



e-News

November 16th, 2022

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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Tuesday November 22nd at 7pm

First Pres is proud to host not only our own congregation but folks from other places of worship in our community. The worship service will start at 7pm. Combined choir members will rehearse at 6pm.

A special collection will be taken at this service and will be donated to Lebanon Food Pantry.

Our Night Deacons are asking for refreshments to be brought for fellowship after the worship service. In the spirit of the holidays and togetherness there is nowhere better to share your favorite foods and recipes.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of health and recovery for Estella Jurkovich

Prayers of continued recovery for Rich Pool

Prayers of healing for Keith Farr

Sympathies to Judy Turner on the passing of her brother Marlin. Judy would like to thank everyone for the prayers and well wishes for him.

Prayers for Donna Hudak who is in hospice care.

Sympathies to the friends and family of Dr. Surender Dhiman, former husband of Clare Macdonald, after his recent passing

Thanks to God for the continued health and recovery of Nikki Wheeler Reiser and her baby Graham.

POINSETTIAS

Help decorate our sanctuary this Christmas with beautiful poinsettia plants. Each poinsettia is \$15. Orders are due by Dec. 11. You can order through our website or with the form in your bulletin.

Christmas Breakfast

December 18th 8:30-9:45 am

Gather in Hoffman Hall before 10am worship and enjoy a special fellowship Christmas Breakfast hosted by our Night Deacons.

OASIS: Let's Get Cheffin'!

Oasis: Women's Ministry will be hosting their next event on December 2nd from 6:30-8:30 at Fit Foundation. *More info and registration is on our website.*

ADVENT DECORATING

Saturday Nov. 26th @ 9am

Stop in and lend a hand in decorating our building for the celebration of Advent!

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Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$356,193
Year to Date Expenses	\$410,764

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.

Life Together:

It's the just right time of the year. Thanksgiving and Christmas bring vivid memories to our minds and hearts. Yesterday's sunny, morning rush of cold, crisp air cleansed my head with a fresh renewal. Today's first snow changes the landscape and reminds us of another winter transition in our lives.

With this transitional season we reevaluate our thoughts and attitudes. The memories of the past bring those aching sorrows while thankful hearts re-experience the people and events who still shape us. So with joyful and tense hearts we enter this time.

Next Tuesday evening at 7pm we will host the Community Thanksgiving Service with Westminster Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran, The Joliet Jewish Congregation, St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Then November 26th we decorate for Advent and November 27th begins the Advent Season.

Marginalized:

In the last few days several folk have asked me to quit using the term marginalized. Marginalized is an English adaptation of the Latin word which refers to the manuscript copyists' notes placed on the edges of the body of the text. We all have heard the expression, "marginal notes". (<https://www.etymonline.com/word/marginalize> marginal (adj.) 1570s, "written or printed on the margin of a page," from Medieval Latin marginalis, from Latin margo "edge, brink, border, margin.")

In the 19th Century the word was employed as a descriptive, general term for things on the edges. It was applied to various objects, texts, conversations and ideas. Eventually marginalized referred to people who felt left out of the body politic. It was used in the later 19th and early 20th Centuries to describe anyone, or group(s) of anyones, who felt they were on the margins, overlooked, left out, on the periphery, invisible, etc. It was an attempt to an observation. It was not positive or negative in its connotation. Objectively and experientially each of us feels disconnected and/or alone from time to time. In times of miscommunication and stress, it doesn't matter where a person stands, because each person can feel marginalized.

As Transitional Head of Staff, Bridge Pastor, one of my primary, prayerful, assigned, major tasks is to have heart to heart listening times with anyone who believes that their voice has not been heard in these last few months. This takes time and patience for all of us. The answer to the present edginess is ultimately within ourselves and our common commitment to the Lord. Throughout the Bible and human history, our Lord reaches out to the marginalized on all sides to make sense out of our life together and the issues we all face.

PNC: The Pastor Nominating Committee:

Just a little heads up reminder that your PNC is in process gathering needed information to discover a clear picture of who FPJ is. Each member of the church will have several opportunities to give input and help shape the results of this process. Keep the PNC in your prayers during these discovery and creative times.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

A Note from Pastor Bo

ISAIAH 12:4-5

"And on that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted."

As I said last week, I started the Thanksgiving celebration a little earlier this year. In part because I want to be able to give myself time to take in and really appreciate what is good in my life. I know that we all experience those times when we rush through things without noticing the things we are blessed with, or those times when everything in our lives just feels far away from any sense of thankfulness. So I want for us to give ourselves a little grace and room to create a sense of reflection, a sense of thankfulness for where we are in our lives. Can you name three things, just three things that you are thankful for as you read this letter? If you can let that bubble in your heart for the rest of the season, and let that fill every room, every space you walk in. Make known to all people who God is.

This Sunday I am preaching on Luke 23:33-43, the passage about Christ's crucifixion, and the thieves that were hanging next to him. Have you ever wondered how forgiveness, redemption, the whole 'welcome to paradise' thing works? Sometimes it feels like it is not fair to those who lived all their lives faithfully to receive the same treatment as the thief on the cross. I for one am glad I am not in charge of giving those pardon notes. I want to encourage you to meditate on this story and meditate on your own life and the role forgiveness plays in your day to day. Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday.

Happening at 805 Western this week:

- **Stars of Hope** - is underway, you still have time to pick a child to shop for this Christmas. Morningstar Mission have been our partners for years with this ministry, and every year we are able to bless those families in need for so many things for the winter season. Please stop in Hoffman Hall and get your star(s) today.
- I just want to say a big huge **thank you to the kids choir** for participating in worship this past Sunday. If you missed it, you can still catch it online. Also thank you to Sarah Randolph and all the parents, it is good to see the kids singing in church, oh it is good.
- Soon you will receive our **November Congregational letter**, and in it you will find the Advent Devotional that we will use as a congregation for this coming season. I personally love the idea of all of us as a congregation sharing the same devotional.
- Just a few **Calendar** things for December: December 18th 8:30-9:45 am Christmas Breakfast, and December 24th three services: 3pm, 7pm and 11pm with a Musicales at 10:30 (more details to follow)

Blessings,
Bo