



e-News

May 10th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

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, spreading the word about this program. And donating board games, puzzles, & books.

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.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

REJUVENATE

May 20th 10am-12

Painting pots, potting plants, and learning about mental health as we go

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE

ANGEL HOUSE REMINDER:

We are currently doing a special collection for our sponsorships at Angel House in Tanzania. First Pres proudly sponsors three young women at Angel House, providing a home, education, food, training, health care, a community, and more for those in need.

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 for health and recovery for Dave Jeffries who is in St. Josephs with stomach issues.

Prayers for health and recovery for Sheila Lundeen who is in St. Josephs with pneumonia.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

May 24th-6:30pm

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.

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!

May 10th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$64,000
Year to Date Expenses	\$52,843
Received for Angel House	\$3,105
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
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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

This Sunday we continue on our way to Pentecost as we are led by Jesus in John 14:15–21. In this passage Jesus informs the Apostles about the promise of the Holy Spirit. It is a fascinating message from our Savior. Jesus speaks of sending the Spirit to them, while he continues on the theme of God the Father being in the Son, and the Son in the Father, and we in one another. Adding the Holy Spirit brings a new dimension to the mystery of the Godhead and our relationship with the Lord. Jesus explains that the Spirit is an Advocate, a Counselor, a Comforter, an Attorney: i.e., someone who is with us, in us, for us, and represents us. I find great comfort knowing the Lord is with all of us all the time. For me, I seek other passages that help to unlock some of the mystery of the Holy Spirit. I believe Paul gives us a great gift in Romans 8:14–28. The entire passage and surrounding verses bring great peace and hope to my soul. The comforting presence and work of the Holy Spirit mentioned in verses 26 and 28 are especially helpful and reassuring. Paul writes:

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

It seems clear that the Holy Spirit is truly our Advocate before the very throne of God, for he prays for us to God the Father. He intercedes for us before the Lord when we cannot even begin to think of how or what to pray. Our God, actually fills in our huge personal blank spaces with his loving, healing, abiding, miraculous self. The reality of how our Lord cares for us is life changing. In the Holy Spirit's care, we can truly be at peace, for we know that the Lord cares for us at all times.

The other focal passages for Sunday are Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22 and Acts 17:22-31. All our passages this week speak of God's unending love and care for us. I look forward to seeing you as we worship together on Sunday morning.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Annual Congregational Q&A

May 17th at 6:30pm

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday May 21st at 10am worship

SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/14/23

USHERS:

COFFEE:

LITURGIST: Evan Lundeen

ACOLYTE: Alex Kuczek

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO:

Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

Have you heard of WHY30 minutes? Well the idea behind this 30 minute gathering is simply to connect or reconnect with people that might be in the same season of life. This is intended for younger folks, from those graduating college, to those starting a new job, just got married, or have been married for a few years, families with young kids, no kids, or maybe a pet parent.

The idea is that younger folks that are connected to this congregation are invited to connect. Where will we go from here? Well that's where the fun begins. And I mean that. It could be a fellowship group that chooses to do some social type of activities or maybe choose to do some service projects together. Or maybe just saying 'we just want to talk.'

It all starts with a 30 min connection.

I really hope that you will join us on May 19 at 6 pm at church and see what the WHY means to all of us.

Other things coming up to 805 Western:

- Lightways Hospice and End of Life Care Informational and conversation **June 11th** after the worship Service.

- Confirmation Sunday **June 4th**

- Come celebrate and be celebrated on Graduation Sunday on **June 11th**

Also do not forget VBS registration is open and June 26th is fast approaching. We need you and your gifts to serve all the kids that will participate this year.

One more little detail: Please remember to talk to the Pastors or call the Church office if you are going through a hard time or need prayer. Sometimes it takes a while for us to hear if you are in the hospital or if you have been going through a hard time.

Blessings,
Bo Mircea

WHY30 minutes

30 minutes to grab coffee

30 minutes to connect

30 minutes to be in community

WHY30 is a casual get-together introduce a space for the younger adults here at FPJ. This will be a 30 min time to catch up with some friendly faces, meet new people, and express what's important to you in the church.

Drop in at FPJ **Friday 5/19 @6:30** Childcare will be available so feel free to bring your kiddos!

LIGHTWAYS HOSPICE INFORMATION SESSION

June 11th 11:15am

Mary Rossio will bring an approximately 30 min presentation about services hospice can offer, including serious illness care, end of life care, and grief counseling. There will be time for questions following presentation. Light meal following.