



e-News

January 11th, 2023

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

CHECK OUT THESE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WITH FIRST PRES!

Micro Pantry

There is an opening for the 1st Friday of each month. If you are interested please take a look at the volunteer and donor information available on our website. Scroll down on the homepage and just click the 'Micro Pantry Volunteer and Donor Info' button. If you're interested in volunteering or if you donate food make sure to check it out!

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!

Volunteer Opportunity: St. John's Food Pantry

January 28th

Our Night Deacons will be sponsoring the St. John's Mobile Food Pantry and they're asking for volunteers. Shifts are open for 7am—11am.

Full description and volunteer registration is available on our website.

Some New Years Resolutions from the Kids of First Pres.

- Practice Ballet
- Try new foods
- Stay awake for a whole movie
- Eat 50 pizzas

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of health and recovery for Mary Lynn Keir.

Prayers of good health for Jackie Brooks.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Kim Belfield who passed away 1/5/23.

On Sunday January 22nd we will have the installation of our new deacons and officers.

Poinsettia Pick Up

Poinsettia plants are ready to be taken home! You can pick up yours on Sunday mornings, or during office hours on weekdays. The office is open 8:30-4:20 M-F. If you plan to stop in at lunchtime please call the office ahead of time!

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

January 11th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$465,513
Year to Date Expenses	\$514,256

Per Capita: \$42.00

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.

This week we find ourselves in the Gospel of John, chapter 1. It's the Apostle John's gospel account of John the Baptist, the baptism of Jesus, and the Jesus' first disciples. Last week Pastor Carrie led us in Matthew's account of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus. And guess what? The text for January 22 is Matthew's account of Jesus' call of the first disciples. So, sandwiched in between Matthews two accounts is John's one account which includes a different emphasis on John the Baptist, the baptism, and Jesus' call of the first disciples. I find each of the stories elegant and inspiring in their own right. Some folks try to harmonize, remove the differences, as they look at these texts. I admit, I used to argue for hours trying to eliminate all the differences in texts. Now, however, I want to know what each gospel writer is trying to emphasize in the nature, life and teachings of our Lord.

So this week, we'll investigate John 1:29-42 and Isaiah 49:1-7. Together we will discover how Jesus, the Messiah, changed the world, by changing us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

P.S. SESSION and DEACONS. Please plan to attend our leadership priority planning this coming Friday 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday, 9am to 12, noon. I promise it will be time well spent and effective for where we are in the church's life.

P.S.S. The Pastor's Class has been moved to 9am on Sunday morning. Hope to see you there.

GET READY FOR MIDWEEK!

Midweek Family Nights are back! Whether it's just you or your entire family everyone is invited to join us for this wonderful tradition every Wednesday.

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

6 pm— Fellowship dinner

6:30 pm—break for Bible Studies
(Men, Women, and Children)

Nursery care is available

**And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
(Hebrews 10:24-25)**

Some friends and I were talking about these verses from Hebrews recently. We were talking about what it means to meet together, or not meet together. How do we juggle jobs, kids, grandkids, sports, and so on with our faith walk? We were, in effect, trying to spur one another on toward love and good deeds in our conversation.

Let me encourage you today. I know it's hard. I know you are busy. I know some Sundays are just out of the question for church attendance. And yet ... we have options. We have many ways we can meet together and encourage one another in our faith.

First, on those Sundays when there are no sports, or travel, or other commitments, come to church. In person. Truly, don't worry about how long it has been since you were in the church building, don't worry if your three year old's hair isn't brushed. Just come. Meet with some old friends. Make some new friends. Worship God in the way we only can when we are TOGETHER in the sanctuary.

On those Sundays where it just can't work - worship online. AND consider meeting together in one, two, or three of the many other ways we can be together at First Pres. Join a Bible study. I hear great things about Pastor Roy's Sunday morning study, and we are working on making other studies available on other days and times. Join a mission activity. Come to an Oasis event. (Oasis is our women's group.) Come to Midweek on Wednesdays - dinner is taken care of, the kids are busy learning about music and their faith, and the adults can chat and learn about their faith as well. Midweek can become a kind of respite for all of us, a break from the sometimes harsh world around us.

Let's make 2023 the year we meet together regularly, so we can love one another, encourage one another, and help one another grow in our faith. Check out the weekly enews, our monthly mailing, the website, and Facebook to see what's going on. I'm looking forward to this year, and to growing together as a family of faith.

Peace,

Pastor Carrie