



# e-News

January 25th, 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're interested in volunteering or if you donate food please take a look at the volunteer and donor information available on our website homepage.

### 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 info & volunteer registration is available on our website.

### January 25th, 2023

#### Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$481,429
Year to Date Expenses	\$538,118

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.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for health and comfort for Dorothy Sprinkle in her battle with cancer.

Prayers for Linda and Al Haegar and their family as Al is in hospice care.

Visitation for Jim Schwandt will be Friday, January 27, 3-7 pm at Carlson-Holmquist-Sayles Funeral Home. Service on Saturday, January 28 at 10 am at the funeral home.

Prayers of comfort for the family of former longtime member Lois Ann Dahlquist, who passed away on January 20 in Peoria, IL.

Prayers of health and recovery for Susan Pemble's mom Carolyn McBurney.

We continue to pray for Keith Farr during his healing journey.

### OASIS: Baby Shower Bunco Night

January 26th 7-8:30pm

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.

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.

## 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!

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

Well, we bit the bullet and got another dog. For the present her name is Belle. Our choice was limited to a set of criteria. First, we did not have time to train a puppy. Second, we really didn't want a huge dog. (Thank you Jim for recommending a Saint Bernard!) Third, the dog needed to travel well and be social. We've had dogs who were simply afraid of people. The Backus household has many folks coming and going, bringing friends to visit, etc. Fourth, we wanted a trainable dog. Tricks are cool. Fetch is a necessity in my book. Fifth, high energy is okay, but the dog needs to be a cuddler. There's something soothing and helpful about a dog who enjoys the company of its owner.

We think we found the right beast. She's 2 years old, house trained, a fox terrier mix, with a love for people and play. She rarely barks, and she loves to be held. Not a bad match for us. To be clear, I was proud of the way Ann and I worked on our criteria for a successful match. We had to agree, then we had to find the right dog. I must admit she had to do most of the background work, but we agreed on one dog and drove together. It took some conversations to arrive at our final decision.

Last weekend the Session and Deacon leaders of First Presbyterian, Joliet, met to discuss what they believed was the Lord's goals for us for this year. We visited past ministries, listed the present ministries, investigated the challenges for the future and established goals in the areas of worship, outreach and mission, and Christian Education. I shared the results with the congregation in a written report last Sunday. If you have any questions, I'd love to have a conversation with you. If you need a copy, ask the office for a report and we'll get it to you!

I'm looking forward to your future as we follow the Holy Spirit's leadership through the Lord's people.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

P.S. See you Sunday in Adult Class in the Fireside Room at 9am. We will look at any of the following passages Micah 6:6-8, 1

**Youth Group**

Our First Pres Youth Group is meeting once again! Meetings run from 6-8pm with dinner, games, & fellowship. It's not too late to join in, bring a friend!

**Mark your calendar for:**

Feb 12th    March 12th    April 16th    May 21st

**Confirmation** will be open to all 8th and 9th graders. If you are interested in your youth(s) participating please call the church office and let us know!

**Our Kids and Youths Music Program is starting preparations for a Spring Mini Musical.** If you are interested please reach out to Sarah Randolph.

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

This Sunday we are looking at Jesus's early ministry in Matthew 5 and some of the things that Paul says to the Christians in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. The teachings of Jesus have turned the world upside down, in a way that makes Paul proclaim that: "The Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing." If we are to look at the beatitudes with that understanding we can see how easy it is for us to agree with the Apostle. The rules of God's Kingdom are not the rules of the world. So what is our call then? I would like to encourage you to meditate on the two scriptures while asking yourself this very simple question: Lord, how do I do it? Looking forward to worshipping with you this coming Sunday and to celebrate the Lord in our lives.

**Happening at 805 Western:**

1. I would like to ask you to do one thing this week: Pick up your church directory, this newsletter, and think about some of the people that might benefit from a word of encouragement. This week, I connected with a few people in our congregation and I can share with you that there is a **great need for prayer** and encouragement amongst us.
2. **Midweek is on**, and if you like chili you will want to join us. I know it is not about the food, but as Presbyterians we have this reputation that we like to eat, so I hope to see you there tonight. The Women's and Men's Study groups are ready to welcome you, and the kids will have their music class and a Bible lesson and activities after dinner.
3. For all the parents of kids and youth, Sarah Randolph is working toward a **Kids/Youth musical** for early in Spring. If you would like some details please talk to her or ask for information.
4. This Saturday the Night Deacons are going to serve at **St. John's Food Pantry**. Last time I checked there were a couple more spots available. More information on our website at [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)
5. It is not too early to think about who you will bring to the February 26th **Water Within Concert** for an evening of worship and mission focused conversations. Details will follow.

**On a personal note:** I am thankful to all of you welcoming back on Sunday after my trip in Romania. Mom and Dad are doing well, and are so thankful for your prayers and friendship via Facebook and your kindness. Not only that but they are avid watchers of our online services, to the point where we can say we have a sister church in Romania. I was also able to connect with Pastor Ovi about the ministry of Canaan church and their help to Ukraine. In the last months the focus of their ministry has shifted more towards taking aid and food into Ukraine into the areas affected by the war. I will ask for your continues prayers for their safety and ongoing ministry.

Have a great week,  
Blessings,  
Pastor Bo