



e-News

September 6th, 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 send in 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.

Jesus Said,

**YOU'VE GOT
A FRIEND
IN ME**

BACK TO CHURCH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 10TH

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 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. 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 or 815-577-2691. Just leave a message with your preferred contact information.

Sincerely,
 Ken Myers – Choirmaster, Joliet First Pres.

Church Family

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Chet June who passed away on August 23rd.

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.

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.

Prayers of healing for Ezequiel Diaz following surgery.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 9/10/23

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

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Emma Sticklen

ACOLYTE: Joseph Adler

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

September 6th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$229,777
Year to Date Expenses	\$237,727
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

Grace and peace be with you. Grace and peace.

This week we begin a series on the stories we thought we knew. If you have any favorite biblical story that you would like to be a sermon, or if you have a particularly pressing question that you would like addressed, then please, let us know. For this week we will address the Creation Story in Genesis 1 through Genesis 2:4. Many of the central themes of scripture are introduced in this wonderful passage. (This passage is used on Trinity Sunday.) We will tie this Creation Story with the first chapter of the Gospel of John. John employs Genesis 1 to introduce Jesus, the Messiah, the Word, and weaves a new story of God's faithfulness for his people. Together we will see how God continues to create. It is my prayer that we allow ourselves to be introduced to another level of truth in God's Church and his plan for each of us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

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

-kids will leave the service after 'Time with Children'

Nursery care is available during all worship services

Children's Church Corner

September Faith Word: CREATIVITY

Lesson for 9/10: 'God Creates Living Things' Genesis 1:20-25

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

Rock Painting: Stop by our kids table at the Back to Church Picnic and paint rocks with us! We will painting rocks to make a stone snake that will live in the mulch in front of the church.

Bo Mircea, Associate Pastor

Last Saturday, as I walked into Hoffman Hall during our Night Deacon's Pancake Breakfast, I was reminded of the Book of Acts and the church in Jerusalem, especially their ministry to those around them. The breakfast crowd is so diverse and every conversation becomes a moment of ministry, it might be a little prayer, a health update, or a little celebration that someone will share. It is more than food, it is about connections. So here is my thought for you this week: We are called to see people and connect with them, opening our hearts to them and embracing them where they are. That might be one of the biggest challenges we face as people of faith today, being open. I pray that we all can capture the heart of those believers from Jerusalem and learn to follow the Spirit of God, along the way with open arms to those in need.

Happening at 805 Western this week

- Mission Council is at **BOXCITY** - MorningStar this Friday, from 4 pm on. You can stop by and learn about the many challenges in our community and how MorningStar works to address homelessness. If you would like to support this ministry please talk to Sue Fordyce or anyone from Mission Council. Also if you stop by 350 S. Briggs, Joliet, and look for me, I will be your host and MC for the evening.
- **Back to Church Sunday Worship and Picnic** - Come ready for full hearts and full bellies. In worship and fellowship, we will feed our spirit from God's goodness, and around the table with good food and friends we will see God's love towards us. Bring a friend.
- Next Sunday Worship - Please join us as we Celebrate **Pastor Carrie Kapral's ministry** through the years and how much she means to us as a church. Do not miss this chance to visit with her and wish her well.
- I hope you had a chance to read last month's "Big Letter" and the update from Pastor Ovi and their **ministry in Ukraine**. It's still amazing to see the church's response to the need of the people in Ukraine. While I was in Romania, the local church hosted a group of six Ukrainian pastors and their families from an area close to the conflict zone, for a time of encouragement, love and fellowship. Things like this go unreported in the news, but they really capture the many facets of what ministry looks like in today's world. If you would like to contribute to their ministry please send it to First Pres. Joliet with the memo 'Ukraine'.
- **Midweek is coming on Sept 20th.** Music and Bible classes and rec time for the kids, a meal for all, and Bible fellowship and choir for the adults. Change your Wednesday routine and join us from 5 pm for the kids ministry and from 6:15 for the meal and adult bible fellowship.

Have a great weekend and looking forward to see you in church this Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

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).