



e-News

December 21st, 2022

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

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for William Walker and his mother Nancy.

Sympathies to Will and Lynn McGee and family on the passing of Will's mother, Kathryn McGee.

Youth Group

Our First Pres Youth Group will be meeting once again starting in January! Meetings will run from 6-8pm with dinner, games, and fellowship.

Mark your calendar for:

Jan 22nd Feb 12th
March 12th April 16th May 21st

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

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")

The Star

The star shined brightly in the night sky. (Which is a good place for a star to shine). It shined night after night, week after week, month after month leading the wise-men to the Christ Child. When they arrived, they gave him precious gifts befitting a king.

Where will we be led this season? Will it be to the grocery store, the toy store or the electronics store? Will we come to the manger giving our time and talents to our Savior and worship Him? We each must decide where the star lead us this Christmas season?

David Steinberg

Midweek

Midweek is on break for the holidays. But don't worry you can mark your calendar to join together again on January 11th!

December 21st, 2022

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$434,293
Year to Date Expenses	\$461,132

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 on this shortest day in 2022 we celebrate the changing of the seasons which the Lord built into our world. Together we acknowledge the rhythms of agriculture and build memories connected to timely transitions in our lives. Christmas, our celebration of the Messiah's birth and the dawning of new life, is our recognition of God's entering into the world. All of us have memories of past Christmas joys and sorrows, and they come alive in our hearts and minds every successive year.

This Christmas will be one of those memorable ones, simply because the coming winter storm will arrive with a fury of wind, snow and below zero temperatures. We will have a white Christmas this year.

We will celebrate our Lord's birth on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning. The weather will be difficult, and while we encourage you to celebrate with us, we understand the need to be safe. It's our prayer how important you are to our Family of God here at First Presbyterian, Joliet.

The Lord bless you,
Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

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.



Happy, Merry Christmas and Wishing you a great New Year!

I would like to follow up on a message from a couple of weeks ago, about the Grinch. Yes, that email when I asked you to pause and think about the season without the rush and just focus towards Christmas day. And, we know how the Grinch adventure finishes, don't we? *"And what happened, then? Well, in Whoville they say – that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day. And then – the true meaning of Christmas came through, and the Grinch found the strength of ten Grinches, plus two!"* Ohhh, I really like that part. And you know why? Because it captures the transformation we can experience when we understand love in our lives. From those around us, to those we get wot share our love with, to God's love that just melts our hearts.

I look at us, as a church, and in many ways we are that little quirky village from the story. We go about life, helping where we can, doing the right thing, and through some God given miracle make a difference in people's lives. It will be nice for us to remember that as the year comes to an end and we are ready to start a new chapter in the new year. There is so much opportunity ahead of us, and I believe that we are called to serve even in a greater measure than before. In part because our world is changed, is hurting and in in recovery in many ways.

So, I want to extend an invitation to you: Pray, set your hear on God, and find ways to serve. In the next year there will be plenty of opportunities to do so: The Night Deacons are already working on a serve day for January 28th at St. John Food Pantry. In February we will host Water Within and use that night as a way to start thinking and fundraising for Angel House. Mission Council is already working on a blood drive for later in March. The Micro Pantry outside the church is always filled and open to those in need. And yet, the need is great. So I pray that our hearts will grow three sizes as we serve the Lord in the next year.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

PS. On a personal note, please pray for traveling mercies for myself, as I am heading to spend a little time with my parents this season. I will depart on December 26th and return on January 17th. Also pray that as I meet with Pastor Ovi and the Canaan Church, and hear their stories about their work in Ukraine I can be an encouragement to them and their ministry.