



# e-News

August 31st, 2022

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Don't forget to update the information on your council and share it with the church office ASAP! We look forward to sharing your hard work at the Back to Church Celebration next month!

## FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Our monthly pancake breakfast will be this Saturday at 8:30 am. Stop in for a tasty (and free) breakfast, thanks to our Night Deacons!

## Philippians Prayer Group

This prayer group will continue to meet every 3rd Friday at 9:30 am. *Everyone is invited, men and women.*

The next meeting will be Friday Sep. 16th at 9:30 am.

## New Women's Ministry Page!

Visit our website, and find "Women's" under the "Ministries" tab. This new page is the best place to find info on our Oasis Women's Ministry, and see upcoming events they're hosting!

Keep an eye out for the Women's Ministry Facebook page that will be up very soon! That will be a great place to keep up with Oasis, and share event info with your friends!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Back to Church Sunday Celebration

*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.

### Midweek

*starting back on Sept. 21st—then each Wednesday*

Join us for a fellowship dinner before class.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Prayers of recovery for Mary Caisley's brother Charles after surgery.

Prayers of healing for Jerry Haddon, Jody's father.

Prayers of strength and healing for Lori Clemons, a friend of the church, as she experiences illness and challenges in her life.

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 31, 2022**

### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$772,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$231,394</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$264,377</b>

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.

Show of hands - are you easily distracted by all the STUFF that surrounds us? The news, the noise, the disagreements, the politics, the opinions, the advertisements, the traffic, the obligations, you know, the STUFF? I know that I am. It's easy to lose track of what is really important. The flip side of that is that, really, the important stuff isn't all that hard to remember, it's just too easy to be distracted.

This is one of the reasons Pastor Bo and I decided to spend just a little bit of time talking about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as summer dwindles and we look forward to Back to Church Sunday and all the wonderful activities that come along with autumn. We will not get all the way through the Sermon on the Mount - we are hanging out in Matthew 5, and the sermon itself goes all the way through Matthew 7. (A great read, if you are looking for some morning devotions.)

Last week, Pastor Bo preached on the Beatitudes. This week, we are moving on to who we are in Christ. It's important stuff - remembering who we are in Christ.

A foretaste - we are salty. We are beacons of light. We are forgiven and saved.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Carrie

### **A Note from Pastor Bo**

Happy Labor Day weekend to you all! As you think about this weekend, and you plan those last summer days off to be with family and friends, I would like to encourage you to take a moment and reflect on work. Work as in your workplace, but also in the Kingdom of God. The Scripture teaches us about the importance of laboring in the work of the Gospel.

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Luke 10:2 is one of the verses that calls all of us to come together and focus on the work of the church. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you serving the church in so many ways, from sharing hospitality on Sunday morning, to serving on a church council and helping us navigate this unprecedented time for our church. I also want to take time to thank those that serve the church in a more professional manner, from the choir, and worship leaders, and musicians, to the people in the front office, to the custodial staff, and the rest of the Pastoral staff.

1 Timothy 5:18 says that the worker is worthy of its pay, and I know that all of your work will be rewarded as the time comes, before the throne of God. But before that I want to encourage you to stay strong in your devotion to God, and your service, and I want to thank you for all you do. So I pray for all of us to have a good Labor Day weekend, and to be refreshed, as there is still a lot of work to do going forward here at this church that we call our home away from home.

### **What's Happening at First Pres. This Week:**

- This Saturday we will host our monthly Free Pancake Breakfast. As always, all are invited to join the Night Deacons as we open the doors to those in our community.
- Thank you to all the people that attended this past Sunday's Listening Session that the Session made possible. As people shared their concerns for the church, and as we heard Pastor Carrie share, there is a need for continued dialogue. I would ask that if you have questions, or were not able to attend the meeting, to reach out to someone from Session, pastoral staff, or office staff to talk about your concerns.
- If you are a member of any council, I hope you are getting ready and making plans for September 18th and Back to Church Sunday. Please contact the church office and your council with details about your planned activities.
- If you are not part of any council, September 18th is coming up and we are excited to invite you to attend our Back to Church Sunday, a time to celebrate our ministry, and celebrate each other. We are planning for a picnic after the church service. More details to follow.

Blessings to you, enjoy this weekend,

Pastor Bo