that Pastor Jen has requested not to pursue any extension on her current contract with the church. In addition, she has requested that her last day would be July 24, 2022. HR Council agrees with this request.

Because of this request, a special Session meeting has been called for July 14, 2022 to vote to accept this request. Please note that HR has been and will continue to be in contact with Blackhawk Presbytery to find a pastor to bridge the gap until the PNC finds a permanent Senior Pastor. If you have any questions, feel free to contact David Zang, Don Caisley, or Steinberg.

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I want to tell you how much we appreciate you. We don't say it enough but your generosity over time through sponsoring 3 young women at Angel House has been a lifeline to those young women and the whole project. We truly wouldn't have been able to nurture and educate the children growing up at Angel House nearly as well without your long term prayers and support. We are grateful for you. Praying for you and your church family.

God bless you.

Grassroots—Angel House

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of peaceful recovery for our custodian Jodi's daughter Melissa.

Prayers of peace and comfort for the Caisley family.

Prayers of health and recovery for Joe and Sally Bokkelen, who are in Jim Huey's family, and are dealing with brain surgery and breast cancer respectively.

Prayers of health and healing for the following: George Redman, Jeannette Miller, as well as Jen Gabl's mother Joyce.

CALL FOR BELL RINGERS

Our Glory Ringers are looking for a few new members to join their ministry. If you are interested or have any questions please reach out to the office.

Night at the Ballpark!

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.

July 13, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$181,981
Year to Date Expenses	\$173,543

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.

Beloved Church!

I hope this message finds you all well and filled with the joy of the Lord. Today I want to talk about something that is contrary to the teachings of society. It's about getting older. I think of that joke where an old man is asked if he is happy to celebrate his latest birthday and he answers, "It sure beats the alternative!"

In our country, and in most countries around the world, aging is seen as a negative. When was the last time you saw a picture of an 80 year old woman on a fashion magazine or an 80 year old man on the cover of Fitness Today? Our culture doesn't value wisdom and experience (which most older adults have in abundance). Rather everything is geared toward youth. One of my wonderful friends in Florida once told me the reason she continues to dye her hair is that when she let it go grey she became invisible. Sadly, older people are more likely to be discounted than to be honored. We hear comments about how we are not as sharp as we used to be and that might be true. We watch commercials that try to sell us miracle cures for all that ails us. We worry about our forgetfulness, our lack of understanding, our inability to learn new things and our insistence on things staying the same. But our God thinks differently about getting older.

"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."
Proverbs 16:31

If we are honest, we older folk often think less of ourselves and our ability to continue to live full, productive lives. But our God replies...

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." **Joshua 1:9**

So, let us call upon the Lord for strength to continue our work for the Lord despite the waning of our earthly bodies. For God is ever faithful...

"Even to your old age I am He, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save."
Isaiah 46:4

And though our ministries may change through the power of the Holy Spirit they will continue. And no matter our age, we will fulfill our call.

"The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green"
Psalms 92:12-14

May it be so for all of us my dear ones! Amen and Amen!

In His Love,
Dr. Jen:)

This Sunday I am preaching on Act 5: 5:17-21a; 27-32. I find this passage fascinating and very appropriate for our times. Jerusalem was in turmoil, the Jewish way of life with its traditions and customs was being challenged by the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth. For some this Jesus was a false prophet for others He was the Lord, for some His teachings were contrary to the old teachings, for others Jesus's words were words of life. His disciples continued to proclaim and witness in the public forums of the day the message of Jesus: Turn to God, put God first, and love the whole world the same way that God loves you.

Recently I was watching a sermon about God and the public discourse of today's culture. One thing stuck with me: there is a lot of distraction and a great push to move the church from the message of Jesus. We try to find practical solutions to our problems, and in that comes some form of compromise and departing from that message: Love God and Love your neighbor. We get caught up in those distractions and compromises, and soon we may even ask the question: Is it worth it? On Sunday I would like for us to consider that question when it comes to living as people of faith in this fast changing and divided world we live in. I would encourage you to read the whole Acts 5 before Sunday and maybe ask: what would I do if I was one of those gathered on the Solomon's Colonnade?

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CHURCH:

As staff we are looking at what the Fall season will look like for First Pres. I would encourage you to pray for the staff and leadership of the church as we are looking forward to a good September and a good **Back to Church Sunday** on Sept 18th. We are making plans for a great picnic and a celebration of the ministries we have here at First Pres.

As you know July 22nd is **Night out at the Ballpark**. If you do not have your tickets yet this is your reminder to get them. As you heard me say Sunday, First Pres is not just Sunday morning worship for one hour, it is ministry, volunteering, and sharing life with a group of people. Fellowship as a body has been something we missed for a while, so please consider coming out to see your old friends and maybe make some new ones.

I would also like to update you on **Pastor Ovi and Ukrainian refugee ministries**. I am still waiting for a bigger update from him, after his trip to Kiev and a few other places in Ukraine, where he delivered more food and supplies to the local church. Him and his team returned safely to Romania, but some of the stories I have heard so far are heartbreaking and hard to hear. Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and for this conflict that is far from being over.

On a personal note: Thank you for your prayers and support for my parents. Both Mom and Dad had good results regarding their health progress, and especially my Dad's post Covid healing. We are grateful for that. In the last two weeks I have seen another rise of Covid cases all around us, and even I have been exposed again to this thing that seems like it doesn't want to go away. I share this with you to encourage you to be safe, and healthy so we can all enjoy a great summer together.

Praying for each one of you as you read this that you will find peace, comfort and strength to do the great work God has called us to in this little part of God's Kingdom we call Joliet.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo