



# e-News

September 21st, 2022

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Hello friends,

Thanks to the wisdom, grace, and generosity of our session, I will be taking a leave of absence commencing October 1, 2022.

The women's ministry team will continue with the wonderful events we have planned for the next few months. Please check the church website and the women's ministry facebook page for more information about planned events and for possible spontaneous Oasis events.

I love First Pres and each of you.  
You will be in my prayers while I am on leave.

Peace,  
Pastor Carrie

## Midweek

**starting back on Sept. 28th—then each Wednesday**  
Join us for a fellowship dinner before class.

**NOTE: MIDWEEK WAS POSTPONED AND WILL NOT BE HELD TODAY 9/21, BUT WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK 9/28**

## **UPDATE FROM PASTOR OVI ON AID TO UKRAINE**

Greetings in Jesus' name from Romania.

We are going into Ukraine every 3 weeks, trying to help the Ukrainian people as much as we can. The Ukrainian army recently liberated a region roughly 2,200 square miles in size. This means thousands of people in a lot of need. After the Russian occupiers left these people were left with no houses, no food, no electricity, no water, no clothes or shoes, and so on. Thank you for all your help.

God bless you all.  
Pastor Ovi

## Kid's Music Class

We are very excited to be starting a children's music class each Wednesday at 5:30, right before dinner. This isn't just a choir, kid's will learn instruments, rhythm and more! Once a month the music students will be invited to share what they've learned in live worship Sunday morning!

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Many congratulations to Mark and Carol Morrison on the birth of their new grandbaby, Abhaya Rose Narayanan.

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

Prayers of healing for Nikki Reiser as she experiences severe complications after the birth of her son.

Prayers of health for Cindy Day after her recent surgery, and for Lynnette Hopwood for her upcoming surgery.

Many congratulations to Matt and Laura Pritz on the birth of their new baby boy, Otto Kenneth Pritz.

Prayers of health and recovery for our Choir members.

## New Women's Ministry Pages!

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!

On Facebook you can find their new Oasis page at "Oasis: Women's Ministry at First Pres. Joliet"

## **September 21st, 2022**

### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$772,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$247,022</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$295,271</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.

**THE PASTOR'S CORNER** Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor

Grace and peace be with you.  
Grace and peace.

It's my sincere prayer to be with you this coming Sunday worship. COVID is no fun. Ann and I will retake the test this Thursday, and our medical providers stated that the present protocol is to stay masked for an additional five days after symptoms disappear. So you will have a masked Transitional Pastor and mysterious spouse this coming week.

If you heard my sermon last week, you might have noticed that I begin my sermon with the phrase, "Grace and peace be with you." It is not an original phrase with me. This greeting is borrowed from the Apostle Paul who employed it as the salutations in his letters, and pastors have used the sentence for centuries. Grace is the Greek salutation. Shalom, peace, is the Hebrew greeting. Paul's combined greeting unified the church as the new family of God.

Many years ago, when I was going through a difficult time in my life, I attended a church to rest my weary soul. This church was a safe place for me, and the pastor began each of his sermons with Paul's greeting, "Grace and peace be with you." Those words were like a spoken salve on my aching spiritual bones. Every week, hearing those words settled my heart and opened my soul to the gospel message. Each Sunday I went through the parts of worship, heard the reading, and longingly anticipated that soothing greeting, "Grace and peace be with you." The meaningful words saturated and filled the emptiness of my soul.

Writing this little note reminds me of that yearning for the grace and peace of the Lord.

Every time I welcome you with, "Grace and peace be with you," I am reminded of the Lord's grace freely given and the Lord's peace that passes all understanding for me and for you. It joins my soul with yours throughout all the years with the faithful witnesses. It is my prayer that we be renewed in our time together. "Grace and peace be with you."

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

**A Note from Pastor Bo**

This Sunday I am preaching on the relationship between Paul and Timothy. I would encourage you to take 1st and 2nd Epistle From Paul to Timothy as your devotional for the rest of the week, and ask the following questions: Who is my Paul? and who is my Timothy? In our faith tradition we speak about membership as part of the discipleship process, in part because growing in ones faith is not a solo journey. It is about walking in the footsteps of those that are mature and have a deep faith in God. In today's world it is very easy to have access to good teachings in so many mediums, from books, blogs, online and tv church. One might ask 'why do we still need to have these types of relationships in our lives? Why do I need a mentor or why should I be one?' Because faith, at the heart of it, is about relationships. It is about growing and merging head with heart, knowledge with living and experience. I believe that as people of faith we are called to be disciples and make disciples. Join us on Sunday as we will look at the ministry of teaching and discipleship that we all are called to.

**What's going on at 805 Western these days:**

- Thank you to all that made last Sunday morning a great day of ministry and fellowship. Not only did we enjoy some good food (if you missed the baked beans you really missed out), but we also had a great time reconnecting with our faith family. So many great smiles and happy stories shared all around. Thank you again to all the councils for their hard work on food and hospitality.
- As you know from our communication this week, COVID has not been kind to our congregation this past week. Our choir and Pastor Roy have been caught up in this new wave. As a result of this, we had to postpone Midweek and also cancel Choir practice and Choir singing in church on Sunday. Please continue to pray for God's mercy and protection over all of us, as we serve and worship together.
- While you might feel that it is early to think about October, I want to encourage you to mark Oct 26th on your calendar. Lord willing, we will be hosting our Trunk N Treat! We will welcome all those kids and their families for food, candies, and games.

Looking forward to worship with you this week.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo



**THANK YOU ALL FOR AN AWESOME BACK TO CHURCH PICNIC CELEBRATION!**