



e-News

March 15th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

DISCOVERY TIME

Something for Everyone

SUNDAYS 3/12 - 5/21
9AM - BEFORE WORSHIP

- Pastor Roy's Sunday School
- Pastor Bo's Adult Fellowship
- Elem. & Preschool Class (cont. after Time w/Kids)
- Jr. High & Sr. High Devotions and Fellowship
- Confirmation Class with Pastor Carrie
 - Coffee Fellowship
 (nursery care is available)

Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers can be ordered on our website.
 \$15 each. Deadline for orders is 4/2

Sunday Servants 3/19/23

Ushers: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce
Coffee: Barb Rodgers
Liturgist: Joe Milosevich
Acolyte: Caleb Adler
Video: Drew Penhale
Sound: Keith LeVasseur

Church Family

Prayers of continued recovery for Mary Caisley.
 Prayers of healing for Sheila Lundeen following surgery.
 Prayers for Dave Jefferies and family upon the death of his father.

Lightways Hospice Information Session

March 23rd at 5:30pm

30 min presentation on available care programs hospice can offer. Time for questions and a light meal will follow the presentation. Oasis is hosting this event at FPJ, but this event is open to everyone, not just women.

Nursery and childcare will be available

March 15th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$553,729
Year to Date Expenses	\$636,651
Received for Earthquake Relief	\$3,266
Received for Angel House	\$1,706
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 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.

THE PASTORS CORNER, *Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor*

The Scriptures for the 4th Sunday of Lent emphasize love. Psalm 136 reminds us of God's loving care and leadership. 1 John 4:7-12 reminds us that we are to love as God loves. John clarifies that we are not of God, if we do not love. John chapter 3 shares the story of a religious elite who still didn't know the center of true love. Jesus fills him, and us, in with that center of true faith and love. (The fourth passage, Song of Songs 4:7-16 is a passage on human love. An honored, theologically trained, graduate school teaching nun told me that this is one of the few passages which should not be read from the pulpit. I trust her counsel. But it's in the Bible.)

We will spend most of our time with John 3:11-17. This story of Jesus helping Nicodemus is usually focused on John 3:16, "the Gospel in a nutshell". I want us to note that the truth of that evening experience is amazingly similar to the context within the church today. It seems we still don't quite get the truth within the heart of our Lord's ways in our times. I'm praying we'll see you Sunday morning.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Two Heads Up!

(1) The Session approved the Growth Council's suggestion to help the hallway flow patterns and fellowship areas on the way to the Sanctuary and Hoffman Hall. This is a part of the Session's Priority Planning goals set in late January 2023. (Copies of the Priority Planning Report are available in the Narthex.) This will be implemented before Easter. Growth Council is in the early stages of developing clear signage inside and outside the building.

(2) The Session unanimously voted to give the Honorary Title of Pastor Emeritus to Pastor Craig Herr for his 32 years of service to First Presbyterian Church, Joliet. We are thankful for him. We will honor Pastor Craig and family in a service in late April or in May. Session and Worship Council will work out the details.

Mark Your Calendar: BLOOD DRIVE

**Sun March 26th 8am-12pm
In Hoffman Hall**

Every donation saves 3 lives.
Reserve your time slot today on the homepage of our website.

A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

This morning I woke up to a text message that said "Remember Jesus Loves Us. This we know, for the Bible tells so." It made me smile, it warmed my heart for the day, and made me think about the way Jesus loves us. It might start with a prayer that Grandma said over us in church, or a parent reading a Bible story at bed time, or being dragged to church on Sunday morning because someone loved us. In that love we see God's love. But God's love is not only for us, the ones that know, it is there for those that have still yet to hear about it. And that is my prayer for you and me today: How can we share that simple message with those that we love? Because at the end of the day it is good to know that God Loves You!

Happening this week (or soon) on the corner of Western and Raynor:

- **The Pastor Nominating Committee** has prepared a Congregational Survey that is available to you starting this Sunday before and after the service, or online (*link will be sent next week*).
- **Mission Council Blood Drive** is scheduled for March 26th from 8 am to noon. Please see the website for more information
- **Oasis Women Ministry** will host a Hospice Care Info Session **MARCH 23RD @ 5:30PM**
- It is not too early to think about the **Easter Egg Hunt** on April 1st at 9 am. Spread the word!
- **Holy Week Maundy Thursday** - Day deacons are hosting a delicious dinner at 5:30 pm followed by the Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30
- **Good Friday Service** at 6:30 pm

Blessings,
Bo

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 1st 9-10:30am

Breakfast, crafts, photos with the Easter Bunny, the Story of Easter, and of course an egg hunt!

Free family fun for all!

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 (Men, Women, and Children)

Nursery care is available