



e-News

November 30th, 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.

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")

Birthdays

The December Birthday Calendar is available on our website homepage .

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Praise to God for the continued recovery for Rich Pool

Prayers of healing for Keith Farr

Sympathies and prayers for the friends and family of Donna Hudak who passed 11/16.

Prayers of health and recovery for all those experiencing illness within our First Pres family.

Sympathies and prayers for Laura House and her family after the recent loss of her father, Mike Daniels.

The Connection Center is Back!

The Connection Center is back! If you meet any folks who are new to First Pres, bring them by the table in the 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.

STARS OF HOPE

Wrapped gifts are **due back by Dec. 4th** !

Make sure to drop yours off at First Pres by this Sunday!

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 30th, 2022

Stewardship Report

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|------------------------------|-----------|
| 2022-2023 Budget | \$772,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$365,253 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$436,974 |

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.

Midweek

each Wednesday Night!

5:30—Kid's Music Class and Adult Fellowship

6:00—Fellowship Dinner

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

See you tonight!

Thanksgiving was a delightful experience with all the family and families gathering. Beginning Wednesday morning at our place there was a steady flow of different folks baking their favorite pies, corn casseroles, vegan bean dishes, various sweet potato concoctions, cranberry dishes, and others. When Thursday arrived it was time for turkey, dressings, mashed potatoes, gravies, and the rolls. During this entire business, we were forced to snack on all kinds of crackers, cheeses, cold cuts, cut up vegetables, dips, pickles, olives, etc. I find it amazing how many different kinds of spices, flavor combinations, varying textures can exist within a few folks' palates, and I didn't even mention the kinds of fluids we drank. It was truly a festival of tastes.

All that variety in food and drink was programmed through all of us. Our past memories of times shared, our present victories and struggles, our joys and concerns for loved ones, and just being in the same space made us all at home with one another.

No family goes without occasional disagreements and rubs. Yes, there were different political, economic, social, religious, gender and all kinds of conversations, but the core of our being there for one another was the why of our gathering. We were together, histories and all, because we loved one another and were invested in one another's welfare. The Lord brought us together over the years and we celebrated our shared lives with thankful hearts.

Everyone left the feast with take home food and new memories. No one went hungry in stomach or soul. We all felt the energy of the passing moments and spoke of our hopeful gathering for next year.

For me a church is kinda' like this too. We gather. We share. We have our delightful experiences and our tough ones, but we gather to support one another during the events of our lives. It's my prayer that you feel the presence of the Lord's goodness during this joyful and thoughtful Advent Season.

Grace and peace be with you,
Pastor Roy

P.S. This Advent Season we have recorded daily online carols by FPJ's musicians. I encourage you to start a new tradition of listening to a carol a day along with your Advent Calendar opening.



I hope that your Thanksgiving celebration was filled with many blessings of family and friends, as well as a time to take in the many ways the Lord has been present in your life. I know that this is a hard season for many, as we think about some of the dear people in our lives that are no longer with us, or are going through hard times. And yet, this is a season of remembering Hope. Finding the little spark of hope that will give us the strength we need for a new day, in a way it's the theme of the season, at least for me. That is what the prophets did time and time again in the Old Testament, remind people of the promise of God that is to come, in the Messiah.

This Sunday I am preaching on Isaiah 11:1-10, a passage that speaks about a time to come, when all will be under the ruling of the Messiah. I want to ask you to read that passage in preparation for Sunday and ask yourself the following question: Do I really believe in the Messiah? And if I do, how do I make room for Him in my life? Because in that answer is the sparkle of hope we all need at times.

I do want to encourage you to reach out to anyone on the pastoral staff if you are experiencing the heaviness of the season. Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday morning. The Lord is Coming.

Happening at 805 Western this week:

- **Midweek is on tonight:** Pizza, music for the kids, and Bible classes for all. You do not want to miss that.
- **A note to all Church Counsels:** Please take time to schedule your December meetings before the business of the season is upon us.
- **Christmas Breakfast** is on the Calendar. Please check your calendar and see if you can volunteer to cook, serve, or help in any way.
- Our **Video Room is in need of help** this season. With many services scheduled for December we need a few extra hands to help us with the worship mechanics on Sundays and Christmas Eve. Please reach out to me or the front office if you are able to help.

Blessings,
Bo

A big thank you to all the folks who worked together to decorate First Pres! What better way to begin our celebration of the Advent season!