



# e-News

November 23rd, 2022

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

## 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.

## Just a reminder:

Midweek is on hold for the holiday and will not be meeting tonight. We wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all, and look forward to meeting again next week on the 30th.

## Daily Music for Advent

Make sure you're following us on Facebook and you can enjoy a song by our FPJ musicians **every day** for the season of Advent! (Find us at "First Presbyterian Church of Joliet")

## **STARS OF HOPE**

**Now is the time to pick up your star(s) from Hoffman Hall!** Each star has a list of 'wants' or 'needs' for a child in our community. Wrapped gifts are **due back by Dec. 4th** and MorningStar Mission will deliver them to the kids.

This is a great opportunity to really spread God's love right in our community this Christmas season.

## ADVENT DECORATING

THIS Saturday Nov. 26th @ 9am

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

## 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.*

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Praise to God for the continued recovery for Rich Pool

Prayers of healing for Keith Farr

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

Sympathies and prayers for the friends and family of Donna Hudak who passed last Wednesday.

Prayers of quick healing and good health for Kristina Wilson after her recent surgery.

## The Connection Center is Back!

Starting this Sunday our Connection Center is back! If you meet any folks who are new to First Pres, bring them by the table in the back corner of the Narthex for a welcome gift from First Pres!

If you would like to volunteer to greet folks at the table contact Carol Morrison or Jasmine Maxwell.

## 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.

## **November 23rd, 2022**

### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>\$772,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$362,957</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$416,725</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.

Minnesota Travel:

Last Friday and Saturday I traveled to Dawson, MN to pick up Ann's mother and bring her to our place for Thanksgiving. The drive up is lonely, but I know there will be great discussions with my mother-in-law on the way back. Her spirituality and thoughtfulness always challenges my thoughts and heart.

On this most recent trip we listened to "The Hidden Brain", hosted by Shankar Vedantam on NPR. The conversation was a 2020 interview on loneliness. The guest was the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy who believes that people are suffering from an epidemic of loneliness. They spoke about the importance of human connection to our physical and mental health.

Nana made an observation and stated that the conversation had not included God. She was correct, and I sincerely asked her how she, now a 90 year old widow, dealt with her loneliness. She said. "I don't get lonely." This surprised me, so I asked how she spiritually arrives at a place of calm and peace.

Nana explained that suffering often led to loneliness for many people, but she believes that the Lord takes her suffering upon himself. Then she added, that we can carry the suffering of others for them too. She remembered conversations where she chose to carry another's suffering with a promise to pray and be available and present for another. She gave herself in this way to people in all kinds of different settings and relationships.

Lastly she expressed the way she often catches herself when she is annoyed by people who believe that the Lord removes us from hard times and suffering. When another person doesn't see how the Lord uses suffering, by suffering with us and carrying our burdens, then Nana chooses to be silent. Her silence becomes a prayer too deep for words, and enables her to move beyond her personal opinions about the person, and she arrives in a place of quiet devotion and prayer.

The conversation touched my heart in a new way. I was reminded of St. Paul's inspired statement in Romans 8:26-27. "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

Together we can help bear one another's burdens and rest in the arms of the Lord. The Spirit prays for us in our deep selves and carries us in the Lord's Eternal Quiet of acceptance, forgiveness and love. May we love enough to share this eternal loving call for one another too.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

It is Thanksgiving week, and soon we will be gathering with family and friends to enjoy time around the table and good laughter. While we are looking forward to all the celebration, I will want to encourage you go out of your way to reach out to someone you might know that might not have the same excitement as you. Maybe there is a friend who will spend this Thanksgiving alone, or maybe they are in no position to think about preparing an elaborate meal and so on. I would like to encourage you to reach out to them, and invite them over and be a blessing to them. Make this years celebration a place where the table is bigger, the place is open, where Thanksgiving lives brightly, and where we all can say:

*"Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is Good." - Psalm 100:4-5*

#### **Happening this week at 805 Western:**

- **Advent/Christmas Decorating Saturday** at 9 am. We need your help to prepare a welcoming and festive atmosphere in tune with the season. If you are able to come and help hang decorations, help angels find their right place on a shelf, we will wait for you.
- For the duration of Advent not only do we have the **daily devotional** to help us get closer to Bethlehem, but we are also preparing a **daily musical gift** to you on Facebook. If you do not follow us on Facebook now is the time. Just find "First Presbyterian Church of Joliet".
- Did I mentioned that you need to mark your Calendar for December 18th - **Christmas Breakfast?** I know I did, and yet I want to make sure you do not forget this joyous invitation to be with your family and friends here at church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

