



# e-News

September 7th, 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 week!

## 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.

## **Bell Ringers!**

Handbell practices will now be Thursdays at 7pm. We are also looking for 2 additional players, If you are interested in this ministry please reach out!

## 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!

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

## 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 and sympathies to Jody Haddon and her family after the loss of her father.

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 Mary Caisley's brother Charles.

Prayers of healing for John Savage.

## 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.

**September 7th, 2022**

**Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$772,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$237,516</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$265,720</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.

Hi friends,

Hebrews 10:24-25 says:

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 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.”*

These two verses are very much on my mind today, possibly because the Worship Council took a few hours yesterday to put together the display for our table at Back to Church Sunday on September 18.

As much as we treasure the slower pace of summer, it's time to face it - fall is fast approaching. It will probably be a busier time for most of us. I know that many people receive this e-news - church members, friends of the church, visitors, those who simply want to know more about us. If you've not been to church for a while, and this is your church home, let me encourage you. Come back to worship. If you belong to a different church body and you've not been there for a while, let me encourage you, too. Go to worship. Gather with God's people. Grow and learn together. If you can't get out of your house right now, invite someone to watch online worship with you.

God has created us to be in community. This is how we support one another, celebrate with one another, and even hold one another accountable to our faith.

Friends, you are loved. God calls you. I invite you to answer, or re-answer, that call.

Peace be with each of you,

Pastor Carrie

This Sunday I am preaching on Matthew 5:21-48. This is the meat and potatoes of the Sermon on the Mount, the 'how to', the hardest part to live in. Christ speaks to his disciples about how to live in a world that is corrupted by sin. From murder, to divorce, to adultery, and vows, all the way to loving those that persecute you. I can surely understand John Calvin talking about Total Depravity, about our limitations as human beings to live up to a standard that will reflect God's image. Where I get stuck though, is bridging the gap between our limitations and living in grace, in the words of Jesus:

*“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”*

Jesus comes time and time again saying: you have heard... but I tell you. This Sunday I would like for us to explore that part of Jesus' sermon: The Christ Centered life, the part that speaks to us being children of God.

#### **What's happening at 805 Western this week:**

- **Session is meeting** this week, I would ask your prayers for wisdom and direction for this group of people that have answered the call to be elders, so that their decisions will help us move forward in our worship and our life together.
- **September 18th - Back to Church Sunday** - final preparations are underway for a Picnic and a time of fellowship as we are kicking off our fall season. Expect good food, and lots of activities following the 10 am service.
- **September 21st - MIDWEEK** - for all ages and all people starting at 5:30 pm we will open our doors to welcome children for a time of music, adults for a time of fellowship as we get ready for a meal at 6 pm, followed by a fellowship around the Word.
- Please check out the **Women's Ministry page** on our website and Facebook for details on upcoming events

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo