



e-News

December 14th, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIT WORSHIP SERVICES

2:45pm—Mini Musicale

3pm—Family Worship Service
(nursery care provided)

6:45pm—Mini Musicale

7pm—Jazz Folk Praise Worship Service

10:30pm—Christmas Musicale

11pm—Traditional Christmas Worship Service

Midweek

See you tonight! (12/14)

Tonight is our Christmas Party! Kids will still have Music Class at 5:30, then a nice Christmas Dinner, followed by hot chocolate and singing together!

After 12/14 Midweek will be on break for the holidays. But don't worry you can mark your calendar to join together again on January 11th!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Sympathies and prayers to the family of former member Lois Holyoak who passed away.

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.

This is a great opportunity to bring a friend along to introduce them to First Pres and celebrate together.

Donations from this will go to a local food pantry in the coming months The Night Deacons will be matching all donations collected at the Christmas Breakfast.

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Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$383,632
Year to Date Expenses	\$438,359

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.

Here we are, the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Only a few days from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. For this Fourth Sunday in Advent, our scripture passages are Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 7:10-16. We will explore the foundations of faithful living and the godly choices we make.

Several years ago I led a study to guide new adult Christians in their discipleship formation. We employed a 10 week course written by Ralph Neighbors, who took great care and explained the four sources of authority which shape Christian foundations for decision making. The first three sources, which are not 100% trustworthy, are feelings, tradition and present scientific knowledge. All of these sources are helpful, but not infallible. Our feelings can fool us. We can misread other people and react to misunderstandings. Traditions can change. (When is the right time to open our Christmas presents, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?) Scientific knowledge is always updating. Not very long ago we believed that stomach ulcers were caused by stress. Two Australian doctors found that most ulcers are caused by a bacterium. It took years for the worldwide medical community to accept the truth.

The one unchanging and 100% secure source of truth is God's unchanging Word. The Bible brings the truth of our loving God who reaches to us and cares for us. The Bible gives us eternal guidelines which can shape and direct our lives in faith.

This week we will look at Isaiah's message to a king in the middle of great turmoil. Isaiah's challenge to the king directed him to the source of his trust. Come Sunday and enjoy the discovery!

The Lord be with you,
Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Are You Called to Serve?

We have a great opportunity for folks who want to be more involved in First Pres.

If you feel called to serve on Session, on any of our councils, as a Night Deacon, or as a Day Deacons please reach out to Ed Schultz or Craig Randolph

A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

Once in a while I think about myself as being the Grinch. Let me tell you why - I look at the whole pre-Christmas weeks, and I see people overwhelmed with the rush, with the pressure of finding the perfect gift, or making sure the house is perfectly decorated. I catch myself wondering what if Christmas would be free of all those things? What would happen? Would our celebration on Christmas day be more meaningful? Would our gatherings be more about Hope, Love and Peace as the season says? I do not know, but maybe the Grinch had something going on when he decided to go on his adventure... maybe he knew there is more to Christmas... Just something to think about!

Happening at 805 Western:

- This Sunday **Night Deacons Christmas Breakfast** at 8:30 -9:45. Come and enjoy breakfast with some of your church friends, and also be part of a great mission opportunity as the Night Deacons are going to match the funds collected during the breakfast and sponsor a Food Pantry later in January or February. More details about a service day to follow.
- **Christmas Eve Services 3pm, 7pm, 11pm** and some special music before each service. Hey, maybe you can bring the whole crew and invite your family and friends to celebrate the season. We will be waiting for you

Hope you have a great week, and maybe be a Grinch for 5 minutes this week, and remember the reason for all this is the promise of God that comes to us at Bethlehem.

Blessings,
Bo

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 on Facebook at "First Presbyterian Church of Joliet")

What a great way to celebrate Advent at home, in the car, or at work!