



e-News

October 18th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

MIDWEEK:

Midweek Dinner and Classes each Wednesday!
 We have Kids Music, Kid's Bible Lessons, Dinner for everyone,
 Rec time for kids, and Bible Studies for adults.

Kid's Lessons at **5pm**, Dinner at **6:15pm**, with Adult Bible
 Study and Kid's Rec Time afterwards

**There will be no Midweek on 10/25, so everyone can enjoy
 Trunk N Treat that night!**

Church Family

Prayers of praise to God for good progress for Helen Steinberg's
 sister Judi, and continued prayers for health for Helen's brother Jim.

Continued prayers of healing for Don and Mary Caisley's grandson
 Aaron.

Continued prayers of health and healing for Keith Farr.

TRUNK N TREAT Oct. 25th 6 -7:30pm

Come one come all to this Halloween celebration that is so fun
 it's scary! Kids of all ages can don their costumes and trick or
 treat through our lot of decorated trunks. In addition to trick
 or treating, families can expect games, hot food, a bounce
 house, and even a petting zoo!

**GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND REGISTER TODAY TO RESERVE
 YOUR TRUNK SPOT**

SUNDAY SERVANTS 10/22/23

USHERS: Mark Dykema, Ed Schultz, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Diane Milosevich

ACOLYTE: Jacob Pritz

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: FAITH— *to believe in God's presence & to hope.*

Lesson for Sun. 10/22: 'Isaac is Born' -Genesis 21:1-7

Bible Verse: *"The Lord carried out just what he had
 promised."* - Genesis 12:21

Lesson for Wed. 10/18: God Takes Elijah to Heaven—2 Kings
 2:1-18

October 18th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$311,944
Year to Date Expenses	\$311,741
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 has been working diligently for months on the Mission Study Report to develop a clear understanding of who First Pres is today and who we are called to be. The study talks about our church both past and present. Compiling this information has been a huge undertaking, and is vital in helping us find the person best suited as our next called pastor. The PNC will be in the Fireside Room following worship on Sunday October 22 and Sunday October 29 to discuss the report and answer any questions you may have. To access the report visit our website's homepage and click the "First Pres Mission Study Report" button.

A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and peace be with you. Grace and peace. Are you noticing the energy around FPJ? It is encouraging to hear the conversations, identification, early thoughts, and the maturing of shared actions with a genuine growth in hope and expectations. The Session, Day and Night Deacons, the Councils and the differing ministries of the church family are turning the corner from the past towards God's future for us. Here's a few areas of the church which are beginning to materialize. The Session has worked on our council structure and by the end of this year we should be clearer in our responsibilities and practices. The Pastor Nominating Committee has tirelessly worked many hours to be close to concluding the Mission Study of the Congregation. (You can access the report on our website homepage by clicking the "First Pres Mission Study Report" button.) The PNC will host a post-worship conversation open to the entire congregation following worship on October 22 and October 29 in the Fireside Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend and enter the conversation.

Lindsay Gordon is now onboard to coordinate service to our families through Youth and Children ministries. We are thankful for her ministry as she joins our present children's and youth workers.

Church attendance is beginning to grow as we continue to recover from the difficulties of COVID. Our Wednesday evening family meal, study, and music ministries are taking the form of a supportive family of shared values and work. In general, I believe we are seeing the start of an energy and growth cycle which will be accelerated and driven by the Spirit when the new head of staff is called to this loving family of God. It is a blessing to be a part of your faithfulness during this transition time, and I thank you for your patience during the anxious transitional times.

This coming Sunday is a continuation of "Stories We Thought We Knew". We will discuss Hagar's Story of estrangement and rescue in Genesis 16, 21:9-17, 25:12 and Galatians 4:19-31. Read through the verses and come with an open mind and heart to hear God's message for you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy Backus

COMING UP AT FIRST PRES

10/25—Trunk N Treat

10/29 - Bible Sunday

11/16 Dinner Out Group

10/27—WHY30 Bowling Night

11/5 Drive in Movie

11/26 Blood Drive

Associate Pastor, Bo Mircea

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. —Colossians 3:12

I am sure you have heard about the events that developed over the weekend in our community, as a young Muslim boy lost his life and a family, a whole community, is in pain as a result of one man's actions. In some of the conversations I've had with folks this week, in the light of the events, I heard a silent cry for kindness and loving our neighbor. I heard the powerless feeling that paralyzes us when something like this happens. Yes the whole world seems to be falling apart, and it might even feel like your prayers for peace are just words hitting the walls and never reaching the heavens. And yet, it is in these times that who we are as people of faith makes a difference to the neighbor, to the friend, or the stranger. This is the time when our love, kindness, and gentleness becomes the driving force of who we are as people of faith. I would like to encourage you to let "Jesus shine", to let "Love win" even more than a week ago.

Praying for you and our community and friends, may the Lord bring his peace and comfort to this broken world.

Happening at 805 Western:

- This Sunday we will **celebrate our Children and Youth Ministry** in our worship by recognizing our Children and Youth team and also **welcome Lindsay Gordon**. So here is the invite: children, youth, parents, and all, come out and celebrate the faithfulness of the Lord in this area of ministry at First Pres.

- **Bible Sunday** is coming on **October 29th**. Please let us know if you would like a Bible for a child or youth or maybe for a friend of yours.

- Sunday the 22nd and 29th the **PNC will present their Mission Study Report** after the service. More information in this letter, see the PNC paragraph on the other side of this page.

- **Trunk 'N' Treat** is a week away. Thank you to all that already volunteered to help, and to those that are still considering a trunk please call the office so we can plan accordingly.

See you on Sunday,
Pastor Bo

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

If you haven't registered your child(ren) (ages 3- 8th grade) for Children's Music on Wednesdays (5-6:10pm), please do so ASAP so we may plan the music for the year. Everyone is to invite and bring a friend each week to Children's Music. Our first performance is Sunday, November 12. Parents, please watch your email for details. We have some exciting surprises and plans this year, but need to know who will be participating. We are encouraging ALL FAMILIES to try and come EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY to worship and praise God.

New this year - Students are asked to memorize 1 verse of scripture each week. All students who memorize all the scriptures at the end of the year will be recognized during church when we perform the musical. This would be a good family project to memorize as a family each week. Say before each meal, etc.

MEMORY VERSES each WEDNESDAY:

W. 10-11-23 "Be still, and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10.

W. 10-18-23 "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing" Psalm 23:1.

If you have any questions, please contact me through email or calling the church and I will return your call.

In His Service, Sarah Randolph randolphmusic3@gmail.com