



e-News

July 26th, 2023

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

Sundays @ FPJ

9 am—Adult Sunday School with Pastor Roy

9am—Life Group in Hoffman

10 am—Live Worship Service

Before and After Worship—Coffee Fellowship

Lessons and activities for kids age 3 through 5th grade are during the 10am worship service

-kid's will leave the service after 'Time with Children'

Nursery care is available during all worship services

Church Family

Prayers of recovery and health for Joyce Miner.

Prayers for Margaret Lucas.

Prayers for good test results for Estella Jurkovich.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/30/23

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Bob Rudisill

ACOLYTE: Claire Moretti

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Mon-Fri 11:30-1pm

Through August 18th

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

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Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$166,433
Year to Date Expenses	\$167,695
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 PNC is compiling the survey results into a report that will be shared with the congregation.

A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus

It's my hope that you enjoyed the sermon series on Fiddler on the Roof as much as Pastor Bo, Pastor Carrie and I enjoyed preparing and delivering the messages. I encourage you to go and watch the movie again. It honestly addresses the spiritual struggles during changing times—not unlike our own. And it speaks freely of our internal conversations with God and our own families.

This week we begin a new sermon series on some of the difficult events in Jesus' life. It doesn't take a lot of reading to discover that his miracles, sayings, and conversations have a way of capturing our hearts, forcing new thoughts, and then empowering us in new ways of serving.

This week we will look at the Jewish approach to the gentiles. Although there were strict rules, and common practice, the First Century Jew in Israel could not be totally separated from gentiles. Romans, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Egyptians, etc., were all part of the inhabitants of the land. In Matthew 15:21-28 one particular gentile woman challenged the disciples and Jesus. She was unstoppable when it came to her motherly commitment for her daughter's welfare. The Canaanite woman does not cease approaching Jesus. She ignores the Jewish, male, dismissal of the disciples. She does not let Jesus' priorities in ministry deter in her immediate need. She deflects Jesus' edgy, rude, and uncomfortable statements to her.

In spite of all the obstacles placed clearly before her the determined gentile woman is resolved and clear that Jesus holds the answer to her needs. She knows he is the son of David. When Jesus only offers bread to the family's (Jewish) children, she invites herself (a gentile dog) into the dining room! (Dogs did not live inside Jewish homes. Gentile dogs were often family pets and welcomed inside houses.) Hmm. Did she outsmart Jesus? How do we handle that possibility?

I look forward to seeing you Sunday when we will consider how to hear additional grace through this challenging Jesus story. Maybe it will breathe into us, inspire new life in us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Coming Up

August 20th—*Pastor Emeritus Craig Herr Celebration*

September 10th—*Back to Church Sunday*

September 20th—*Midweek Returns*

Night Deacons' Serve Day details TBD

WHY30

Are you a young adult or a young family looking to interact with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? We are starting a new group called **WHY30** where we will gather together with food, a variety of activities, and fellowship. WHY30 is a low-key group with the purpose of fostering connections among young adults at FPJ, community is so important.

Sound interesting and want information?

Contact Michael Krueger at (708) 846-9056 or email at krgmichael442@aol.com .

We are also starting up a Facebook group "WHY30 @ FPJ" for those interested.

Announcement from Pastor Roy on behalf of our Education Council:

We continue our search for a Director of Children and Youth Ministries. We ask that you help share the opportunity, help get the word out. This is a full-time position with benefits. Additional details are in the Indeed job listing available [HERE](#). The Lord has the right person for the job out there, we just need to find them.