



e-News

March 8th, 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

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

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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of continued recovery for Tom Cawley.

Prayers of recovery for Mary Caisley.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Char Anderson who passed away Feb. 6th.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Bill Robinson who passed away. A private service, for his family, will be held in June.

Prayers of healing for Jim Huey's father-in-law.

Mark Your Calendar: BLOOD DRIVE

Sun March 26th 8am-12pm

In Hoffman Hall

Every donation saves 3 lives.

Reserve your time slot today on our website.

Bring Your Voice to Good Friday

Our worship leaders are looking for 7 folks from the congregation to volunteer to speak in our Good Friday live worship service. Please reach out to one of our pastors if you are interested!

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!

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume' Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
----------	---------------	-----------------	---------------------	------------	---------------	------------------	-------------------

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

During the Pastoral Search in a church, there is a natural anxiety which accompanies the detailed, lengthy and time consuming tasks. In time the process will lead to the recognizing of God's choice for a congregational match. The weight, process, and final choice is a sacred journey in faith. Throughout this journey of discovery there is a constant need for prayer and grace.

As a member of the Commission on Ministry (COM), the presbytery's commission to coordinate pastor and congregation relationships, I have worked with forty-nine (49) congregations related to pastor/church relations. Thirty (30) of those forty-nine (49) churches was work with their Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) assisting their call process for find their new pastor. I mention this, because I do have experience with churches in their call process, as well as other dimensions of pastoral adjustments and coordination.

Right now, your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) is working through the process to find FPJs next installed pastor. You elected the committee, and they are assembling information to address the particular themes which this congregation has in its DNA. It's my prayer that all members, when asked, will participate in the upcoming membership survey. It is a nationally known survey which is now associated with the PCUSA. It is a survey which has been used by many denominations, by thousands of USA churches, and with great insights and successes. It is the first step in the process of defining who we are.

My pastoral approach to coordinating with the PNC is to give the committee, which you've chosen, the tools to discover their identity and be available on an as needed basis. You will be hearing from the committee soon. They're making the right foundational information gathering choices and interpretation of where we are.

Please remember, I'm always available to answer questions, but also remember, this process does take prayer and time.

Grace and peace.

Your Interim, Gap, Transitional, Consultant Pastor Roy

A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

Happy International Women's Day!

I would like to take time today to celebrate the women of this congregation today, and the women that have, in so many ways, left a mark on our lives as people of faith. Growing up, even under communist rule, this day was big for celebrating women for their role in social life, education, place of business, and at home.

The Scriptures are peppered with the testimony of the importance of women in our faith journey. The modern testimony of the church vouches for the vitality and importance of the place women hold in our churches. I just want say THANK YOU to you ladies. You do make the world a better place with your love, care, and steadfast dedication to your families and all you do. May the Lord bless you mightily.

This Sunday I am preaching on Mark 13:14-23, and I can say it is quite a difficult text that makes us think about the end of the world and all the things that we see around us as signs that point towards that. It is a hard text to read, it feels even harder to understand, and makes me question why is the Lord speaking about the world in those terms? I would like to encourage you to read this passage as we prepare for Sunday worship, and ask yourself the following question: What now, Lord? where do I go from here? what am I to do or understand?

Looking forward to joining in worship with you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western

- This Sunday from 9:00 am to 9:45 am we will wait for you and whole your family to join us not just for coffee, but also for a time of Bible studies and fellowship for children, youth, and all the way to adults. Let Sunday mornings be a Time of Discovery, of growing, with our faith family.
- Stop by for dinner and fellowship tonight during Lenten Supper Fellowship. Kids have music practice from 5 and dinner is at 6 pm. See you tonight as we talk about the importance of lent in our lives.
- Also don't forget to mark your calendar for next Oasis event on March 23rd and the Mission Council Blood drive on Sunday March 26th.

March 8th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2022-2023 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$545,091
Year to Date Expenses	\$616,119
Received for Earthquake Relief	\$3,266
Received for Angel House	\$1,406

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/12/23

Liturgist: Chet June

Acolyte: Alex Kuczek

Video: Matt Blaser

Sound: Cliff Stepina

Ushers: Ed Schultz, Jeff Lundeen, Mark Fumagalli, Mark Dykema

Coffee: Sue Fordyce