



# e-News

December 28th, 2022

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

## 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

## Help Un-Decorate

**Jan. 14th at 9am**

Come lend a hand in taking down our Christmas decorations as we prepare for the new year!

*Coffee and donuts will be served!*

## 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

## Pancake Breakfast

**Every first sat. of the month  
January 7th at 8:30 am**

Stop in to help out or share in our Free Pancake Breakfast hosted by our Night Deacons! All are invited!



## 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.

Prayers of health and healing for Mary Lynn Keir who is at St Joe's Hospital.

Prayers of health for Jackie Brooks.

The January Birthday calendar is available on our websites homepage.

## 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

December 27th, 2022

### Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$438,983
Year to Date Expenses	\$464,381

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.

**THE PASTOR'S CORNER** Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor

Twenty three years ago on December 28, 1999, my family gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the civic center for Fall my graduation from Marquette, University. I had to arrive early for the last minute instructions, robing up, lining up, and all that accompanies commencement ceremonies. It was finally the day to receive my PhD in Historical Theology. The evening before we drove up to our motel and went out to eat supper together. Although my father had passed a few years earlier, my mother made the flight from Texas and was present with my immediate family. It was wonderful to see my family together.

I was very happy that Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J was the interim president and would be presenting me with my degree. Fr. Wild was one of the most creative professors in the department. He even made Hellenistic backgrounds to the New Testament a virtual, every week, class party by playfully employing his background stories and fun details of the early Greek philosophers.

Of course my 4 year old daughter Grace was in the civic center with her mother, sisters and the rest of the family. As the doctoral students were asked to stand and proceed to receive their degrees, she saw me stand and asked her mother what was happening. Ann quietly responded, "Your Papa is going to become a doctor." Grace was startled, and in a moment of quiet pause, she literally screamed, and we all heard her preschool voice echo, "I don't want my Papa to be a doctor! I just want him to be my Papa!" The stadium broke out in laughing, and I was upstaged by a daughter again!

I thank God for my children and the ways they upstage me continually. I prayed for each one to be their own person of faith in the Lord. I knew that girls are pushed back from success and finding their autonomous selves. I celebrate their accomplishments, excellent choices, and spunk. The Lord has truly blessed us. I have no idea how they will surprise me in this New Year, but I am looking forward to each surprise as a blessing.

Happy New Year,  
Grace and peace be with you.  
Pastor Roy

**P.S.** Oh yes, our service this Sunday will be a kind of Epiphany Celebration. The focal passages are Psalm 148, Matthew 2:13-23 and Isaiah 63:7-9. The title of the sermon is "The Lord of All Rescue".

**A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor**

Wishing you a Happy New Year and God blessings in the year to come.

Blessings,  
Bo Mircea



Pastor Bo visiting his parents in Romania.

THANK YOU  
FOR



2022