



e-News

August 23rd, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

Youth Group Kickoff

Sunday, Aug. 27th 6-8pm

6th-12th graders

rsvp @ (815) 351-2975 by 8/23

For the full Youth Group schedule and more details visit our website at www.firstpresjoliet.org/youth

Jesus Said,
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

BACK TO CHURCH PICNIC
SEPTEMBER 10TH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- SET UP
- CLEAN UP
- SERVING FOOD
- GAMES

SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE

Church Family

Congratulations to Jill (Mueller) and Michael Strimel on the birth of Madison Jacqueline, born August 11th. Madison joins big brothers Jacob and Mason.

Prayers and sympathies to Bev Adelmann and her family after the recent loss of her brother-in-law Frank Alberica.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Mary Haas who passed away 8/16. Services are being held in Hastings, MN on Thursday.

Congratulations to Vivian and Tom Helwich on the birth of their daughter Isla Elizabeth Helwich on 6/26/23.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/27/23

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Estella Jurkovich
COFFEE: Al Brooks
LITURGIST: Sue Mott
ACOLYTE: Caroline Orr
SOUND: Cliff Stepina
VIDEO: Todd Hayden

August 23rd, 2023
Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$208,565
Year to Date Expenses	\$212,168
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
----------	---------------	-----------------	--------------------	------------	---------------	------------------	-------------------

The PNC is compiling the survey results into a report that will be shared with the congregation soon.

A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and peace be with you.

Grace and peace.

Reading the BBC News this morning I came across an article by Alexis James. He wrote about the Washington Generals. Some of us know the basketball team, which is not famous, but helps to showcase the Harlem Globetrotters. They are the foil against which the Globetrotters entertain the crowds. On January 5th 1971, in front of a disbelieving audience in the city of Martin, Tennessee, the man known as Red broke one of the most sacred unwritten rules in the sport. As player-coach for the Washington Generals, Red shot the winning basket against the Harlem Globetrotters. Everybody knows the Generals aren't supposed to beat the Globetrotters.

The Generals are 1 and 17,000 by design, but the lives of the Washington Generals players is an experience all of its own. Each of the players is a phenomenal athlete and most are scoring hall of famers in their respective NCAA university. Some have played for the NBA and many have played in the European leagues. If the games weren't rigged then they could give the Globetrotters a run for their money—at every game.

Can you imagine being a top tier player but having to lose every game? They have to disappear as the Globetrotters receive the accolades and cheers. That's not once in awhile, but every game. Even when the Generals arrive first at a café or cafeteria, the Globetrotters eat first. After all, they are the stars. The Generals never sign an autograph. It is true the Generals get to travel all over the world for free, and they get good salaries, but very few players stay on the Generals. It is very difficult for a great competitor to lose, step aside, and not be recognized for great skills. Players have quit in the middle of games, walked off in practice, and simply could not handle the constant pressure of loss after loss after loss.

I had never thought of that before! None of us know the pressures and difficulties which others experience or endure. We all have our own set of "Washington Generals" type limitations and struggles. The article opened the talented players' experiences and gave me a new perspective of what I do not know and the needs of others. We, people of faith and Christ's love, are called to accept others in their weaker moments in life. What a great difference it would make, if we did.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Carrie Kapral, Comm. Lay Pastor

Hi, friends!

Can you believe summer is coming to a close already? Fall is a beautiful time of the year, yet to get there, we have no choice but to leave the long, lazy days of summer behind. Life is like that. So much of the time, in order to embrace something new and good, we have to leave something, often something good, behind. This is what we will think about this Sunday as we read Paul's words in Romans 8:26-39.

Much of what happened in worship last Sunday is great to reflect on as we prepare our hearts for Romans this Sunday. I point out Psalm 118 - reminding us of God's goodness, and of his steadfast, enduring love. And also to Pastor Roy's words (I am paraphrasing here) that we should look for God until HE finds US. And lastly, the wisdom Pastor Craig shared as he talked about the importance of trust in the church body.

All such good stuff to remind us that no matter what the future holds, or what the past contained, God is, will be, and was there.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Carrie

Volunteer Opportunity!

The church is looking for a volunteer to help at the church from 8:00 a.m. on Mondays until at least noon. If this volunteer desires, they could stay until 4:30 p.m. (or another person could volunteer from noon – 4:30 p.m.) Duties include opening the church at 8:00 a.m., performing light custodial work, and assisting in the office.

If you are interested, please contact the church office or a member of the HR committee (Dave Steinberg, Carol Morrison, Don Caisley, or Dave Zang).

FPJ Choir

Joliet First Pres. has enjoyed a long tradition of excellent church choirs. Starting my 19th year, we have maintained that tradition. We always welcome more voices to join our choir family and help us continue the quality of music this church enjoys each week. It takes people willing to give some of their time and talent to fill the choir pews and contribute to our worship experience. The best time to make that commitment is when we begin the choir season. Our regular rehearsals start on **Wednesday night September 6th at 7:30 pm**. Rehearsals usually last around an hour. We will begin singing each week at the morning service on **Sunday, September 10th**. **There is a 9:30 am rehearsal before the service.** Anyone who wishes to sing with us is welcome. This choir family will be glad to

see you and support you. We have all levels of choral musicians. Many currently in this choir learned to do what we do each week by taking a chance and trying. If you want a great support group and you love to sing, we can help you be a part of our worship offering each week. You will enhance your worship experience and expand your circle of friends. I would welcome any questions. You can reach me at kenmyers54@comcast.net or 815-577-2691. Just leave a message with your preferred contact information.

Sincerely,
Ken Myers – Choirmaster, Joliet First Pres.