



e-News

August 24th, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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Ice Cream Social

This Saturday 8/27 at noon

All kids, youths, and their grown ups are invited to an Ice Cream Social this Saturday! Ed Council would love to talk about fall plans for our kids and youth, like Midweek, Sunday Mornings, and Youth Group. We will also be hosting a potential candidate for the Kids and Youth Director position. We hope to see you there!

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.

This will start with some questions to guide discussion and then some time to speak while Session listens.

Coffee hour will still be held after worship, but will become the Listening Session by 11:30.

SAVE THE DATE!

Back to Church Sunday Ministry Fair

Sept. 18th after worship.

Expect food, treats, games, and more! This will be a great opportunity for fellowship, as well as learning about our many ministries here at First Pres. and how you can support them.

Midweek

starting back on Sept. 21st—then each Wednesday

Join us for a fellowship dinner before class.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We continue our prayers for the people of Ukraine and all those providing humanitarian aid to them.

Prayers and sympathies to the friends and family of Laura (Lol) Walker who passed on August 17th.

Prayers of healing for Matt Blaser's dad, Jim.

Prayers for all teachers and students as the school year gets into full swing.

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.

August 24, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$212,466
Year to Date Expenses	\$240,428

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.

Hi, First Pres!

I've been thinking and praying about worship this week, especially in the context of our busy lives. For some, attending worship weekly is so ingrained that it is just a natural flow of life. For some of us, though, it's easy to get out of the habit of worship, or service, or fellowship. I know, because I've been there - particularly when my kids were little and it was so much effort.

Nonetheless, I want to encourage you to make or keep worship a priority. Worship has become an important part of my life, not only as a pastor but as a follower of Jesus. I had to work at it initially and I had to learn that worship isn't actually about me at all. It is about God.

Hebrews 10:23-25 reads:

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

I believe that we are busier than ever. Yet technology gives us the ability to regularly attend worship even when we can't be in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning! First Pres offers digital worship at your fingertips whenever you have time to spend an hour or so focusing on God, on your faith, on God's Word. I encourage you to worship online if you are unable to be in the sanctuary on Sunday morning - even better, get together with other folk who are busy on Sunday mornings and worship with them. You can even rotate houses - maybe have coffee and donuts or share a meal!

More so, I want to encourage you to gather at First Pres as often as you can. If Sunday mornings are a little hard for you, maybe try to come to 10 am worship anyway. If you need to worship online at other times, please plan to come to mid-week, which kicks off on September 21. Join in women's ministry activities, service and mission projects, and bible studies. God put us in community for many reasons. Among them is that the world is a challenging place. In worship, we are reminded that God is in control, that he is trustworthy and that he loves us so much he sent Jesus for our salvation.

I hope to see you on Sunday.

Peace,

Pastor Carrie

'Blessed are you...' We have heard those words multiple times in our lives. We remember them as a pathway to a good life, to living in God's graces, and find comfort. To simplify it, one could say that if you live in a certain way then God will reward you. But this is more than a reward system, this is about living right. 'Blessed are you' is about discovering utmost spiritual joy in every day moments. It is a process, it is growth and it is challenging. As Jesus spoke these words, he laid out, in a way, the blueprint of his ministry. He told people what he would be about.

I would like to say that even today, we still need to rediscover that part of Jesus, His way of looking and embracing the word. Please join me on Sunday as we look at Matthew 5 praying that we will find the Beatitudes to be new and inviting to each one of us.

What's going on at 805 Western:

- **This Saturday** - ICE CREAM! Ed council is inviting all parents, kids, and youth to come on Saturday Aug 27th at noon in Hoffman Hall for a time of sharing about the fall ministries and also meet a potential candidate for the Children/Youth Director position.
- **This Sunday** following the Service - Session is inviting everyone to come and be part of a listening session regarding our current and future plans as a church.
- In preparation for **Sept 18th** - As we prepare information about all ministries at First Pres., we need your information. If you are currently involved and lead a ministry at church we need to hear from you. Please contact Growth Council or the office with current information regarding your ministries and what you would like to do as part of the Back to Church Sunday Ministry Fair.

Hope you are enjoying these last few days of summer,

Blessings,
Pastor Bo Mircea