



e-News

April 19th, 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!

Church Family
 Prayers for Keith Farr as he starts a new treatment.
 If you have a graduate in your life check out our form for our "Celebrate our Graduates" Board .

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.

God's Kid's Choir—Mini Musical
April 30th—@ 10 am worship
 Join us in worship to see our Children's Choir perform "WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY" Discovering a Relationship with Jesus. The kids, led by Sarah Randolph, have been working very hard while building their relationship with Jesus through music. Make sure to come and support our Children's Choir!



WEEKLY ALL-AGE PROGRAMS
MIDWEEK: Wednesdays: Kid's Choir at 5, Dinner at 6, Men's, Women's, and Kid's Classes at 6:30
DISCOVERY HOUR: Sunday morning 9am before worship: Pastor Roy's Sunday School, Pastor Bo's Adult Fellowship, Elem.& Preschool Class, Jr. High & Sr. High Devotions and Fellowship, Confirmation with Pastor Carrie, Coffee Fellowship
 Nursery care is available at both programs

April 19th, 2023
Stewardship Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 2023-2024 Budget | \$772,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$39,807 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$27,153 |
| 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 |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|

If you have a copy of the Congregational Survey please return it to the church office this week. (M-F 8:30-4:30)
 Thank you to everyone who has submitted their survey!

THE PASTORS CORNER, Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor

Greetings! I'll be back this week. Sunday School class, be ready to look over Luke 24:13-33. The two apostles on their afternoon trip to Emmaus awakens us to another dimension of the Resurrection in our lives and worship. (I encourage the rest of us to read the text from Luke too.) I believe the background of the Emmaus event will bring a new understanding and spiritual preparedness to all of our lives. Luke's retelling of the story bring a paradigmatic truth to each Christian's life. In a real sense, we all have our Emmaus experiences which are victories in themselves, but which will always point beyond themselves. I hope I've given each of you enough encouragement to come Sunday, or to at least look up the meaning of paradigmatic.

Next week the children of the church will bring a muchly anticipated musical during our worship together. We thank Sarah for all her commitment to the children and this exciting service to all of us. Pastor Carrie will lead the service and together we'll be challenged in our growth in Jesus Christ. I'm super looking forward to this time together.

I'm slowly gathering strength and am looking forward to the Summer and all the ministry traditions of our church. In addition I'm excited that the PNC will soon have the background and present information to build a picture of 1st Presbyterian Church, Joliet, in preparation for the next steps in the Pastoral Search Process. Keep them in your prayers, and we will be hearing more from them in the near future.

It's only appropriate that I thank our staff and the Worship Council for doing such an excellent job during my medical healing. I appreciate their creativity, dedication and faithfulness.

See you Sunday, grace and peace be with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

A Note from Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

I was thinking about this verse and thought I would share it with you and pose some questions: Is the Joy of the Lord your Strength? Is the Joy of the Lord that boiling spring that fills your heart?

There is so much happening around us that fits those little words: joy of the Lord. There is so much that we are blessed with and sometimes we might be too busy, or joyless to even see what the Lord is doing. And yet, the Lord is faithful, his Spirit is close, and his joy is our strength.

May you experience that joy this week, as we are enjoying this great spring week.

- **Oasis Women's Ministry** are inviting you to join them for "Color Infusion" coloring as meditation event on April 29th. You might not be an artist and think this is not for me, but no experience is needed. Sign up soon so you don't miss out on the fellowship of Oasis.

- **God's Children's Choir** is inviting you to come and worship with them on April 30th, when they will perform their mini-musical. It will be a great time of worship and joy.

- **Night deacons** are very busy between Monthly Pancake Breakfasts and serving at St. John Food Pantry on May 13th. If you are looking for ways to get connected and serve with a nice group of people, consider this your invitation.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

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.

2023 GRADUATES—Let's Celebrate!

First Pres wants to celebrate our 2023 graduates! As per tradition we will have a board up in the Narthex honoring this accomplishment. If you have a graduate in your life, please submit a form. Printed forms are available at the church, and an online form is available on our website.

Make sure to submit yours before May 31st!

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!**

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/23/23

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: Al Brooks

LITURGIST: Carolyn Schaeffer

ACOLYTE: Crey Blaser

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Drew Penhale