



# e-News

March 29th, 2023  
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

Please remember to return your pledge card if you have not already.

## HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

### **Palm Sunday (4/2):**

Breakfast at 8:30am  
 Special worship service at 10am

### **Maundy Thursday (4/6):**

Dinner at 5:30pm  
 Special Worship service at 6:30pm

### **Good Friday (4/7):**

Special Worship service at 6:30pm

### **Resurrection Sunday (4/9):**

Special Worship service at 10am  
 Child/nursery care will be available for all services

## EASTER EGG HUNT

April 1st 9-10:30 am

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

Free family fun for all!

## Church Family

Prayers for a successful surgery and smooth recovery for Pastor Roy Backus as he has knee surgery this week.

Prayers for Bob's family as we remember Susan and David Pettigrew as they are being laid to rest in the columbarium today.

Prayers of sympathy and comfort to all those effected by the tragedy in Nashville this week.

Prayers to all those effected by the recent destructive tornados across our country.

The April birthday calendar is available on our website.

## March 29th, 2023

### Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$573,329
Year to Date Expenses	\$636,636
Received for Angel House	\$2,376
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 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, Carrie Kapral, Comm. Lay Pastor**

Hi friends,

It's incredible to me that Holy Week is right around the corner. This time of year brings spring breaks, spring cleaning, graduations, sports, and all the other stuff a change of season entails. And yet, this is also a quiet time, a set apart time, a time to turn our whole selves even more toward God, as we enter the last week before Jesus was crucified. I encourage you to take advantage of the set-apartness of this week, to reflect on the priceless gift we have in Christ, the immeasurable grace God has given us, and our mustard seed-like part in God's kingdom.

Of course, Palm Sunday starts off the week on a high note of joy and celebration. And then we begin the movement toward the sadness of Good Friday.

Please plan to join us for worship on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 6:30 pm. On Thursday, come a little early, at 5:30, and enjoy a meal with your church family. We will then move into the sanctuary and reflect on Jesus' last meal and time with his disciples.

Friday worship will be a Tenebrae service, doused with reflection and space to recognize the sacrifice Jesus made.

And then ... EASTER SUNDAY! We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at our usual worship time, 10:00 am. Plans are underway to make this service a true celebration of the life we have in Christ.

Peace be with each of you this week and always.

Pastor Carrie

PS - Looking WAY far ahead - the Vacation Bible School sign up is up and running! Just thought you might like to know. :)

**PROGRAM NOTES:**

**MIDWEEK/ LENTEN SUPPER FELLOWSHIP:**

Lenten Supper Fellowship concludes today (3/29). Next week (4/5) there will be no dinner or classes. Midweek Dinner and Classes will resume the following week (4/12)

**DISCOVERY TIME:**

Discovery Time will be on pause for Palm Sunday (4/2) and Easter Sunday (4/9). This program will resume the following week (4/16)

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

Palm Sunday!!! Can you picture the crowds lining up on the streets of Jerusalem to welcome this teacher riding through the city on a donkey? Can you imagine the questions? Or the joy? Or maybe just the curiosity of those trying to take a peek at him? I have to tell you that my heart is filled with a combination of excitement, awe and brand new curiosity as I think about this coming Sunday. In part because my prayer for us is that we all can open our hearts to Jesus, in a new and meaningful way. A way where the Spirit of God will find a place to bloom and change us. Looking forward to share with you the words of the Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11 as we celebrate the Lord in the promise of baptism and Lord's supper this Sunday. Come with your hearts ready to receive and rejoice in the Lord.

***Things to remember this week:***

1. Saturday it is not just Night Deacons Breakfast (8:30 am) but it is also Easter Egg Hunt (9:00 am). This is a wonderful opportunity to not just join the crowd but also invite a friend to come along and experience the many ways this church ministers to the community around us.
2. Palm Sunday Breakfast!!!- Bo! Did you say two breakfasts in a week??? You bet! Not just yummy fresh French toast, but also people you love, and who love you, will be here to welcome you on this special celebration Sunday. We start at 8:30 am and welcome you. The coffee will be on.

Blessings,  
Bo

**Easter Flowers**

***The deadline to order by is THIS SUNDAY!***

***Don't forget yours!***

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

**Sunday Servants 4/2/23**

***Ushers:*** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Estella Jurkovich

***Coffee:*** Al Brooks

***Liturgist:*** Carter Lundeen

***Acolyte:*** Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

***Video:*** Matt Blaser

***Sound:*** Keith LeVasseur