



e-News

November 15th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 2nd

Worship Council invites YOU to join us as we decorate our church for the Christmas season! Decorating begins at 9 am, but please feel free to come at 8:30 am for the Night Deacons' free pancake breakfast. You will enjoy good food and fellowship before we prepare First Pres for Advent and Christmas. "Many hands make light work" - we should be done before noon. Thank You!!

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

WHERE: Joliet Jewish Congregation

WHEN: Nov. 21 Worship Service at 7pm. Refreshments to follow

This year First Presbyterian Church of Joliet will be continuing the tradition of participating in a Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. There are many varied places of worship here in our community that come together to celebrate, give thanks, and worship alongside each other. **PLEASE REGISTER on our website if you intend to attend.**

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: BLESSING— All the things God provides.

Lesson for Sun. 11/19: 'Jacob's Ladder' Genesis 28:10-22

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

Lesson for Wed. 11/15: 'God is Our Creator' Psalm 139:1-18

Church Family

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

Continued prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson.

Prayers and sympathies for Amy Rowland, her sister Jennifer Rowland, and Jennifer and Brian's children Maverick and Scarlett after the recent passing of Brian Lewis.

Prayers of health for Judy Jordan and Mary Jane Johnson.

During this time of Thanksgiving we remember and pray for those who are serving or have served in the U.S. Military.

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/19/23

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

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce
LITURGIST: Tiffany DeNieuwe
ACOLYTE: Claire Moretti
SOUND: Keith LeVasseur
VIDEO: Drew Penhale

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Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$345,828
Year to Date Expenses	\$358,094
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 is working on some edits to the report and will post the revised version on our website when it is completed.

A Letter from Transitional Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and peace be with you. Grace and peace.

Some 17 years ago I met an impressive man whom I will always hold dear in my life. He passed away a year ago, and his wife passed away 6 months later. They moved to a retirement community, and we kept in touch through their years away from Illinois. He was a very successful man who loved his hometown and used his urban planning degree from Dartmouth University to lead his community through many difficult but successful years. Working with other business people he set up a foundation to help with civic causes. It stands strong and very much alive through his foundational leadership and it's trustees. This weekend the funeral for the couple will be held. It's the farewell to a good friend who taught me many great lessons in life.

There was one time, when I believe I helped him see a little deeper than he had seen before. I was in my office and he greeted me by peeking in the door. He said he had exceptionally good news. We sat at the table, and he shared that certain past members of the church had retired in Florida. They were there for several years and now passed away. In their will they left several hundreds of thousands of dollars to the county foundation, several thousands of dollars to the county hospital, and several thousands of dollars to the county library. I agreed that they were very generous. I asked him if I heard it correctly that they were members of our church. He answered yes. I added, so they remembered three very significant not for profits in their hometown, but didn't invest in the future of the very central and necessary institution which gave them, their children, and their grandchildren the basics of faith, living for God, and valuing others. For a few moments he looked dumbfounded and then told me had never thought of it that way before.

Years later he reminded me of our conversation, and although he had always invested in the church, he was clear when sharing about legacies, the importance of placing faith in their future plans. I encourage all of us to use our heritage wisely.

At 9am this coming Sunday, we will discuss Genesis 37. I encourage you to read a few chapters before and a few chapters after, so the context will be clear.

Grace and peace be with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

Micro Food Pantry—Holiday Request

The November and December holidays will soon be with us. Part of the joyful holidays is the cooking and baking yummy treats for our family and friends. But, not everyone has the money to be able to buy the ingredients for their holidays. The volunteers who take care of our micro food pantry are going to try to help our clients during

November and December by stocking ½ of the regular food they provide and the other ½ with items for our clients to make treats for their families and friends such as flour, sugar, cookie mix, cake mix, pie filling, frosting, spices, nuts, and etc., etc. You can also be helpful by buying items like those above and putting them in the blue tub in the entrance on Western Ave. The volunteers will take those items and add them when needed – like Tuesdays and Thursdays (there are no volunteers on those days). Just imagine how happy a mother would be if she was able to bake and decorate cookies with her children for the first time because YOU opened your heart and gave the ingredients.

NOTE: *We cannot take fresh fruit or vegetables, any dairy items other than powdered milk, home-made food, or take items that have been opened.*

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

Hello everyone!

What a joy it was to have our kids leading us in worship this past Sunday! The truths of the song "There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do" have been ringing in my heart and mind as we prepare for another week of Youth Group this upcoming Sunday. We'll continue to talk about the miracles of Jesus - focusing this week on His provision through the miracle of feeding the five thousand. We will also be providing some Christmas joy, as we band together to wrap Christmas gifts for Stars of Hope, and as we sponsor a star together. Students are encouraged to bring a donation of \$5-10 to youth group, so we can provide gifts for a child together! Being able to partner with one another as the Body of Christ is such a beautiful thing.

Our upcoming youth group dates are this Sunday, the 19th, and December 3rd and 17th. I hope your student can join us! We'll see you at Midweek!

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon

A Letter from Associate Pastor, Bo Mircea

This Sunday we are starting a two part sermon based on Joseph's life (Genesis 37- 50). You might know him as the youngest of the 12 sons of Jacob, the one that his father loved, the dreamer, and even the tattletale. Joseph was far from perfect! There is a part of me that understands his brothers, and the problems they have with their youngest brother. I can see their envy more like frustration, I can see their frustration more like an annoyance, I can see them and understand them. I am not excusing their behavior but I am not letting Joseph get a clean state on this one either. This Sunday we will take a look at that part of his life where Joseph, a rough diamond is cut into a brilliant stone that reflects God in a way that makes you go 'wow'. I would like to encourage you to read the whole story while asking this question: How is God working in my own life?

Happening this month on the corner of Raynor and Western:

- **This Sunday** - Sunday School in Fireside and also Life Group in Hoffman Hall at 9 am - Explore the sermon text with Pastor Roy, or find context for some of the life questions in context of faith with Pastor Bo.

- **Next Sunday** - Blood Drive in Hoffman Hall 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you can register online that would be a great help to us in organizing this event.

- **Tuesday Nov. 21st** - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Joliet Jewish Congregation. The Worship Service begins at 7 pm, with refreshments to follow. Please register online.

Looking forward to see you in worship on Sunday. Please stop by and say Hi :)

Blessings,
Pastor Bo M.