



# e-News

April 12th, 2023  
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

**DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY!**



**VBS 2023**  
**June 26th-30th**

VBS this year will be **STELLAR!** Grab your spacesuit and head over to our website to register a participant, or to register as a volunteer! If you have any questions please reach out to the church office.

Take some time to pray about how you will support this important ministry.



**Church Family**

Prayers of continued successful recovery for Pastor Roy Backus following his knee surgery.

Prayers for Evelyn Purcell (mother of James Purcell, grandmother to Brandi Kuczek, and great-grandmother to Bailey and Roland Frey, and Alex Kuczek) as she is in St. Joseph's Hospital.

Prayers for Keith Farr as he starts a new treatment.

**April 12th, 2023**

**Stewardship Report**

<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>	\$772,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$19,430
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$0.00
<b>Received for Angel House</b>	\$2,376
<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.*

**IF YOU HAVE TAKEN A CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY HOME PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN IT TO THE CHURCH ASAP**

**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.

### Thanks You from Worship Council

On behalf of the congregation, the Worship Council sincerely thanks Sarah Randolph for organizing and overseeing the repair of our treasured church organ, ensuring that it would be ready for our Easter services. Also, we thank Bev Adelman for volunteering to be our organist on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday—it's a joy to hear you play in person! Finally I'd like to personally thank all the wonderful members who helped with the opening of our Easter service this year. My gratitude and appreciation to: Bev Adelman, Sarah Randolph, Tandy Penhale, Ken & Karen Myers, Beth Maurer, Keith LeVasseur, our acolytes Scarlett Poulos & Joseph Adler, the Chancel choir members, and of course, our pastors Bo & Carrie. It was wonderful to be part of this collaborative effort to represent Jesus' Resurrection for our congregation!

With thanks and praise to our Living God,

Joan Schultz, Worship Council chair.

### SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Starting June 9th

Mon-Fri 11:30-1pm

This program provides free lunches to kids in our community who may experience food insecurity, and may rely on school lunches. You can support this vital ministry by volunteering your time, and spreading the word about this program. We are also asking for donations of board games, puzzles, and books.

## PROGRAM NOTES:

### MIDWEEK/ LENTEN SUPPER FELLOWSHIP:

Midweek Dinner/Classes resumes TONIGHT!

### DISCOVERY TIME:

Discovery Time resumes this Sunday, 4/16, but Pastor Roy's Adult Sunday School will still be on pause as he recovers. Pastor Roy encourages that class to join in Pastor Bo's fellowship time during Discovery.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

## COLOR INFUSION

April 29th 9 a.m. @ FPJ

CREATING  
ART  
FROM THE  
HEART

SIGN UP ONLINE OR IN  
HOFFMAN HALL  
\$5 AT THE DOOR FOR  
MORNING FESTIVITIES,  
TREATS, AND DOOR PRIZES!

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

Christ has Risen!

This is a message not just for Easter Sunday, but for every day we have on this side of God's kingdom. "Christ is risen" is our morning motivation. "Christ is risen" is our reason to live out our call daily. "Christ is risen" is our reason to be. As the glory of Easter Sunday morning becomes a little dot in the rearview mirror, let us hold on to the joy and hope of Easter for each day ahead of us, because as people of faith we are people of the Resurrection, people of new life. And that is our call today is to go and share that Jesus is alive.

This Sunday I am preaching on Jesus's way to welcome us. Can you think of the people that Jesus encountered in his ministry and the way he received them, the way he regarded them, and the way Jesus made them feel seen and heard? That is on my heart for this sermon, to come close to the heart of Jesus, for all of us, and for us to catch a little of the grace that Jesus had as he loved the people he met on his way. I would encourage you to read John 20: 19-29 to remember Thomas and his interaction with Jesus, and maybe ask yourself: Would I have had the same love for Thomas that Jesus had?

### **What is happening at 805 Western:**

- **God's Kids Choir** - is getting ready for April 30th Worship. They are rehearsing and practicing their mini-musical "Who, What, When, Where, Why". Now, I know that First Pres Joliet loves the children that call this church their home, so I would encourage you to mark your calendar and be here to support them and worship along with their program.
- **Midweek Program** - We will wrap up Midweek classes on May 10th with a few surprises for the kids and also for the adults.
- **Summer Lunch Program**— Summer is coming fast. Please talk to Barb Rogers about this great ministry opportunity that serves the many students in our neighborhood through providing a lunch every Monday -Friday throughout the summer.
- **May 13th** - Night Deacons will host a Service day at St. John Lutheran Food Pantry. More details to follow. Mark your Calendar.

Hope you have a great week enjoying the nice weather, all the flowers blooming, and trees budding.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

*Ps. Thank you to all that came out to worship with us during Lent and Easter. Also thank you to all the deacons, ushers, elders, musicians that helped with the services and helped us to welcome so many people over the past few weeks.*

### SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/16/23

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema,  
Sue Fordyce, Barb Rodgers

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Dennis Jones

**ACOLYTE:** Caleb Adler

**SOUND:** Keith LeVasseur

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden