



e-News

May 24th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Starting June 9th

Mon-Fri 11:30-1pm

You can support this vital ministry by volunteering your time, spreading the word about this program. And donating board games, puzzles, & books.

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.



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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/28/23

USHERS: Mark Dykema, Reed Mott, Scherrie Sanchez, Ed Schultz

COFFEE: Estella Jurkovich

LITURGIST: Jill Strimel

ACOLYTE: Vivian Orr

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

Church Family

Prayers for health and recovery for Dave Jeffries who is in Silver Cross Hospital with stomach issues.

Prayers for continued healing for Sheila Lundeen.

Sympathies and prayers are extended to Diane Uden upon the death of her mother.

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.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

May 24th—6:30pm

TONIGHT

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 .

May 24th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$83,771
Year to Date Expenses	\$77,467
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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The survey is complete. The PNC is awaiting the resulting data, expected in the next 6-8 weeks.

THE PASTORS CORNER, *Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor*

When I was assigned to the 81st Army Band at Fort Sheridan, I was quickly immersed into the ethos and practices of the Upper Midwest. (You have to remember that I grew up in Texas with all the Southern traditions which directly shaped my view on society.)

The first basic function of the band was recruitment. Most members of the band were draftees, and we were all surprised when the Army recruiters would follow us around and have conversations with the juniors and seniors in high school. Evidently we were very productive in our influence on high school students and their families.

I don't remember how many civilian centered parades, concert band concerts, jazz band gigs, politicians' background music, and national holiday events we played. But I do remember my first Memorial Day gauntlet of parades. We marched 5 parades in 1973. It was a long day, and the communities were truly excited and celebrated Memorial Day.

This celebration confused me, not because I wasn't thankful for my country, our history, the blessings bestowed upon us, etc. No, growing up in Texas meant that we didn't celebrate Memorial Day. At 22 years of age, I asked Dad, what's so important about this Memorial Day up here? He explained that Memorial Day was established by the Union following the Civil War, and that Southern States didn't like celebrating a Union Holiday which reminded them of their greatest defeats. He went on to explain that in Texas, they celebrated Jefferson Davis's birthday and Robert E. Lee's birthday instead of Abe Lincoln's. I believe this was the first time that I was forced to see the immense power that regional societies play upon us. It really does.

Well, this year I'll bring the Invocation on the Grundy County Court House steps to begin the commemoration of Memorial Day, 2023. I will pledge allegiance to the flag. I will sing along with the Star Spangled Banner, listen to the speeches, watch the presentation of wreaths on the different war memorials, and eventually, I'll, bring the benediction. Together with other Veterans we'll spend time catching up and simply greeting each other as members of a select group of individuals who love our country and have given parts of our lives to serve.

Lastly, I'll drive to Abe Lincoln National Cemetery and walk along a few rows of the stones. I'm always impressed by the names on the gravestones, because they are representations of the many ethnic origins and nationalities who have served our country. In addition there are religious symbols of all the different faiths who have given their lives for this nation for our freedom.

It's my prayer that you'll take some time on Monday and remember those who truly have given of themselves for us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

This Sunday we are celebrating Pentecost Sunday. We remember this day as the outpour of the Holy Spirit over those who were gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, but also the day the Church came to be. The beauty of Acts chapter 2 is that it captures the first actions of the church in Jerusalem. These actions are the foundation of the church today: Praying and Proclaiming the Resurrected Christ, the perfect plan of salvation, and hope that God has for the world. I think about that day again and again as I look at the ministry of our church or the church as a whole in today's world. It is true there are many things that have changed in the world from that first outpour of the Spirit, our lives are more complicated, the ministry of the church is more complex in many ways but the reality is that the base of ministry has not changed. We are called to pray and to share God's love, whatever that is, through the words we speak, through the service ministries, or the ministry of helping. We have the same task and responsibility today as on that day when Peter and the rest of the disciples stood up and preached a powerful message. I pray that you can find time this week to look at Acts 2, and pray that the Lord will pour his spirit over all and that we all can feel the power of God and be empowered to go out and preach the promise of God, using words if necessary, as St. Francis would say.

Other things happening at 805 Western:

- **Tonight at 6:30 - New Members class** - If you would like to know more about 1st Pres please stop by. The rumor is that there will be pie :)
- **VBS** is a month away and we need your help. From people being with the kids in the classroom to serving food, or preparing decorations, we need you. Please call the office or go online and sign up
- **Confirmation Sunday June 4th and Graduate Sunday** on June 11th are indeed more reasons to look at the youth of our church and celebrate their lives and encourage them. I hope you have those dates on your calendar.
- **June 11th** is also a **Hospice Informational** after worship at 11:15. This is open to all, and has important information for all.
- Parish Council is also inviting you to a **Night at the Ball Park** on June 30th. Watch for more details coming soon.

I'm praying for you all on this day, may you have strength in your mind and body, may your heart be refreshed by the spirit, and may God's joy always dwell in your heart and mind.

Blessings,
Bo