



e-News

March 1st, 2023

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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Hi friends! Today when I was leaving my home I heard birds singing. It sounds so – spring like! I love the change of seasons. Even though it’s not my favorite, I enjoy seeing God’s work through the cold, quiet months of winter, making the blossoming of spring all the better.

There is singing at First Pres, too. We sing together on Sunday mornings, the adult choir sings during practice, as do our children. Life is blooming in our church building. Sundays are a time of peace, worship, and fellowship. Because we are here. Together. Christians gathered in one place at one time, sharing our faith, our voices, and ourselves.

The pastors have been praying and discussing how we can best help our worship and fellowship continue to become fuller, more joyful, and consistent. And so, from March 12 - May 21, there will be SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE at First Pres on Sunday mornings. Starting at 9:00 am, we will have:

- Coffee fellowship
- Pastor’s Roy’s Sunday school class
- Pastor Bo’s adult fellowship time
- Elementary Sunday school class (begun at 9 and continued after time with children during worship)
- Jr. High devotions and fellowship
- Confirmation class
- Sr. High devotions and fellowship

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Prayers of continued recovery for Tom Cawley.
- Prayers of strength for Pam LeVasseur’s brother Scott in his fight with cancer.
- Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Mary Lou Delk who passed away last week.
- Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Frank Siddon who recently passed away. His services will be at Fred C. Dames on Thurs. 3/2 Visitation from 10-11, with the funeral following at 11.

Mark Your Calendar: BLOOD DRIVE—VERSITI

Sun March 26th 8am-12pm
In Hoffman Hall
Every donation saves 3 lives.
Reserve your time slot today on our website.

See? SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Here’s the thing. This means that everyone has to come. I know we are tired and busy. I know our kids have sports. I know we don’t have much down time. But friends, worship is important. Building a strong church is important for ourselves, our children, our friends, our neighbors. It is important. For our church to flourish, it must be a priority for all of us.

So, I invite you, starting March 12, to SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE on Sunday mornings. I promise you will be blessed by your time with God and your friends in Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Carrie

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 PASTOR'S CORNER Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor

This Sunday's "Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church" includes Genesis 3:1-7, Psalm 92:1-5, 12-15, Ephesians 2:4-10, Matthew 7:15-20. Each text tells a story about the results of our choices. The results of human choices to sin. The results of our God and the Lord's action in creation. The results of Jesus' grace in our lives. And lastly the observable results of our daily actions. The Lord's creative work in creation and the ongoing support of creation is eternal and gracious. Our actions can move in many directions which can be unrighteous or excellent investments in this world or the next.

Jesus asks us to consider the results, the fruit, of our labor. In addition, the Lord wants us to be aware of the results of others' actions too. Although it isn't in this week's lectionary, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy to invest his ministry in faithful people who can multiply his servant leadership in the life of the church family and the mission field around them. That same advice lives today.

To me this isn't a judgmental approach to serving one another, but it does encourage awareness of folks we can count on, and those whom we are not as fully confident in their dedication and completion of their tasks.

Jesus puts it this way, "By their fruit you shall know them." Reputations are the cumulative sum of our conversations and actions. Over the years we learn how the members of our families navigate life within the family, and we can learn from one another over the years of ministry together too.

This week our goal is to see the way our Savior addresses his and our ministries in life. It is my prayer that all of us take some time and reflect on our willingness to be faithful in word and deed to our Savior's actions on all people's behalf.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

PS See you Sunday. Remember Adult Sunday Bible Study, (during the Discovery Time at 9 am to 9:45), in the Fireside Room. Keep your eyes open for more Discovery Time opportunities beginning March 12 at 9am. Details are on their way!

Free Pancake Breakfast

March 4th at 8:30 am

All are welcome!

March 1st, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$537,460
Year to Date Expenses	\$615,891
Received for Earthquake Relief	\$2116
Received for Angel House	\$1226

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.

A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

Over the years, Lent has become, for me, a time of personal wandering from the wilderness of the mundane towards that Easter Morning. At times it might be easy to get lost in this journey as worries, concerns, and daily tasks can distract us along the way. So, I made a habit of tuning my prayer life a little, at times it might be the Psalms or a prayer I have found somewhere on a blog. It is that little trick that helps me refocus, and I would like to ask you to find your little distraction or interruption from your own routine this Lent season. Here is my prayer for today:

Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.

Happening this week at 805 Western

This Saturday - Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast for the community. Come hungry, come and make some friends. - Saturday 8:30 am

Wed. Lenten Supper Fellowship - Food, Prayer, Bible Study, Music for the kids, and so much more - Come out and break the monotony of the week.

Also, please reach out to someone that you have not seen in a while and remind them they are loved.

Have a great week,

Blessings
Bo M

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 RIALTO ORGAN CONCERT

Sunday March 5

You and all your family and friends may come as guests of the Randolph's.

enter by 1:45—concert starts at 2 to hear Internationally known Jelani Eddington.

(ENTER ONLY THRU BACK STAGE DOOR)

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/5/23

Liturgist: Linda Nachtrieb

Acolyte: Lillian Pritz

Sound: Keith LeVasseur

Ushers: Barb Rodgers, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema

Coffee: Al Brooks