



e-News

August 30th, 2023

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

BOX CITY OF HOPE

Our Mission Council invites you to support this MorningStar Mission event to raise awareness and funds in support of those experiencing homelessness here in our community. Our own Sue Fordyce will be spending the night in a box.

If you would like to support this ministry financially you can bring in or mail a check with the memo of 'Box City'. You can also donate through our website on the 'giving' page, with a note for 'Box City' as well.



Church Family

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Mary Haas who passed away 8/16.

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Chet June who passed away on August 23rd. Memorial Service will be held at Carlson Holmquist Sayles Funeral Home, 2320 Black Road., Joliet, Saturday, September 2 at 11:00 AM. Visitation will be Friday from 3-7 PM.

Prayers of healing for Holly Tomashek following surgery.

Prayers of healing to Dale Gibson, a friend of Pastor Roy's, in Kankakee following surgery.

Thanks be to God for the progress Tom Cawley has made so far and prayers of continued healing.

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**

SUNDAY SERVANTS 9/3/23

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Estella Jurkovich, Jeff Lundeen

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Harriet O'Malley

ACOLYTE: Scarlett Poulos, Layla Poulos

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

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Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$223,489
Year to Date Expenses	\$237,710
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 soon.

A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus

The Torah is very clear about who could enter the Temple for worship, and Jesus as a Rabbi knew and obeyed the teachings of Moses. Included in the laws was that lepers, unclean, maimed, physically defected, and Gentiles were not allowed into the Temple. (Even Jewish women could enter only so far.) Lepers were unclean and excluded like blind people, those with deformities, etc.

The Gospel of Matthew records our Savior's Sermon the Mount. He not only reviewed the Mosaic Law, but added the deeper meaning to each law and expanded them into our daily, non-exceptional, lives. The last two verses in Matthew 7 are, "Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes." Such a conclusion sets up a clear transition into the following stories about Jesus' ministry.

The very first miracle of the following ministry is the astonishing healing of a leper (Matthew 8:1-4). The unclean, cut off, marginalized, pushed away, solitary, ritually impure man asks Jesus to make him clean. That is more than just outward healing. It would give him identity. It would be a new beginning and life. Jesus touches the untouchable, and the untouchable becomes clean. (Notice how Jesus sends the cleansed man to the priests at the Temple. Jesus, was a faithful Jew and followed the Laws of Moses.)

This Sunday we will see how the Holy Spirit still speaks through his obscure, almost un-relatable healing event.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

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.

Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

I am sure that all of us are looking forward to this Labor Day Weekend and everything that it brings, family and friend get together, last minute getaways, and enjoying the last summer days. There are days that our mind and our time focus on our labor, and it seems that the work we do consumes all our energy, and by the time that we think about chores or the Lord's work, we might feel that we've run out of gas and motivation. In those moments that we find the time and the energy to focus on the Lord, we get to experience the joy that comes with it, the satisfaction that lasts for a long time, and the peace of knowing that we are in the right place. I keep thinking of this verse from Genesis 1:31 ' *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning— the sixth day. God made all things, it was good and then it was a new day.*' What if we are to look at our lives and cling to the things that are good, the things that feed us, so we can go on to the next thing, and the next thing, and the next day? That is my prayer for each of you today and this weekend: Remember the things that God has you do that give you that foundation, that satisfaction and power, and build from there. The Lord is Good.

Happening at 805 Western:

- 1) Do not forget the **Back to Church Picnic on September 10th**. Yes there will be food, but more importantly we want to see you and be together. Here is the challenge for you, can you be here and drag everyone to church? Kids, Grandma, Grandpa, friends, and neighbors? We would love to see your people around.
- 2) This Saturday is our Night Deacons' **Free Pancake Breakfast**. As always, come check it out 8:30 –10 am.
- 3) This month we will have some **repairs** done around the church related to the water lines. Please check with the office before scheduling an activity.
- 4) **Box City of Hope** is coming up on September 8th 4pm—Sept. 9th 7am. Our Mission Council, partnering with MorningStar Mission, wants to invite you to be a part of this homelessness awareness event. Our own Sue Fordyce will spend the night in a box, as we raise money for those in need in our community. If you would like to support this event please write a check with the memo **BOXCITY** or stop by on Sep 8th at 1350 S.Briggs St in Joliet and check it out.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

PS: It is good to be back and see all the things that are coming up. I had a nice time away, Mom and Day say Hi to all of you and they are praying for us. Plus they are very faithful in watching our Sunday Services, and are even able to pinpoint who is in church and who is missing on Sunday. Someone is always watching.

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).