



e-News

November 8th, 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.

Christmas Decorating

December 2nd 9am

Swing by to help prepare First Pres for the Christmas season with festive decorations. Feel free to come for the Free Pancake Breakfast at 8:30, and decorate afterwards.

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

WHERE: Joliet Jewish Congregation

WHEN: Nov. 21 Refreshments at 6:30pm Worship Service at 7pm.

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.

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. 11/12: 'The Blessing' -Genesis 27:1-45

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

Lesson for Wed. 11/8: 'God is faithful to Nehemiah' - Nehemiah 1-2

Church Family

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

Continued prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson.

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.

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 as they are in St. Joseph's hospital.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/12/23

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

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Carla DeYoung

ACOLYTE: Vivian Orr

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

November 8th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$330,832
Year to Date Expenses	\$338,651
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.

High school was relatively easy for me. Even though I took honors and advance placement classes, the materials given were at an appropriate pace to demand very little out of class preparation or homework. Literary courses were a little different, because one had to know the material which had to be read before a reaction or evaluation paper could be written. As the school term moved along, the major assignment, the term paper, the class's major project would become a clear focal point. This brought the importance of "the night before it's due" into reality. Many times I'd have friends over at the house, and we'd keep each other company through the night until early morning. Then there were those nights of more pressing study and work where being alone was a necessity. On those long lonely nights of hard and deep study, arranging and writing. I remember the angst, frustration, and finally the ultimate completion of the work. (I used to joke that, "The Lord would never have made the night before it's due, if he didn't want us to use it.")

Over the years many major events and experiences require a great deal of advanced planning and preparation. In these situations, the preparation runs full steam until the actual due date. Weddings, graduations, births, new jobs, moving, and a number of additional high preparation events enter into our lives. Even when the preparation is finished, we are full of emotions and anxiety for the arrival of the big day.

This week we will hear God's Word. Jacob prepares to meet his brother. He has to face the consequences of his past actions. (Genesis 32) The Mount of Olives Jesus prepares for the next day, the day of his crucifixion. I believe both events speak to our hearts. (Luke 22: 31-48 and 52-54) See you Sunday!

Grace and peace,
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, or any dairy items other than powdered milk. We can only take items from a store (no home-made food) and we cannot take items that have been opened (like a bag of sugar that has been opened).

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

Hello everyone!

Last Sunday at Youth Group, we kicked off a devotional series for the rest of the semester, during which we'll be discussing different miracles of Jesus. Even though we don't get to see Him performing miracles right in front of us, He is still at work in each of our lives. When we look at the miracles He performed during His earthly ministry, we can learn more and more about His character. This week, we talked about Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 8, Mark 4). We identified three different reminders that this miracle gives us: that God is with us, that He is in control, and that storms are opportunities to see God at work in our lives. My prayer for each of us is that we would have the eyes to see how He is at work, even now. And, that no matter what storm you are walking through right now, that you would be filled with the comfort and peace of our God as He declares "Peace! Be still!" over the wind and waves.

Youth group will gather again on November 19th, and we'll be continuing our discussion of the miracles of Jesus. I can't wait to gather again, and I look forward to seeing you at Midweek!

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon

A Letter from Associate Pastor, Bo Mircea

This morning I was reminded of the story of Jesus stepping in the middle of the road, and while surrounded by a great multitude of people, he takes time to notice a man that climbed up a tree. The Bible even records his name, Zacchaeus. I could probably spend hours talking about why I like this man, trying to understand his actions, or what motivated him to go up the tree. And yet I would rather talk about one specific thing: He was noticed! He was seen! Jesus points at him, and says: I am going to get to know you, I will spend time with you. Our world can be a lonely place, a place where people need help, a place where we need to watch out for Zacchaeus. I pray again and again, that in this place, that we will notice and make room for Zacchaeus. Because Jesus is still walking the streets today, this time it might be you or I that need to say: Come down, I need to know you.

Happening at 805 Western:

1. **Midweek is tonight!** Food! Fellowship! Music! Fun! And great Bible studies wait for you. This is your official invitation to join us tonight from 5 pm for the kids, and 6-ish for dinner.
2. **Stars of Hope** are ready to be picked up. 38 stars are still looking for caring people to make someone's Christmas a little brighter. Stop in Hoffman Hall to pick one up.
3. **Community Thanksgiving Service** is coming up on November 21st at 6:30 at the Joliet Jewish Congregation.
4. **Blood Drive November 26th** from 8:30 -12:30. Mission Council is inviting you to be part of this great Thanksgiving tradition here at First Pres.

I am sure that there are more things happening around this old building, but I think that is good for now. Looking forward to see you in church this weekend.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo Mircea