



e-News

December 20th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

No Room, No Vacancy

There was no room in the inn (Luke 2, Verse 7). We all know this story. The innkeeper told Mary and Joseph that he had no room, no vacancy. All he had was a lowly stable in the back of the property. There our Savior, the Savior of the world, was born in a manger.

Where will you put Jesus in your life this Christmas season? Will He be front and center, or with all the other activities of the season, will you say “No room, no vacancy”? Perhaps you will find some room in the back reaches of your life. Take a moment to examine where you want our Savior this Christmas season.

Will it be front and center or will it be in the background to be dusted off once or twice a year or when you need help? Let us always make sure Jesus is first in our lives.

Remember that no matter what our situation is, God always has room for us.

-Dave Steinberg

Church Family

Continued prayers of healing for Mary Caisley’s sister Linda.

Prayers of relief and recovery for Lindsay Gordon as she suffers through an intense prolonged migraine.

Prayers for Dixie Balsley and her mom Doris who has gone into hospice care and is ready to go home to the Lord.

As we go into this holiday season let us remember those who experience anxiety and loneliness during this season and pray that Christ’s peace will find room in their hearts.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIT WORSHIP

Sunday December 24th

10am: Family Service
 -nursery care provided
 -Coffee Fellowship afterwards

7pm: Jazz Casual Service

10:30pm: Christmas Musicale

11pm: Traditional Service

SUNDAY SERVANTS 12/24/23

USHERS: 10am- Barb Rodgers, Mark Dykema, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

7pm- Bo Mircea

10:30pm- Ed Schultz, Reed Mott, Al Brooks, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: 10am-Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: 10am-Meghan Pritz

11pm-Bo Mircea

ADVENT CANDLE: 10am-Meghan and Lillian Pritz

11pm-Chuck and Holly Tomashek

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: 10am- Keith LeVasseur

7pm- Cliff Stepina

10:30pm- Rich Pool

VIDEO: 10am- Jen Gabl

7pm- Todd Hayden

10:30pm- Matt Blaser

December 20th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$439,789
Year to Date Expenses	\$423,033
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

"Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."

The Grinch

I keep thinking of the things the Grinch does as Christmas Day comes closer and closer. There is denial, there is a little bit of frustration, anger, and finally acceptance and celebration. If that sounds familiar, welcome to Christmas. In the rush of the season we get to experience a lot of emotions, and the beauty of it is that all of it makes Christmas - Christmas! When you think of it Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, the shepherds, the wise men, and even the king and the priests, all brought something to the season. The miracle of it is that somehow God works his peace and favor in an exceptional way when we keep an open heart. I pray that your heart will grow three sizes this season and the peace of God will live in your heart all year long.

From 805 Western:

Hope to see you in church on Sunday for the Christmas Eve Services at 10 am, 7 pm, or 11 pm, with the Christmas Musicale at 10:30. Come celebrate the Lord being born anew in our hearts.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo Mircea

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING NOTES

- * Adult Sunday School will not meet Sunday 12/24, but will resume on Sunday 1/7
- * Life Group will not meet Sunday 12/24, but will resume on Sunday 1/7
- * Midweek Nights will resume 1/10
- * Please check with your leader for any other small group programming changes
- * The church office will be closed 12/25 and 1/1

Dinner Out Group

December 21st 5pm

Angeli's in Naperville. RSVP to Carol Kline (815) 630-7099

Undecorating

1/6 at 9am

Head to FPJ to enjoy a Free Pancake Breakfast from our Night Deacons, and afterwards lend a hand to our Worship Council as they dutifully put away the Christmas decorations around the church.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
from First Pres. Joliet