



# e-News

March 22nd, 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)

### VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE THIS SUNDAY

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

Every donation saves 3 lives!

*Reserve your time slot today on our website*

### Church Family

Prayers of healing for Sheila Lundeen.

Prayers for those who are unable to be with loved ones in times of hardship.

### Sunday Servants 3/26/23

**Ushers:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Scherrie Sanchez, Al Brooks

**Coffee:** Sue Fordyce

**Liturgist:** Holly Tomashek

**Acolyte:** Vivian Orr

**Video:** Todd Hayden

**Sound:** Cliff Stepina

### **March 22nd, 2023**

#### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	\$772,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$560,334
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$636,651
<b>Received for Angel House</b>	\$1,756
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$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	<b>Mission Study</b>	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The Congregational Survey is underway! The Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work and is in the process of determining who we are as a church right now and who we are called to be. In order to do this, we need your help. Please complete the Congregational Survey to let us know your thoughts about First Pres and what you would like to see in our future ministries. This information is vital in finding a pastor who fits well with the vision of First Pres.

Ask the office for the link to take it online, come to church on Sunday morning and take it in Hoffman Hall before or after worship, or call the church office at 815-727-9259 to make arrangements to obtain a paper copy.

## THE PASTORS CORNER, *Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor*

We just celebrated my parent's Wedding Anniversary. They were married on March 21, 1936. It was the first day the first day of Spring that year. They are together with the Lord, and I look forward to seeing them again. One of the many lessons they taught all of us was to keep an open, caring, loving heart. In other words, do not let our hearts become selfish, hard or bitter. Mother and Dad loved each other deeply, but like all couples, they had their reoccurring misunderstandings. Throughout their issues, they always knew that they were totally dedicated to each other in their love. They worked through their difficulties with patient grace. It was their way with one another. They extended their style of respect and commitment to other people too. They both believed that the Lord's people actually have a commitment to one another and to the Lord's work through us. I still remember my parents' prayers for the church they served and the individual people and families within it.

In their peaceful leadership of God's people they would quote Hebrews 12:14-15. They didn't quote Paul's inspired words to prove a point or win an argument. They quoted the passage, because they knew it was God's Word for them and all Christians. Too often we believe we can harbor ill feelings towards others in a kind of righteous anger. Many people waste huge portions of their lives, just trying to prove a point, to win, or not give in. All of us in our human, self centered stubborn ways do this. (This includes your transitional pastor too.) Paul, states God's truth to us:

*"Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled."*

We have a common call to serve Jesus Christ together. For God's sake, and our sake, we must renew our commitment to God's love through Christ Jesus for each other the kingdom. There are no exceptions. Let's keep our love of God alive as we show our kindness and keep our love for one another up to date.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

### Easter Flowers

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

## *A Note from Carrie Kapral, Comm. Lay Pastor*

Hi friends!

I can hardly believe that this Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent! Holy Week is right around the corner. The "main event" is, of course, resurrection Sunday. Easter. Such a joyous, celebratory day! And that is good.

Yet, there are many small steps that lead to that joyous and celebratory day. Palm Sunday, of course. Maundy Thursday. Good Friday. And if we back up - there are many, many other small (and some very large) steps that took Jesus from the cradle to the cross.

Life is like that. Full of steps. Some big, some small. Each leading us into an unknown future. Unknown, that is, except for the surety of God, the surety of God's kingdom. We have the privilege of thinking about God's kingdom this Sunday, as we focus on Luke 13:18-21. Verse 18 says, "Then Jesus asked, what is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?" The more times I read the answer to the question, the more awestruck I am. I'm excited to share this text with you this Sunday. I hope by the end of worship, we will each have our own personal answer to "what shall I compare it to?".

See you Sunday!

Peace,  
Pastor Carrie

### 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