



e-News

August 17th, 2022

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

Pick of the Patch Vendor and Craft Fair

Saturday October 22nd
9 am to 2pm

Registration is open for vendors and crafters! Pre-approval of business/product is required before submitting registration. Contact Kris Hayden for pre-approval. Visit our website for more information and the required forms. Vendor spaces are \$45 each, due at registration. Registration and contract forms are due by October 15th.

ANGEL HOUSE—THANK YOU

Dear First Pres. Joliet friends,

Thank you for your support for Bhoke, Rhobi, and Rebecca! These Angel House kids appreciate your prayers, care, and support. You are making a difference in their lives. Thank you!

Holly Opundo and Janelle Wilke

LISTENING SESSION

August 28th
Immediately following 10am worship

Session invites all congregation members to join us on August 28th after the 10 am service for a “listening session” where we would like to hear your thoughts and hopes for the future of our church.

PARKING LOT NOTICE

The parking lot immediately outside of First Pres is being resurfaced this Thursday, Friday, and potentially Saturday if needed. Please plan accordingly.

SAVE THE DATE!

Back to Church Sunday Fun Day and Ministry Fair will be Sept. 18th after worship.

Midweek is starting back on Sept. 21st

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

With kids and teachers going back to school we continue our prayers for the health and safety of our beloved faith family.

We continue our prayers for the people of Ukraine as they continue to suffer countless atrocities.

Recently, when asked for a piece of wisdom to share, one of our loving preschoolers reminded the class that “COVID is still a thing”. With the love of these children in our hearts I hope everyone is watchful and prayerful for their own health, and the health of their loved ones.—Scout

Project Linus

August 22nd at 9 am

Come join this important ministry and make a difference making blankets for those in need.

PHILIPPIANS PRAYER GROUP

Our next meeting will be August 19th at 9:30 am. No pressure, no obligation, just community and prayer. This is a great time to join us if you haven't already. All are welcome!

August 17, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$208,036
Year to Date Expenses	\$235,301

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.

Happy mid-August!

As I sat down to write this, I heard the sounds of children walking to the bus stop. Another school year has begun! For the kids, and likely some of us adults, the school year brings with it excitement and also a touch of anxiety. In reality, the world today brings with it anxiety - and it can very easily steal our peace.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
(John 14:27)

As people of faith, God promises us peace. You may have noticed I often end my emails and other correspondence with "peace." Peace is important to me - in part, I'm sure, because I struggle with anxiety. So, as I work with my doctors to ease my anxiety, I remind myself that in Christ, there is peace. This doesn't mean life is smooth sailing, or that really rotten things won't happen to us. It doesn't mean that we won't suffer from physical, mental, or emotional ailments. It DOES mean that we are never alone. God has given us the Holy Spirit. He has saved us through Christ. We can trust Him in all circumstances, even when we don't understand them.

I'm sharing this with you because when I sign my letters with "peace" or when we say to one another "peace be with you," it is a big deal. Peace is with us. Even in turmoil.

Another gift God has given us is each other. I am excited about Back to Church Sunday on September 18. I hope you are coming! Be sure to stop by the worship council's table - we have sooooo much to share with you!

The women's ministry committee is meeting next week to plan for the next 12 months. We are feeling so blessed to have had so many ideas contributed and can't wait to get going! We will keep you posted!

Now, my friends - I encourage you to look for God's blessings around you. Even as things all around us change, we can be certain that God does not, and will never, change.

Peace,

Pastor Carrie

Yesterday was our last Summer Lunch Program day for the year. I would like to share with you what I have seen: A mom, with a young kid in a stroller, talking to couple other moms surrounded by their kids. At a different table, Barb Rogers was reading a book to a little girl, while her brother was enjoying his lunch. Another volunteer was setting the last lunch for the day, waiting for one of the regulars to arrive. Now this might not look like much, but in that room I have seen love, care and acceptance for folks in the neighborhood. It's little glimpse of a community of faith caring for a community of parents and kids thought out summer. I cannot express how thankful I am to this group of Summer Volunteers and their work each and every day. You represent the best of what First Pres. has to offer, love and care in flesh and bones. Please join us in saying thank you to all these wonderful folks.

This summer program reminds me of Christ's words in Matthew 10:42

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward."

This is what we are called for in our daily lives, to go out and serve whenever and whoever God brings our way. Some time back someone said to me that if we are not the ones receiving the cup of water we should be the ones that look for opportunities to share our cup of water. May we all be a blessing to those around us.

Session invites all congregation members to join us on August 28th after the 10 am service for a "listening session" where we would like to hear your thoughts and hopes for the future of our church.

This Sunday, I am preaching on Paul's trip to Athens and the impact his ministry had on the town, and on how the strength of his ministry was his ability to "read the room" culturally. As we are looking at the cultural impact of the Gospel, this stop in Athens becomes important to us. This town that valued dialogue and philosophy, and that was a great starting point for Paul in talking about his faith in "an unknown God". At times it might feel that we as people of faith do not have too many things in common with the world and yet, I believe there are numerous points of common interest, and a point where faith and secular life and thinking intersect. Paul was good at finding those points. I would like for us to explore this story on Sunday and see what God can do though us.

Have a great rest of the week,

Blessings,
Pastor Bo M.