



# e-News

February 8th, 2023

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

## 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.

## OASIS EVENT: SKIT GUYS

February 17th at 7:30pm

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park

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

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

*Click the link in Pastor Carrie's letter for more about The Skit Guys and what they are all about.*

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## Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$492,124
Year to Date Expenses	\$561,677

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.

## CONFIRMATION STARTS ON THE 12TH

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

If you are interested in your youth(s) participating

## 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.

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

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

Prayers for Jim Huey as he prepares for surgeries this week.

Prayers of health and healing for Mark Morrison as he experiences complications from his surgery last week, and is being treated at St. Joe's Hospital.

Prayers for Joan Kertay (sister-in-law of Marie Blunk) as she prepares for a procedure to remove a spot from her lung.

Prayers of health for Jackie Brooks as she prepares for multiple procedures on Monday.

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

## MIDWEEK TONIGHT!

Kids Music and Adult Fellowship at 5:30—Dinner at 6—Bible Studies at 6:30

## 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

Lent is almost here. Together, we will begin on Ash Wednesday with Communion and the imposition of Ashes, (for those who wish to have ashes). It will be a quiet, simple service enabling us to reflect on our lives in relationship with the actions of our Savior on our behalf.

The Sundays in Lent will be based on the biblical texts identified by Rev. Wilda C. Gafney, Ph.D., in her book *A Lectionary for the Whole Church; A Multi-Gospel Single Year Lectionary*. (Church Publishing Incorporated: NY, NY, 2021.) Dr. Gafney is the Professor of Hebrew at Brite Divinity School, Dallas. Her background covers many different roles as military chaplain, educator and pastor. Her sensitivity to biblical text and connections will bring new insights into our Lenten Journey this year.

February 26, is the First Sunday in Lent. We will host *Water Within* at our Sunday morning service. They will bring a concert in our sanctuary at 5 pm on that day too (fellowship at 4:30). It will be a perfect beginning for our 40 days of preparation before Easter.

Holy Week is April 2 through 9. We will have our Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:30, followed by Good Friday Service also at 6:30. This year we will add a Holy Wednesday Service at 6:30. The service will focus on individual and corporate healing. It will be a quiet service encouraging us to search our hearts and minds for anything which needs healing in any area of our lives. It will be a time of reflection, grace, and peace. During the service we will offer anointing with oil to open our lives. Scripture promises us that renewed life through the Holy Spirit can touch our deep selves and lives with healing. We all need healing, and our Lord wishes to touch and free us to live for him, others, and our selves.

Each household will receive Lenten devotional books. I encourage you to take the extra little bit of daily time to prepare your heart for the continuing message of our Savior.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

**SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/12/23**

**Liturgist:** Laura Sutton

**Acolyte:** Suzanne Penhale

**Video:** Todd Hayden

**Sound:** Keith LeVasseur

**Ushers:** Mark Dykema, Ed Schultz, Mark Fumagalli

**Coffee:** Jasmine Maxwell-Keir

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

This past Monday, I found myself scrambling for the phone, when I got an alert about the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. I tried to find more information, get some understanding of what is going on. The devastation is indeed beyond words. I would like to encourage you to not only pray for the region, but maybe find a way to help even in a little way, as there is an ongoing humanitarian effort in the region. May the Lord comfort those who have lost so much, and may all of us as people bring a little hope to them in the ways that we can.

On Sunday, I will be preaching from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. As we follow Jesus and the message of the Sermon on the Mount, we are encouraged to rethink our approach to the 10 Commandments, you know the do not kill, do not commit adultery and so on. Interestingly enough the parallel text for the day comes from Paul and as we listen to him we can hear that echo of the message: Love God, love your neighbor, and even more so your brothers and sisters in faith. I like to think that as people of faith as we experience God's grace, we live out the call of being open to the challenge of the word of God, no matter how difficult that might be. When we do that, we are transformed, called, and empowered to live in the potential that God has for us.

**Happening at 805 Western:**

- **Lent** is fast approaching and we would like to invite you once again to journey with us as we embrace the call to humble ourselves, to search our hearts as we travel with Jesus towards Jerusalem. We extend an invitation to all to join us for dinner, Lent devotional, and prayer time every Wednesday from 6 pm.
- Soon you will receive a **Lenten devotional** and we encourage you to join in the scriptural journey of Lent as we do this as a congregation
- Feb 26th - **Water Within concert** at 4:30 pm will also be the kick off for our annual Angel House campaign. Mission council will love to see you there. Also INVITE A FRIEND!
- Feb 17th - **The Skit Guys** outing by Oasis Women Ministry- registration is still open, Please call Pastor Carrie or visit our website for more details.
- **Thank you to the Night Deacons** for their work in our food ministries. From the Saturday Breakfast, to St. John Food Pantry, and to our Micro Pantry at our church, it is amazing to see. Thank you to all that make this happen.

Have a great week,  
Blessings,  
Pastor Bo