



e-News

October 4th, 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 **6pm**, with Adult Bible Study
 and Kid's Rec Time afterwards

SUNDAY SERVANTS 10/8/23

USHERS: Jeff Lundeen, Laura House, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

LITURGIST: Laura Sutton

ACOLYTE: Kennedy Orr

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

Dear friends,

Thank you for arranging to bring Beth and me so many
 delicious meals, and a chance to visit with special friends. The
 visits have been a chance to keep in touch while I can't attend
 in-person. Many years ago, Will and I took meals to shut-ins
 and always enjoyed seeing them.

Blessings! Joyce Miner.

Youth Group

Youth Group is meeting this Sunday October 8th from 6-8pm.

All youths in 6th-12th grade are invited.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for 10/1: 'God's Promise to Abraham' - Genesis 15:1-6

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

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.

Prayers of healing for Chuck Sticklen.

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Glenn Brosell
 who passed away recently.

Sympathies and prayers for Barb Huey and her family after the
 recent loss of her father.

Hello!

I have no words to express my thanks for your farewell to
 me. All I can think to say is **THANK YOU** for your prayers, your
 love, the generous gift, and the wisdom I take with me
 because of all of you.

Peace be with each one of you and I pray for God's blessings
 on the ministries of First Pres as you move forward into the
 future.

With great fondness,
 Carrie

October 4th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$288,157
Year to Date Expenses	\$285,023
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 Mission Study Report is nearing completion. More details to come soon.

A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and peace be with you.
Grace and peace.

There is a bunch of seeking and evaluating of our present and future ministries. We are far from the end of these searches. We will take our time, and it will take a while. How long will it take? I believe the answer was stated on the radio this morning! A radio interview, considering the present Vatican Synod, included the following question: "How fast will it take to answer questions and decide about women's ministry and marriage and such in the Catholic Church?" The speaker simply said, "It will happen at the speed of church." We all know that is quite awhile! We will try to answer any questions, so please ask them! Give your heart to the Lord and your Church. Expect to see the Lord work through us.

This week we will look at Genesis 11, the famous story of the Tower of Babel. Humans joined together to build a tower to heaven. They wanted to be the equal in God's heaven. (In many ways it seems like a repeat of the self centered, personal selfishness of Adam and Eve.) In this case, the Lord causes them to have different languages. It confuses the assembly, and they leave in total confusion.

It is definitely a story to explain why there are so many languages, why it's hard for folks to get along with one another, and the importance that the Lord is ultimately in charge of all people. We will spend a little time to understand this amazing experience. As Christians, we believe a major part of the answer is found in Acts 2, the remembrance of the first Pentecost.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday morning!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

A NOTE ON OUR ORGAN

The organ upgrade from 3.5 floppy computer to new computer with USB is finished and fully paid for! This is how we are able to enjoy the organ when we don't have a live organist to play. The upgrade was paid for with the \$5000 in the organ fund, private donations, and memorials. If you have any information of the history of the organ or pictures inside the church before the sanctuary was flipped, please send that to the church office.

Watch our livestream from 9/24 at 10:40 to see the presentation I made about organ update.

NOW - The Organ Fund needs to be replenished for future repairs and upgrades. As God Guides You AFTER your weekly offerings: Special Organ Fund Donations are appreciated.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

A GIANT THANK YOU TO BEV ADELMANN FOR MAKING ALL OF THE ORGAN RECORDINGS FREE!! This Sunday, come hear Bev play her beautiful music LIVE!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE ORGAN UPGRADE!

To God Be the Glory!
Sarah Randolph on behalf of Worship Council

Associate Pastor, Bo Mircea

Have you ever thought about righteousness? I mean, really thought about it? There is a reason why we use the term "self-righteousness", isn't there? I will be the first one to tell you that is one of the problems that lies inside of us. We think about who we are by comparing ourselves to the people around us, the human standard that has been coded into us since we were little humans trying to make sense of life. You are better than Susie because you do not run in the hallway, or you are better than Johnny because you shared your snack today. Then we have a whole generation of little humans growing up knowing that they are the best at everything they do. Somehow we get caught up in that whole cycle and we forget the one rule: God is the standard for righteousness; and we all fall short of it. Romans 3: 22-24: This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. It is in that spirit that we all are counted "right" before God, that who we are becomes what God has done and is doing in our lives. A work in progress you might say, but something we all aspire to. While I am talking about Romans, have you thought about joining us for Midweek ,after dinner, to see what God is teaching as we open our hearts to Paul speaking to the church in Rome? If not, you are invited to come and join us.

Happening at 805 Western:

- **Midweek** - Good food, good fellowship and great Bible learning for all, and music for the kids and the not so kids, Join us tonight from 5 pm.

- **Trunk N Treat** - Oct 25th is coming fast, and we need your help with trunks, serving food, and helping host our visitors. Preparations are under way, invitations are being sent out, and so much more. This is more than a Halloween party for the kids, it is a living display of loving our neighborhood.

- More work is being done this week on finalizing the **upgrades to the Sound system**, to help both live and online worship. Thank you to the Sound team and Video team for their work every week.

Praying that your week is going well, and looking forward to see on Sunday, stop and say Hi.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

