



e-News

November 22nd, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

Stars of Hope

Wrapped gifts are due back at FPJ by Nov. 29th or to MorningStar Mission by Dec. 1st.

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!!

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday 11/26 from 8:30am—12:30pm

Walk-ins welcome, appointments appreciated. Donate blood through Versiti this Sunday in Hoffman Hall. Each donor receives a \$15 gift card. Make your appointment today through the link on our website.

OASIS Women's Ministry Rialto Outing

December 3rd Show at 2pm

An outing to see 'Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas', a festive comedy show. Tickets are \$45. Please contact Kris Hayden if you would like to attend. (815-258-8617)(tkkhay@yahoo.com)

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: BLESSING— All the things God provides.

Lesson for Sun. 11/26: 'A Peaceable Kingdom' -Isaiah 11:6-9

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

Lesson for Wed. 11/22: No Midweek—Happy Thanksgiving!

Church Family

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

Prayers of health for Judy Jordan and Mary Jane Johnson.

Prayers of healing for Mary Caisley's sister Linda after her recent serious accident.

Prayers for those experiencing emotional distress this holiday week.

Prayers of healing for Al Brooks after his recent surgery.

Prayers of healing for Peter Mbi after his recent surgery.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/26/23

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Scherrie Sanchez, Reed Mott, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Dave Zang

ACOLYTE: Kennedy Orr

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

NO MIDWEEK 11/22

MIDWEEK REUMES 11/29

November 22nd, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$353,955
Year to Date Expenses	\$361,943
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 Associate Pastor, Bo Mircea

Happy Thanksgiving to all and may God watch over you and your dear ones as you gather around the table, or travel to be with family.

It is only noon on Tuesday as I sit down to write this week's eNews, and yet I feel like it has already been a long week. Maybe it is because of a short office week, or looking forward to getting things done before the day is over, or the excitement of traveling to see good friends over Thanksgiving, I could not tell you what it is. But I can say: I am thankful for the excitement or the unsettled feeling, the rush of what is still to be done and so much more.

Maybe it is because of this: Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

As I was preparing for this coming Sunday, this verse was in the background of my mind. God has a way of being present in our lives that at times it is not easy to recognize, and yet when we do we get to experience the hope and comfort that faith builds in us. This Sunday we continue to walk with Joseph; this time he is in Egypt and sees what God is doing in him and through him. As we get ready for Sunday please ask yourself this question: What is the gift that God gave me, that keeps me going each and every day?

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

P.S. Please remember Blood Drive on Sunday from 8:30-12:30.

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

Hello everyone!

Happy Thanksgiving! However you find yourself celebrating this week, my prayer for you is that it is a time full of joy, peace, and celebration of the ways that God has moved this year.

Last Sunday at Youth Group, we spent some time discussing the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand, and we looked at what we called the three C's of Jesus's provision - compassion, community, and copious blessing. Not only did Jesus freely provide the multitude with compassion by not turning them away and healing their sick, or even with the copious blessing of the meal that came with twelve baskets of leftovers; but by having the people sit down in groups before the miraculous multiplication of those loaves and fish - something I hadn't paid much attention to before - He provided the crowd with community. No one was eating alone.

Isn't there something so beautiful about sharing a meal with someone? Even with someone you maybe don't know all that well yet. What a beautiful gift the sharing of a meal can be. Relationships are built around a table. Walls come down when bread gets broken.

Whether or not you're sitting down around a turkey, I hope you're able to savor some relational time this week. I thank God for the wonderful gift of fellowship - something I've been extra grateful for this past month getting to know each of you.

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon

NOTE: The church office will be closed Thursday 11/23 and Friday 11/24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Christmas Breakfast December 17th 8:30-9:40am

Our Night Deacons will be continuing the tradition of a free special Christmas Breakfast on Dec 17th. Feed your body with ham, French toast, eggs, and fruit before feeding your soul in worship.

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.*

POINSETTIAS

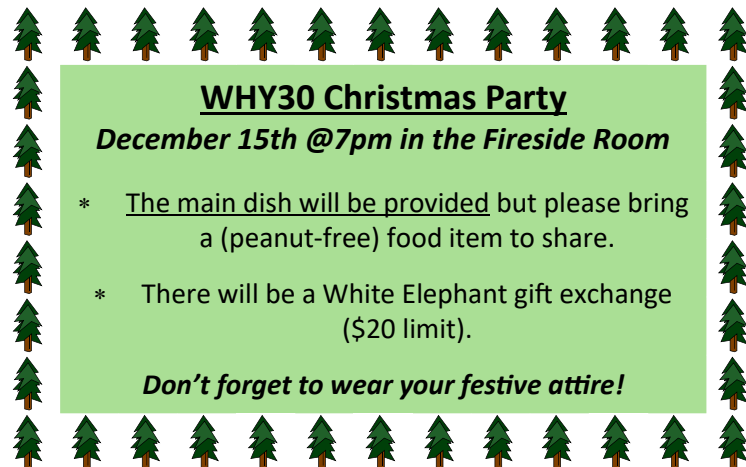
Cut off date is Dec. 11th

Help decorate our sanctuary this Christmas with beautiful poinsettia plants.

Each poinsettia is \$15.

Place your poinsettia order today on our website or with the form in your bulletin





WHY30 Christmas Party
December 15th @7pm in the Fireside Room

- * The main dish will be provided but please bring a (peanut-free) food item to share.
- * There will be a White Elephant gift exchange (\$20 limit).

Don't forget to wear your festive attire!