



# e-News

June 7th, 2023

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://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.

## OASIS: Women's Outing

The Shrine of Christ's Passion

June 10th - carpool leaves  
at 9a.m. from FPJ

reg link on our website



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.

## SLAMMERS GAME

June 30th

Tickets are \$5 each

Reach out to the church office to get your tickets!

## Church Family

Prayers for continued healing for Sheila Lundeen who is recovering at Alden.

Prayers of health and recovery for Jodi Steinberg in her recent surgery.

Prayers of recovery and health for Joyce Miner.

Prayers of health and recovery for Glenn Brosell in his recent surgery.

sympathies and prayers are extended to Judy Turner upon the death of her brother Russell on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

We extend our prayers and sympathies to the friends and family of **Dave Jefferies** who passed Monday morning. His visitation will be here at First Pres at 10 am on Sat 6/10, with the service following at 11am.

## 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.

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## Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$95,128
Year to Date Expenses	\$97,207
Received for Angel House	\$3,205
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*

Jesus' life continually catches me off guard. Just when I think I've got his earthly life figured out, that's when I'm caught off guard again! His experiences, actions, words and priorities, simply mystify me.

While preparing for this coming Sunday's service I read Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26. The experiences of our Lord in these few verses are similar to the others in the Gospels. Jesus has an ongoing debate with the religious leaders; he's eating with sinners; there's a call for his help by a father whose daughter is very ill; a woman touches his robe while he's on his way to do the healing; and there are misunderstandings between Jesus' words and those folk gathered around him. Pretty typical Jesus, Gospel stuff.

And yet, I was totally surprised when I read this text last week. In the flow of all the stories and situations there is a major shift of direction and flow. (Now I notice this in other Gospel stories too.) Jesus sets up the tax collector/theological debate, but as soon as someone needed his help, he cuts out! The doctrinal debate is second fiddle to the needs of a family. Even on his way to the healing, he heals.

Our Lord's gift of grace to people in need, which is each of us, always takes precedence over the well meaning debates about God. Why? Our Lord is a Lord of compassion and action. He lives faithfully in presence and action in God's will. You'd think that we folks who live by faith and love for the Lord would have figured Jesus' priorities out by now, but it seems that we are easily distracted from our primary calls to service of those in need.

So, come join us on Sunday morning. We'll see how Jesus spent his time on earth before his Crucifixion. His entire life was lived for us.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

***Join us this Sunday June 11th for 10am worship as we celebrate this year's graduated in our First Pres Family!***

### **FOOD PANTRY NOTICE:**

Our Micro Food Pantry will be closed for maintenance all day on June 12th. Please put all food donations in the blue bins inside the Western Avenue entrance.

## **LIGHTWAYS HOSPICE INFORMATION SESSION**

***June 11th 11:15am in the Sanctuary***

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.

## ***A Letter from Associate Pastor Bo Mircea***

Big Vacation Bible School Update!

STELLAR is coming to us soon and fast. As of today we have 42 kids signed up and 22 volunteers. Well, here is where things can get super interesting super fast. We can double that number in a heart beat, and I pray that we do. But with more kids, we will need more hands to help us lead the kids through their VBS experience. What does it take to be a VBS volunteer? A big heart, a huge smile, a listening ear, and the most important thing, Love for what God can do during the week of June 26th -30th from 8:30 am -12:30 pm (those are the times for the volunteers.) If you've never helped with VBS before, or you think you might need a refresher of what VBS is about and how to do things: Wed June 21st at 6 pm and Saturday June 24th at 9 am we will have our VBS training. So head over to the website and sign up today.

### **What's up this week on 805 Western:**

This Sunday we are Celebrating Graduates, and we want to celebrate with you in person. Please stop by the graduate display before the service to check in.

Also following the service we will host a Hospice Informational meeting in the sanctuary and hearing about their approach to care in times of need.

Oasis is going on the road this Saturday for a shopping and fellowship trip. Please call Kris Hayden for more details

Don't forget Free Summer Lunches are starting this week!

What a great ministry for all of us to pray and support.

Friday June 30th we are going to the Slammers Baseball Game, tickets are \$5 each please contact the office today to reserve your ticket

Have a wonderful week,  
Blessings,  
Bo

**Our annual Guidebook & Directory will be sent for publishing in mid-June. Please be sure all of your information is up to date and let the office know of any changes (cancelled landlines, new phone number, adult children no longer living at home, etc.)**

## **SUNDAY SERVANTS 6/11/23**

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Reed Mott, Jeff Lundeen, Mark Dykema

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce, Estella Jurkovich

**LITURGIST:** Hasen Qi

**ACOLYTE:** Crey Blaser

**SOUND:** Keith LeVasseur

**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale