



# e-News

September 13th, 2023  
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

## NOTE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council would like to thank everyone who helped with the church picnic this past Sunday and for all who came to enjoy a meal, fun, and fellowship.

Mark your calendar for a Parish Council **Drive In Movie Night** Sunday November 5th at 5pm. More details to come—but save the date!

## Children's Church Corner

**September Faith Word:** CREATIVITY

**Lesson for 9/10:** 'God Creates People' *Genesis 1:26-2:4*

**Bible Verse:** "God saw how good it was." *Genesis 1:12c*

**Rock Snake:** We have a start on our Rock Snake! FPJ's Children's Ministry would like to invite you to add your own painted rocks to our rock snake. You can paint at home, or we have all the needed supplies here at church.

### FPJ Choir

We always welcome more voices to join our choir family. The best time to make that commitment is when we begin the choir season. Our regular rehearsals start on **Wednesday night September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**. Rehearsals usually last around an hour. We will begin singing each week at the morning service on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. **There is a 9:30 am rehearsal before the service.** Anyone who wishes to sing with us is welcome. 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. 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](mailto:kenmyers54@comcast.net) or 815-577-2691. Just leave a message with your preferred contact information.

Sincerely,  
 Ken Myers – Choirmaster, Joliet First Pres.

## Church Family

Prayers of health and recovery for Helen Steinberg's siblings Judi, with her recent surgery, and Jim after a recent cancer diagnosis.

Healing for Don and Mary Caisley's grandson Aaron.

Continued prayers for Keith Farr as he deals with health concerns.

## MIDWEEK:

Midweek Dinner and Classes starts again on Sep. 20th

We will have Kids Music, Kid's Bible Lessons, Dinner for everyone, Rec time for kids, and Bible Studies for adults. Kid's classes start at 5, with dinner 6:15. More details are available on our website.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 9/17/23

**USHERS:** Mark Fumagalli, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

**COFFEE:**

**LITURGIST:** Suzanne Penhale

**ACOLYTE:** Xavier DeNieuwe

**SOUND:** Rich Pool

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

## September 13th, 2023

### Stewardship Report

<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>	\$772,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$235,799
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$240,763
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$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**

Grace and peace be with you.  
Grace and peace.

Pastor Bo, Elder Dave Steinberg and I attended The Presbytery of Blackhawk September meeting yesterday. It was a great road trip to the Stronghold Camp in Oregon, Illinois. It's always impressive to see the our Presbyterian camp and all the recent upgrades. The car ride was lively with all kinds of conversation which Pastor Bo and Elder Dave initiated. (It is very odd to be the quiet one in the car!)

The meeting went very well and smoothly. We heard of the camp's amazing successes since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is amazingly healthy and close to catching up financially. The last two summers have been very successful in reaching people for Christ. We often forget that we have our own excellent camp so close to us. I encourage First Pres. to remember our children and youth during the Summer. They have many different types of camps from which to choose.

The different councils and committees of the Presbytery continue to stay up to date and faithful in the ministries of our Presbytery. They cover everything from Mission, New Church and Ministry Development, relationships with Pastors and Congregations, helping Candidates for ministry to prepare for their ministries of service, and a number of coordinated ministries for the 70+ churches of the Presbytery.

For me the highlight of the meeting was the worship. Three Kenyan's served the Lord's Supper, and we all received the bread and the cup with thankfulness to our Lord. Each of the representatives of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa shared with us in smaller groups about the churches and social ministries of water, education, aid, and health. We are all thankful for our partnership with our Presbytery and theirs. All in all, we are thankful that our Presbytery is continuing to be faithful to our shared ministries.

Grace and peace to all,  
Pastor Roy

### **Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor**

John 13:34-35

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

This week I was trying to remember first time I met Pastor Carrie and her family. For some reason it felt like she was always somewhere here, sometimes in the background, sometimes along side, and sometimes leading from the front. In my time here at 1st Pres I don't think there was a time when we did not interact and minister along side each other, even as she served at Elwood. For me, Pastor Carrie really put a face to the verse from John 13: love God and love people. I know I will miss her around, her creativity and honest heart in worship, I will miss her wisdom and insight in counseling, and the many, many, meetings we sat in together over the last two years. But what I will miss the most is her heart for this congregation. So I would like to encourage you to stop by on Sunday and wish her well and pray that wherever she goes people will see God's love though the many gifts that makes her Pastor Carrie.

### **Happening at 805 Western:**

- We just had a great ministry weekend with a great experience at Box City with MorningStar. Sue Fordyce's excitement and learning about this event is something to behold. I am looking forward to a day, soon enough, when she will share experience with all of us on a Sunday morning. She raised \$600 so far for MorningStar and I know she is not finished.

Also, a huge thank you to Parish Council, Kris Hayden, Jon Belfield, and Mike House who with the help of the Night Deacons hosted a great and beautiful picnic. Great weather, good worship, and delicious food, made this past Sunday a real special one. If you missed this one, watch for the next event that will pop up soon.

- **Midweek Family Night** is starting next week at 5 pm for the kids and 6 pm for the adults. Spaghetti and meatballs dinner will help us fill our bellies before we will fill our hearts in the Word of God and fellowship. I would love to see you there. Come grab dinner, fellowship and go to choir right after.

- **Session** is meeting this week - As always I would ask for your prayers for this group of dedicated people that are working so hard for this church. May the Spirit of God be with us all.

- Lastly it's never too early to mention **Trunk 'N' Treat**. October 25th is coming up. Trunks and volunteers are needed as every year. Registration is open on our website. Preparations are underway and we pray that once again the people we serve around our church will discover this place and the light of God that shines not just in the sanctuary, or parking lot, but in all of our hearts.

Hope your week is going well, and looking forward to see you in  
worship on Sunday,

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

- **9/20** Midweek Family Dinner and Classes starts
- **10/25** Trunk N Treat—registration is open on our website
- **11/5** Drive In Movie