



e-News

July 7th 2022

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

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:

Brenda Tolbert
Guide Book Publishing
Cell 314-745-4220
btolbert1159@yahoo.com

CALL FOR BELL RINGERS

Our Glory Ringers are looking for a few new members.

If you are interested or have any questions please reach out to the office.

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.

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!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Prayers of peace and comfort for the Caisley family.

Pastor Bo and his family are thankful for good results on his mother's recent medical tests.

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: Jan Weber, Maureen Fumagalli, Nancy Heye, George Redman, Jeannette Miller, Mike and Sue Lee, as well as Jen Gabl's mother Joyce.

The July birthday calendar is available on our website.

Congratulations to James Brownold on his new job as Director of Music at another church. We thank you for your wonderful work as the Handbell Director here at First Pres for the past 4 years.

Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer Group

Group will not be meeting in July

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Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$172,495
Year to Date Expenses	\$163,756

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.

Dearest Church!

This last Monday was one of the most celebrated Fourth of Julys I have ever experienced. The fireworks started early in the evening before the sun went down in my neighborhood and continued until 2:30 in the morning. I was so happy to see that even with the problems our country may have, when push comes to shove, we are all Americans and that is what unites us and gives us strength.

But I have to watch myself. Christians must be careful we do not make our love of country become a false idol. When our heart is driven by two different masters we loose our connection with God and act in ways that do not honor the Lord or ourselves. Jesus put it this way...

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. Matthew 6:24

The Lord, who reads our hearts, can see when we are torn between the things of this earth and the things of God. The New Testament tells us...

I know what you have done, and that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish that you were either cold or hot! But since you are lukewarm, I intend to spit you out of my mouth! Revelation 3:16

This is not a new problem for Christians. This Sunday I will try to tackle a very difficult passage that most preachers, let alone Christians, try to pass over. It shows that the desire to follow the crowd, to lie and pretend to do and be someone other than who we are, is destructive in the extreme. Destructive to others and destructive to ourselves.

What we often forget when we put God first, above all earthly things, our lives are ordered for our betterment and God's glory. A Christian honors the teachings of Jesus and lives and works in love and, through that love, peace grows around us and lives within us.

I pray the Holy Spirit takes over my speech and leads me in the way of God – so that all of us – myself included especially, might grow in the wisdom of the Lord and become all God calls us to be – as individual Christians and as the Body of Christ.

My time to feel the blessing of being among you is growing short. We must remember, although we may have problems among the fellowship, when push comes to shove we are Christians and God's love and mercy unites us and keeps us strong and together! I pray to see you all this Sunday.

In Jesus's Love, dear Family of Faith, and with my own,

Dr. Jen:)

A Note from Pastor Bo

Last week I had a chance to get away for a couple of days, and in my travels I got to meet Jerry. Now when you see Jerry, you will not believe that this gentle, soft spoken, mild mannered, mid-western gentleman was instrumental in establishing so many ocean restoration and preservation sanctuaries around the US. We got talking about family, work and life. In listening to him I was reminded of these words that are attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: ***“Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words.”***

I was reminded in part because I see this man as a good example of what loving God looks like in real life. In the same breath I was reminded of our faith community here at First Pres Joliet. It is in the doing, in the opening the doors for the kids during the lunch program, during fellowship, and in sharing care for someone that is recovering from a surgery. It is in those things that the Gospel is preached. It is in the prayers and the response of love when a tragedy like Highland Park happens, or reaching out with love and care to those who are afraid of what is happening at this time in our country. I see Jerry in you, First Pres folks. You are there doing the work of the Gospel day after day and in that you should find joy, you should find strength for a new day. That is my prayer for all of us this week. May we find that love in the work of God's Kingdom.

You might be wondering what else is happening on 805 West-ern. As you know this place is never boring. We have some news from the **Glory Ringers**. As you know the ministry of the bells is not just a wonderful delight to our ears and hearts, but also a great community that serves within the greater community of First Pres. James Brownold, who served as our bells choir director for the past 4 years, has accepted a new position at another church as Director of Music. His ministry has blessed us so much in the past years, and I want to encourage you to reach out to him and wish him well and say thank you (we hope to have a celebration for him real soon). Now, Susan Pemble, who you might have seen play with the bells and perform handbell solos, has accepted the offer to be our new Bells Choir Director. I know we will be looking with great expectation and excitement to see what the Glory Ringers will bring in the future of their ministry.

July 22nd - Night at the Ballpark. We have a new batch of tickets in. If you are like me and have not gotten your ticket yet, this might be the time to call the office and reserve yours. It is always fun to come out and see the rest of the folks you run into on Sunday morning enjoying a night out.

Summer Lunch Program is going well, from Monday to Friday, our faithful volunteers open the church to the community kids and their families. Guess what, they even offered me some fruit today. I would encourage you to stop by and see them and encourage them in their work.

Soon we will start thinking about the fall and what that looks like for us here at church. I do not have too many details at this time but what I have is a date for you. September 18th! **Back to Church Sunday**, followed by a picnic and much more.

I pray that in today's world we can all find a moment of tranquility, a moment where we can pray for peace, for joy and for each other. **Don't forget, Hymn Sing starts this Sunday!**

Have a great week and see you Sunday.

Pastor Bo