



e-News

November 1st, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/5/23

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Scherrie Sanchez
COFFEE: Jasmine Keir
LITURGIST: Caroline Kline
ACOLYTE: Caleb Adler
SOUND: Rich Pool
VIDEO: Matt Blaser

Drive In Movie Night November 5th

Lot opens @ 4:30 Movie starts @5
 Come watch "Blue Miracle" (NR), an inspiring family movie based on a true story. There will be free popcorn with other snacks available for purchase.
 If the weather is bad the event will be moved inside.

Micro Food Pantry—Holiday Request

For November and December we are asking for special donations of dry milk and holiday baking items for our Micro Pantry. There will be a collection box in the Narthex. *Examples of requested items include, but are not limited to: spices, flour, sugar, cake/cookie mixes, icing, veg shortening, baking powder, baking soda.*

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: BLESSING— All the things God provides.

Lesson for Sun. 11/5: 'The Birthright' *Genesis 25:29-34*

Bible Verse: "I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go." *Genesis 28:15*

Lesson for Wed. 10/25: 'God Surrounds Elisha with an Army'
2 Kings 6:8-23

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.

Continued prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson.

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

Prayers of life and health for Georgene Venske.

Prayers and sympathies to the friends and family of Glenn Brosell who passed Sep. 20th. His service will be held Sat. 11/11 at 12pm at Carlson Funeral Home.

Stars of Hope

Stars are available in Hoffman Hall. Please sign out which star(s) you take and make sure to grab the instruction/guideline sheet. Wrapped gifts are due back at FPJ by Nov. 29th or to MorningStar Mission by Dec. 1st.

Each star has a list of either 'needs' or 'wants' for a specific child in need, here in our community.

November 1st, 2023 **Stewardship Report**

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$322,927
Year to Date Expenses	\$335,125
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. 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.

Typing November 1, 2023 was jarring for me. I recognized that we are actually in November! The weather already expressed it; the trees were showing me; but typing this late autumnal date caught me off guard. Suddenly we find ourselves in the season of thankfulness for so many blessings.

When I think of all the blessings in my life, I put faces on them. It's the people who invested their lives into mine whom I remember. My parents, my siblings, pastors, teachers, and the many adopted church aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends have shaped me into who I am. It is people who shape me. Zoom and other connecting media are artificial and too often distancing. They may help in work and administration, but the personal, face to face, life changing presence of another cannot be duplicated.

This old mind of mine cannot imagine the classes at the public schools I attended or the church related college, seminaries and universities I attended, without the teachers. In all the classes, whether the subject was exciting or not, I was mentored by dedicated educators who invested their lives into their students. For me, the person who taught a course was as important as the subject they shared. The men and women who actually prepared to impart knowledge, and often their passion for that knowledge, into my life still live in my mind. I remember them. I celebrate them. It never was the subject as much as the life which spoke to my soul. A major part of my life is enjoying new information, but it never takes a life of its own until it is shared.

The church is a perfect place to dive into lifelong relationships and meaning. It is when we are together that the Spirit of God shapes us through one another.

This week we will check out Genesis 25. It tells the beginning of the Esau and Jacob story. Our New Testament text is Hebrews 12, expresses an Early Church understanding of the story. I look forward to sharing the story of Jacob and Esau and God's message for us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

A Letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe we're already in the month of November! This year has been flying by so fast. As we will be swiftly approaching Thanksgiving, I'd like to take a moment to share about a practice I've adopted in recent years. It's called "The 30 Days of Thanks." Each day of November, identify one thing that you're thankful for. You can log this in a journal or a personal note, or even share it on social media, as I've seen done with the hashtag #30DaysofThanks to invite others to join you. It's a simple exercise, but simple exercises can have foundational impacts on our relationship with God.

James 1:17 says,
"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Thanksgiving, take the time to identify those gifts that He's given you. And while He is unchanging, we can be intentional about the changing of our perspectives. Practicing gratitude daily can make the difference between such attitudes as "Ugh, the sun is in my eyes," or "The warmth of the sun on my face feels lovely." When we exhibit perspectives of gratitude, it can be infectious - but so can negative perspectives. So the question is, which perspective would you like to spread around?

Looking ahead to this week, I'm thankful to join you at Midweek tonight! We'll also gather this Sunday from 6-8pm for Youth Group, where we'll be introducing the first of our devotional-style teachings for this semester. We'll spend the rest of this semester talking about different miracles of Jesus in the Gospels, and I'm so excited to prepare our hearts in this way as we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Jesus's birth next month.

I'm grateful for each of you, and for the opportunity to partner with you in ministry!

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon

A Letter from Associate Pastor, Bo Mircea

First Pres, I just want to say THANK YOU to all the people that came out last week and made Trunk N Treat a HUGE success. Rain or no rain, this church knows how to host and minister to the people around us. That is a good reminder to all of us to continue to focus on the ministry that God has put into our hands and hearts. As I have said many times before: We are at our best when we are outside the walls of this church and serving. November and December will be filled with opportunities for us to serve and be present with people that God will bring our way, and I pray that we all will be able to have open hearts and eyes and also open arms for them all.

Happening at 805 Western this week:

- **Drive In Movie Night** - Sunday Nov. 5th. The lot opens at 4:30, the movie starts at 5pm. We will be showing "Blue Miracle" an inspiring family movie based on a true story. There will be free popcorn and other snacks available for purchase.
- **Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast** - Saturday at 8:30 am - If I would say these will be the best pancakes you will eat this week you will think I am false advertising, and yet I am saying it. Come out and join us for breakfast.
- Mark your calendar for the **Community Thanksgiving Worship Service** on Tuesday Nov 21st and **Blood Drive** on November 26th.

Looking forward to see you this Sunday. Also if you want to join me on Sunday at 9 am in Hoffman Hall for coffee, and some very open conversations about faith, life, and God at work in our lives please consider this my personal invitation. We have better coffee than Pastor Roy's Sunday School class. :)

Blessings,
Pastor Bo Mircea