



e-News

February 15th, 2023

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

OASIS EVENT: SKIT GUYS

February 17th at 7:30pm

THIS FRIDAY!

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park

This duo performs faith-based family-friendly comedy skits.

Tickets are \$25 and can be bought on our website.

Don't miss this fun night out!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of healing for Patty, sister of Mary Lou Delk.

Prayers of healing for Mark Morrison who is now recovering at home.

Prayers of health for Jackie Brooks as she awaits medical test results.

Prayers of recovery for Tom Cawley who is in Australia recovering from a recent injury.

Prayers of strength for Pam LeVasseur's brother Scott in his fight with cancer.

Prayers of health and smooth recovery for Leslie Herr with her upcoming surgery on the 20th.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of long-term member Allan Haeger who passed away Feb. 10th. Services will be in WI. More info is available in his obituary.

Congratulations to Lisa Haldorson-Diaz, Ezequiel Diaz, and their family on the birth of Bruno Sebastian Diaz on Feb. 10th, 2023.

Water Within Concert and Worship

February 26th

10 am Worship

4:30 pm Fellowship

5 pm Concert

We will also showcase our Mission sponsorship of 3 young women at Angel House in Tanzania.

February 15th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$523,135
Year to Date Expenses	\$591,830
Received for Earthquake Relief	\$591

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.

Session approved a collection to help those affected by the recent earthquake in Turkey & Syria. Checks can be made to First Pres and we will send the total amount collected to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for their relief efforts.

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

It's excellent when people ask "why" questions. The other day a church member explained that they liked my smiling face, but they prefer seeing the children's smiling faces during the Children's Time in the Sunday morning worship service. I definitely agree that children's smiling faces are much more attractive than mine. They did open the conversation concerning the way I do Children's Time.

Years ago I noticed that the Children's Sermons in worship were great entertainment events for the adults in the congregation. Children sitting on the stairs would communicate with their siblings, parents, grandparents, friends, etc. during the Children's Sermon. The added distraction of children seeing themselves on a large screen is another distraction which can over ride the message of a children's sermon. So . . . instead of focusing on the cute children and their natural entertainment of the rest of the congregation, I decided to focus on the lesson for the children. I believe it is easier for the children to focus upon one speaker instead of an entire room of folks to entertain. I speak to the children.

Oh, I know that pastors often use Children's Sermons to reach the adults in the congregation, but I find that distasteful too. It's a sermon for the children, and I believe in speaking to them.

Different pastors have different ways of staging the time and telling the story. I've found that my method cuts down on distractions, emphasizes the message for the children, and can build relationships between pastor and children.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open to all 8th and 9th graders.

If you are interested in your youth(s) participating please reach out to the church office.

ASH WEDNESDAY AT FIRST PRES.

Feb. 22nd

9-10am: Morning Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

A pastor will be available to pray with you during this drop-in service.

Dinner at 5:30—Pork loin, mashed potatoes, and veggies

Communion Worship Service at 6:30pm

Note: *volunteers are needed to help with clean-up after dinner. Let the office know if you'd like to help.*

A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

This week I was chatting with someone from our congregation about the things we pray for, and it seems that the list grows longer and longer every day. Today I would like to encourage you to pray for two things: First - Pray for yourself - as you are called to pray for the people around you, for our country and the world, things can get a little heavy. When that happens, pray that God will give you the strength to pray and care, and that God's grace can carry on your prayers. Secondly - as you pray, ask God to open you up to the greater needs around you and around the world. I hope and pray this might help you in your own prayer life as I pray for my own.

Please continue to keep the people of Turkey, Syria, and Eastern Europe in your prayers as the area has experienced life changing earthquakes in the last week. Also continue to pray for your own congregation and the many people that need a word of encouragement, and please let us know if you know of anyone in the hospital or in need of an encouraging word.

What's new on Western Avenue?

- This week the Oasis Women's Ministry is heading out to the **Skit Guys** faith-based comedy show. Tickets are still available on our website!
- On Sunday, between Confirmation, Sunday School Class for adults and Early Coffee Fellowship, we will be looking forward to all of you **stopping by to say hi.**
- **Feb 22nd - Ash Wednesday** - As we start the Lent season we invite you to come for dinner at 5:30 and then a special Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Wednesday Morning Prayer and Imposition of Ashes - Come and spend some time in prayer and receive ashes from 9-10 am. This is a come and go as you can service, with a pastor available to pray with you during this time.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/19/23

Liturgist: Suzanne Penhale

Acolyte: Crey Blaser

Video: Drew Penhale

Sound: Keith LeVasseur

NOTICE: The church office will be closed Monday February 20th for Presidents Day. Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, 8:30-4:30.