



e-News

April 26th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

ALL CHURCH CHALLENGE:

show your support of our Children's Choir this Sunday, April 30 (10 am service) by topping the **Easter Sunday attendance of 198**. Let's have over 200 in attendance to hear Pastor Carrie's sermon followed by the mini musical "**Who, What, When, Where, & Why**" presented by our children's choir. This will be the first musical performance for some of our children (ages 5-11).

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.

Church Family

Prayers and sympathies for the family and friends of Sue Mahon who has passed.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

This class is for those who want to learn more about the ministries of First Pres, the history, and what it means to be a member. If you are interested in becoming a member this is the class for you. Please reach out to the office or any of the pastors if you are interested in participating. A day and time will be decided in accordance to availability of those attending.

VBS Decorations!

A fun opportunity to support our busy Children's Ministry is decorations for VBS! We are asking for help making some fun pieces to decorate our space-themed VBS. Simple projects like painting plates like planets, and shape cut-outs, and more involved projects for those willing. All supplies provided! Let the office know if you'd like to lend a hand!

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.

April 26th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$42,765
Year to Date Expenses	\$31,148
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, Carrie Kapral, Comm. Lay Pastor

I am super excited about the children's musical this Sunday. A big thank you to Sarah Randolph for her consistent response to God's call, and for the love and energy she has brought into the children's music program. It's absolutely wonderful to hear the laughter of many children on a Wednesday evening, to see smiling children's faces on Sunday morning, and to see God working through First Pres in the lives of our youngest.

I anticipate this Sunday will be full of joy. This is in large part because of the involvement of the children, and where my focus is when I think about Sunday. I am reminded of the apostle Paul's words in his letter to the Philippians:

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

So often our outlook and attitude wander where our thoughts are. Many things are out of our control - yet, we do have a great deal of control over our thoughts. Where, I wonder, do we spend most of our thought-time? As I prepare for this Sunday's message on Philippians 4:4-9, I have recommitted myself to trying my best to follow Paul's words of wisdom and think about things that are praiseworthy. Won't you join me?

Peace,
Pastor Carrie

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

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/30/23

USHERS: Lisa Haldorson-Diaz, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Al Brooks, Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Suzanne Penhale

ACOLYTE: Vivian Orr

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

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!**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY : ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

Saturday May 13th

7am—1pm

Sign up in Hoffman Hall or speak with one of our Night Deacons to be included in this ministry opportunity.

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!

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!



Musical Synopsis: Sheryl Locke and the rest of her investigative team are seeking Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. Follow them on their journey as they look closer at the facts and explore exactly "Who" they follow - Jesus, "What" it looks like to follow Jesus - to be true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise, "When" they should follow Jesus - All the time, "Where" they are going - anytime/ anywhere, and most importantly "Why" they want to continually focus on Jesus - because Jesus Loves Us.