



e-News

January 18th, 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!

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.

On behalf of the Belfield, O'Mara and Gier families I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their condolences, visits, and kindness over the last week as we have been dealing with the loss of my mom, Kim. There is never enough time to spend with someone and my mom was called home too soon, but having so many reach out and share memories or support my family shows just how many people she touched in her years she was with us. Her church family was so very important to her and your kind words have brought my family great comfort through this difficult time.

- Kaleigh Belfield

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of sympathy and comfort for the family of Jim Schwandt who passed away yesterday while in Florida. Arrangements are pending.

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

There will be Session and Deacon planning meetings this Friday 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday 9am to noon.

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 18th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$475,619
Year to Date Expenses	\$538,108

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.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor

Two days ago we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We all know his name and at least some of his legacy left behind for all Americans, and I believe for all people of faith. His struggle for a world of equity lifted the hearts of many and disturbed the hearts of others. There are some who still question him and his motives, but I personally believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the ideals of western democracy were his guiding principles.

On Monday I listened to special MLK broadcasts which addressed many different aspects of his life and the continuing challenges for equality in America. Each setting addressed a few of the many influences on King's life. One major influence of MLK's life had somehow slipped by me. A panel of distinguished pastors, social activists and educators spoke of the influence which his mother, Delia (née Linsey; 1875–1924). Her commitment to civil rights set an example and the stage for his quest for equalit. Throughout the rest of the discussion, the panel spoke of other great Civil Rights leaders. Many of them attributed their passion for the rights of others to their mothers. (King's father was a minister of influence too, but I was surprised to be reminded that MLK gave his mother first place in his passion for others.)

So, once more I am reminded of the role of our mothers in our commitment of faith to Jesus Christ and the people around us. There is no way that we can under estimate the foundation which our mothers build for our lives. Their influence on us stays with us all our lives, and that's true now and for the future. How we are nurtured is a major influence on how we nurture others.

The MLK conversations reminded me of those who have not been nurtured in their home environments. I believe one role of the church, the Body of Christ, is to help re-parent, re-nurture one another. A family of people who accept one another through the highs and lows of life enables us to see beyond present difficulties and know that the Lord can bring about the best through our shared lives. One key is to remember that the Lord brings us together and keeps us together. Grace and peace be with you.

Pastor Roy

P.S. This week we will take a few moment to consider the call of the first apostles in Matthew, Chapter 4:12-23. Remember, the Pastor's Class begins at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning in the Fireside Room.

Lay Liturgists Bev Adelman is a new elder on the Worship Council. She will be calling to ask for lay liturgists. Although you may not recognize her number (815-347-0284), please pick up your phone or answer her text to help out on a Sunday. We hope to get some younger liturgists participating also!
Thank-you.

OASIS: Baby Shower Bunco Night
January 26th 6-8:30pm
925 IL Rt 59—Shorewood
\$5 at the door AND a new baby item to be donated to a local Children's and Family Shelter.

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

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume' Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The Pastor Nominating Committee has been working hard getting a Mission Study ready for the congregation. This all-church survey will give us important information about who First Pres is and who we are called to be so that we can be sure our next pastor is a very good fit for our church. Keep watching for communications from the PNC in the next month or so to see when the survey will be available for you to take. Your voice is important and your responses are needed to make this process work well!