



e-News

May 3rd, 2023

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

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.

You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

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.

May 3rd, 2023 Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$52,599
Year to Date Expenses	\$50,918
Received for Angel House	\$2,805
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.

Church Family

Prayers for health and recovery for Dave Jeffries who is in the hospital with stomach issues.

Prayers and sympathies to Jim Huey and his family after the recent loss of his niece.

The May birthday calendar is available on our website homepage.

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!



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.

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

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 make sure to submit it by May 14th.
Thank you to everyone who has submitted their survey!

THE PASTORS CORNER, *Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor*

There is so much energy on so many levels at First Pres. The Lord is freeing imaginations and possibilities for ministry which is signally a fresh start to this grand body of Christ. Keep you ears, eyes, and hearts open to the pulse of new life.

Last Sunday was such a blessing. The children brought a powerful, joyful and spirit filled musical to our worship hour. The energy was so clear, and we old folk recognized that children's ministries in our church are far from dead. At the same time we are aware and taking steps to reignite our youth and children's ministry for the near future. Again, I encourage that you keep you ears, eyes and hearts open to the pulse of new life.

Remember the old joke, "If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring? . . . Mayflowers bring Pilgrims." . . . I know another Dad joke. Still this season of the year allows us to feel the power of new beginnings. Your church staff is working behind the scenes with church volunteers preparing for VBS, summer lunch programs, other summer ministries, next Fall's new beginnings for Christian Education during the Discovery Hour on Sunday Mornings, (9 am thru 10 am), and a number of other ministries. Pray how you'd like to participate and even lead in our coordinated Christian Education programming and outreach ministries!

Lastly, this Sunday the passages are: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, Gospel John 14:1-14, Acts 7:55-60 and 1 Peter 2:2-10. We will focus on the familiar text from the Gospel of John. Jesus is saying good-bye to the apostles, and he wishes to comfort their hearts. The Christian family, the church, isn't always the most comfortable place, because life simply isn't always comfortable. But, the Lord promises to have a place for us, and we are to care for one another. Sometimes that's more easily said than done. We will look at the Jesus principles of place, process, and purpose. The Lord is willing to lead all of us. See you Sunday.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/7/23

USHERS: Mark Dykema, Jeff Lundeen, Ed Schultz,
Barb Rodgers

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Mark Morrison

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

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.

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.



OASIS: WOMEN'S MINISTRY
REJUVENATE
MAY 20TH 10AM - NOON
potting plants and learning
about mental health
REGISTER ON
OUR WEBSITE

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!

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.