



e-News

February 22nd, 2023

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

ASH WEDNESDAY AT FIRST PRES.

Feb. 22nd

Kid's Choir at 5—class and auditions

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.

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.

This event is open to everyone and has no entry fee!

February 22nd, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$532,447
Year to Date Expenses	\$595,937
Received for Earthquake Relief	\$1321

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 of continued recovery for Tom Cawley as he returns to the US. He will be at Silver Cross Hospital.

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

Prayers of smooth recovery for Leslie Herr.

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 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.

Prayers for Dave Jefferies as he awaits medical tests.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Dorothy Sprinkle who passed away 2/18. Her funeral service will be held 2/24 at 11am at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Mary Lou Delk who passed away in her sleep last night.

The March birthday calendar is available on our website.

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 Mission Study Congregational Survey will be available for you to complete beginning in mid-March. Watch your mailbox and email for specific details to come soon. Your participation is crucial in determining who First Pres is as a church and what we are looking for in our next called pastor.

Many people say, "All religions are basically the same, and we are all trying to get to the same place!" Such a generality expresses an unwillingness to research and discover the radical differences in faith and practice in the religions of the world. When I taught world religions at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan, I was continually struck by the distinctive differences in the world's wisdom traditions. As we moved through Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Animism we emphasized the particular insights and differences in each approach and meaning. I intentionally left Christianity til last, because I knew that most of the students had some insight into Christianity. As we approached our focus on Christianity, I found it essential to define what was distinctively original and different in our Christian faith. The true definitive gifts which our faith brings to the this world are the incarnation (God in flesh in Jesus Christ), and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

During our Lenten Pilgrimage we will take the time to renew Jesus' journey to Jerusalem with new eyes and understandings. We pastor's will follow the texts of the Women's One Year Lectionary. All of us will hear more of the women's gospel stories, which will help us experience the gift of salvation through Jesus through the eyes of their faith and discipleship.

Mark 16:9-15 tells a lengthened version of Jesus' post Resurrection appearances and message of faith. We will see how Jesus and the witnesses of the Resurrection see, tell and live his and their stories of hope and life.

Grace and peace be with you,
Pastor Roy

LENTEN SUPPER FELLOWSHIP

Whether it's just you or your entire family everyone is invited to join us for this wonderful tradition every Wednesday.

5:00 pm—Kid's Music Class and Adult Fellowship

6 pm— Fellowship dinner with a small lesson

6:30 pm—break for Bible Studies

Nursery care is available

Free Pancake Breakfast

March 4th at 8:30 am

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

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return, but the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever." - Ash Wednesday without the promise of God, the promise of God's eternal love becomes a grim reminder of our mortality. And yet those words also help us center in our faith time and time again. May this Ash Wednesday bring you closer to the Lord and your faith be renewed in His promises.

This weekend is a beautiful reminder of ministry and the impact this church can make in the world. On Sunday we will celebrate and pray for Angel House Orphanage. I hope you are planning on joining us on Sunday from 4:30 pm with Water Within concert starting at 5 pm. It is not every day that one can make such a difference in someone life. This ministry has provided not just for basic needs for hundreds of kids, but they are actively involved in their education, and seeing how that can impact the future of a country like Tanzania, it is amazing.

Looking forward to worship and celebrating with you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Bo

Tu Hablas Español?

Do you speak Spanish? Let us know! As we continue our mission to serve our community we hope to become more welcoming to folks whose primary language is Spanish.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

ASH WEDNESDAY 2/22/23

Video: Drew Penhale

Sound: Cliff Stepina

SUNDAY 2/26/23

Liturgist: Mike House

Acolyte: Jillian Penhale

Video: Matt Blaser

Sound: Cliff Stepina

Ushers: Al Brooks, Mark Fumagalli, Ed Schultz, Reed Mott

Coffee: Sue Fordyce