



# e-News

September 28th, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

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 TONIGHT Sept. 28th— each Wednesday***

**5:30—Kid's Music Class (not just choir)**

**6:00—Fellowship Dinner**

**6:30—Bible Study Classes (Kids and Adults)**

***See you tonight!***

## 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!

## **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

## 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 continued healing for Nikki Reiser after the complications after the birth of her son.

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.

Prayers of healing, stability in health, and good test results for Mary Caisley's brother Charles.

Prayers for those who live in Florida, for their safety, for the safety of the emergency response crews, and that all who are effected have shelter, food, clean water, and health care available to them.

**Octobers Birthday Calendar is available on our website, and can be found on our homepage. Don't forget to check out the 'Coming Up' tab to see the fun events we have coming up!**

September 28th, 2022

## **Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$772,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$248,999</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$301,223</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

Today is my wife Ann's birthday. We get to attend our first Wednesday evening events at First Presbyterian Church, Joliet. It's kind of a birthday supper, conversations, and a Bible study time for us. It will be a great way to meet more members of this loving body of Christ.

As for me acclimating to First Presbyterian Church, I am constantly reminded of the heritage of this grand church and of the great gifts and talents who enliven its ministries. The great diversity of backgrounds and professions gives this congregation a significant depth of coordination and commitment to the kingdom of God in so many ways reaching so many different ministry settings. In the coming weeks, it will be our challenge to assist one another as we recover from the COVID-19 inconveniences and the mis-communications of the last few months.

There are a couple of ways which I offer to make myself available as we journey together.

1) My cell number is 616-340-3734. If you would like to speak with me, then give me a call, and we will arrange a time together. (Of course you can call the church office and set up a time too.)

2) I hope to begin teaching the adult Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings, from 9:15 to 9:45. We will focus on the biblical passages for that Sunday and review the passages and sermon from the previous Sunday. It's my prayer that we can learn from God's Word on another level of conversation.

This Sunday's message will engage on the Bible passages of Psalm 137:1-9 and Lamentations 1:1-3, 3:19-26, while centering on Jesus' interchange with the disciples in Luke 17:5-10. Luke's, often misunderstood passage, is a harsh and difficult passage for our times. We no longer live in the First Century C.E., and we have very different understandings of rights and personhood. I encourage you to come and be challenged by the Words of the Lord.

Grace and peace,  
Roy

## Pick of the Patch Vendor and Craft Fair

**Saturday October 22nd**  
**9 am to 2pm**

30+ crafters and vendors expected for an elaborate and convenient shopping experience with special prize drawing opportunities! Food and snacks onsite—cash only.

Entry donation is \$2 (kids 12 and under are free)

Registration is open for vendors and crafters! Contact Kris Hayden for pre-approval. Visit our website for more information and the required forms.

## A Note from Pastor Bo

Daniel 9:17

*"Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate."*

Have you ever felt just overwhelmed by everything that is going on in your life, and in the world around you? I know I have. Have you ever been told to 'just pray about it?' I know I have. And when you pray, have you ever felt like your prayers are just words that are bouncing back to you? I know I have. I had this very conversation a couple of times in the past month, and every time I felt my heart being crushed by the weight of it. You know why? Because, prayer is really our connection to God, to the understanding of God being present in our lives, to God being in control even when things don't seem that way.

When that connection, that relationship is falling under questioning, one must ask 'where do I still find strength?' Of course, the answer is to run back to God, to be persistent, to stay strong despite all of it. That is not always something easy to achieve, yet is still our foundation. I want to encourage you today, by reminding you that God is close to you and your struggles, and even those prayers that might feel rushed are breaking through to the heavens. Not because of who you are, but because of who God is. God's faithfulness to you. God's love for you. Be encouraged and pray with stubbornness, with courage and boldness, because the promise of scripture is the same today as it was yesterday. Pray, until you break through.

**Since I am talking about prayer today, I want to ask you to pray for a few things:**

**1. For Florida** - There are many people that are facing the destruction of a hurricane, and months of clean up. Pray for God's grace to be present, for lives to be spared, and for help to be present when it is needed.

**2. Pray for peace** - These past weeks we have seen a lot of uncertainty and troubling news coming from Eastern Europe. As fall is upon us, the situation there is about to get more complicated. Pray for an end to a conflict that is ripping into the world.

**3. Pray for our country** - When you read the papers and see news about inflation or upcoming elections and all the rest, we have to remember the people affected by that. Those that are experiencing the effects of that in ways some of us cannot imagine. Pray for the spirit of this country, for unity, and for kindness.

**4. Pray for the church** - Starting with our church, and then the church world wide. We are called to be God's people, we are called to be God's presence in the world, to minister to the hurting and the needy. Pray that as churches we can continue to do this.

I pray that you are well, and you are healthy, and that your heart and spirit are comforted by God each and every day. I am looking forward to worshipping with you on Sunday, and maybe see you tonight at Midweek for food, fellowship, and study.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo