



e-News

October 25th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

WHY30 Bowling Night

Oct. 27th at 7pm

Our young(ish) adults and young families are invited to the WHY30 Bowling/Arcade Night at Bowlero in Romeoville.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 10/29/23

USHERS: Mark Dykema, Ed Schultz, Barb Rodgers, Reed Mott
COFFEE: Sue Fordyce
LITURGIST: Chuck Tomashek
ACOLYTE: Crey Blaser
SOUND: Cliff Stepina
VIDEO: Drew Penhale

Drive In Movie Night

November 5th
Lot opens @ 4:30 Movie starts @5

Come watch "Blue Miracle" (NR). There will be free popcorn with other snacks available for purchase.

DINNER OUT GROUP

Thursday, November 16th
Meet at Al's Steakhouse at 6pm.

Call Carol Kline (815-630-7099) to be included in the reservation.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 10/29: 'Jacob and Esau' - *Genesis 25:19-28*

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

Lesson for Wed. 10/25: None— Enjoy Trunk N Treat!

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 health and healing for Don and Mary Caisley's grandson Aaron.

Prayers of praise to God for Keith Farr as he is able to return home.

Prayers of health for Lee Haldorson as he is in the hospital.

Congratulations to Jim & Barb Huey on the recent birth of their first grandchild, Jack Thomas Foody, on October 19th.

No Midweek 10/25 because- TRUNK N TREAT- TONIGHT!

Oct. 25th 6 -7:30pm

BIBLE SUNDAY

Oct. 29th— This Sunday

If you have a participant (age 4, 3rd grade, 6th grade) let the office know and we will be presenting new age-appropriate Bibles to them in live worship this Sunday.

October 25th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$317,174
Year to Date Expenses	\$311,744
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 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 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

From 1959 to 1961 there was a short lived, ABC, parody television game show created and hosted by Ernie Kovacs. It was titled, "Take a Good Look." Kovacs was a master of creative comedy and he used his cigar smoking persona to get Dutch Masters Cigars to sponsor the show. Edie Adams, Kovacs' wife, was the "Dutch Masters Girl." There was a panel of celebrities, similar to What's My Line, To Tell the Truth and What's My Secret, who would watch stylized, odd, film clips which contained abstract clues of the guest individual's profession, accomplishment, or some other characteristic. I loved the show for two major reasons. It was visually very silly, and it started at 9:30 PM CT which was past my bedtime on Thursday evenings. (Actually there was a third reason, Edie Adams was really pretty.) Mom and Dad would try to guess the clues, and I was always impressed by Mom's abilities and Dad's frustrations. We laughed and groaned a lot. All I can remember from my 9 to 11 year old memory are a few short visual film clips, Kovacs and his cigars, and the bright, smiling, faces of the actors. My emotional feeling memories are a sense of lightness of being, warmth of family gathered together, my folks playing and enjoying each other, and the special joy of a young person accepted by adults, even when it was past my bedtime. Cigars! Kovacs! It was all out of keeping with our values and very limiting family television time. It struck a chord of childhood "getting away with something" while my folks kinda' approved of it. That brings high marks in a youngster's life! For the show itself, I remember the difficulties the famous guests had trying to decipher the odd clips. They rarely figured them out!

How does this connect with church? I have super enjoyed preparing and presenting the ancient stories of our foundations in the Genesis stories. For me it is taking a good look, a new look, another open hearted investigation of these stories of faith. I'm continually surprised how they speak to our contemporary settings and push us to reevaluate our relationship with God, others and ourselves. This week we will take a good look at Abraham's outlandish acceptance of God's call to sacrifice his son Isaac. How does this story speak to our hearts? I pray that we can take a good look and know, and feel, God's message for us. Our texts are Genesis 22:1-18 and Hebrews 11:8-19. See you all Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

I am sure you are familiar with the THREE LEGGED STOOL illustration. We hear that in all type of contexts, from retirement, to life balance, to the way we budget things, and even in our nutrition. I was reminded of it this morning as I went to a Pastor's breakfast at Trinity School, where they talked about the connection between school, family, and church in their approach to education. That made me wonder... Do you see the church, and more specifically First Pres, as part of your three legged stool? That is important to know. As a church we are not here just for Sunday morning worship, or special events, we are here for one another in the not so good times of life, and in the times of questioning and wondering. That might not be easy for all of us to embrace because, let's face it, sometimes the hardest thing to do is ask for help, or open up to someone. And yet we are here for you, and I am not speaking just for myself, but on behalf of the staff, and people I work with on Session and different committees, because I see it in their hearts and minds. So here's a little reminder and encouragement to you: You are not alone, reach out, open up, and let the Lord work through His church.

HAPPENING AT 805 WESTERN THIS WEEK:

- **Trunk N Treat** is on for tonight, we are still praying for no rain (pray with us)
- **Bible Sunday** is this coming Sunday, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday sharing this precious gift of God with our kids, youth and all those that need a new Bible.
- **Why 30 Friday Night Out** at 7 pm on Friday at Bowlero in Romeoville
- Mark your calendars for the **Drive In Movie Night** Nov. 5th, the **Dinner Out Group** on Nov. 16th, the **Thanksgiving Service** on Nov 21st, and **Blood Drive** on Nov 29th

More to come, stay connected, and see you on Sunday.

Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

Thank you so much for your warm and gracious welcome last Sunday! It was such a joy to be able to join you in worshipping our Lord. I am so excited to continue to get to know each of you and to partner with you in the important work of discipling our kids and students.

This week, I have so enjoyed seeing the changing colors of fall. As I've taken my dog, Rocket, out for walks, I smile every time I see the vibrant colors of the leaves. It reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:11 - "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Our creative God has put so much beautiful detail into our world, and has given us the joy of seeing each season bring a new expression of that beauty. And yet, all of this is just a glimpse of His power, and of His plans for us. As the leaves change in their time, be reminded that while we don't know what the Lord has in store for us, we can trust that He has good and beautiful plans for each of us.

As we look ahead on our semester calendar, I would like to take a moment to cast some vision for where we are heading with our youth group. Student ministry is a huge passion of mine, and I am so excited to dive in! As we do that, we want to be intentional to discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding us, and to lay the foundation one piece at a time with forward momentum in mind.

That said, our hope is to kick off on January 7th, with a rhythm of meeting weekly. We will continue this fall with the bimonthly schedule, as we are swiftly approaching the holiday season (isn't that wild?!). With our four remaining gatherings this semester, we'll continue to build community as we spend time in fellowship together - which Matt and Laura Pritz have already done an incredible job of - while also incorporating some devotional-style teaching. We had so much fun this past Sunday getting to know each other and sharing some good laughs while playing games together. I greatly look forward to continuing that at our next gathering on November 5th!

While we're on the topic of getting to know our students - I'd love to be able to cheer on your students in any of their extracurricular activities. If your student has upcoming sports, music, theater, etc. events coming up, would you please share those dates with me? Being able to cheer them on at their games or musicals (or whatever it is!) gives me so much joy, and I'd love to be able to support them in that way.

I am excited and expectant for all of the amazing things that God will do in the lives of our kids and students. Thank you again for welcoming me here. I can't wait to see what God is going to do!

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon

Blessings, Pastor Bo