



# e-News

July 5th, 2023

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

## Church Family

Prayers of recovery and health for Joyce Miner.

Prayers for Margaret Lucas.

Prayers of health and healing for Emmie Ostrem.

Prayers of health and healing for Joe Boyd.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/9/23

**USHERS:** Mark Fumagalli, Mark Dykema, Ed Schultz, Reed Mott

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Joan Schultz

**ACOLYTE:** Crey Blaser

**SOUND:**

## SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

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.

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## Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$140,616
Year to Date Expenses	\$145,657
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.*

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE  
VBS 2023 SO SUCCESSFUL!

We had 94 kids registered and over 30 volunteers,  
many from other churches!

Check out all our VBS photos on our Facebook  
page—First Presbyterian Church of Joliet



## 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.

## 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 anticipates receiving the survey results soon.



### ***A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus***

Last Sunday before worship was a first for me with FPC. It was the first time that I experienced a hymn sing before worship with you. It's a great tradition, and I pray that you enjoyed singing together. Singing is one of the ways we express the community's participation in one another's lives.

Sunday afternoon, as I drove home, I remembered a story that Winn Alley, one of my dearest friends, told me about his personal journey in life. He was a Methodist minister, and one of the most gifted preachers and hearts that I've ever known.

Winn shared the story of his stroke with me. He was pastor of one of the largest and most prestigious Methodist churches in Austin, Texas when he experienced a massive stroke. He was unable to walk, feed himself, talk or even put together thoughts for several weeks. The denomination gave him a paid leave for a while, but his recovery was slow. His wife found a job as a Christian Educator in another church in the Austin area.

During his long recuperation, Winn attended worship at the new church every Sunday. His wife and children made sure he was as comfortable as possible; they pushed him into the sanctuary; they lifted him into a pew; they sat near him. Every Sunday church folks would greet him as they entered the sanctuary and during the sharing of the peace. He could only nod his head in recognition of them. All he could do was basically sit.

Several years later he expressed his thankfulness to the church. He wrote something like the following. "When I was unable to help myself, you helped me. When I was unable to pray out loud; you gave sound to my prayers. When I was unable to sing; you gave melody to my heart. I thank God for you."

Winn did recover, and although he never had the physical power, his love of God and people was always shown through his thankful accepting heart. We were true friends. He passed away of a massive heart attack about two years ago. He helped shape my heart in these last few years and was truly a gift from God. I miss him tremendously. He taught me lessons about the body of Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

### ***A Letter from Comm. Lay Pastor Carrie Kapral***

It's super easy to lose track of healthy life rhythms. It happens to me more often than I would like to admit. We are blessed to have God's word to help us reorient ourselves and try to figure out what is really important, what is just important, and what is not important.

As we continue the "Fiddler on the Roof" sermon series this Sunday, we will examine the concept of Sabbath prayer, of Sabbath rest. Our text is Hebrews 4:6-11 and it is fascinating. Ultimately, the answer is Jesus, who invites us to come to HIM, not to a set of teachings, not to church, not to therapy, or work, or vacation. These things are all important, but they are not the answer. Jesus is the answer. We can come to church, and avoid Jesus. We can use knowledge, therapy, work, and vacation to avoid him. Perhaps the question for us to answer is "How?"

I'm looking forward to going through this text with you this Sunday. See you then!

Peace,  
Pastor Carrie

