



e-News

January 10th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

January 14th after worship in the Fireside Room

Learn about First Pres and officially join our membership.

DINNER OUT GROUP

1/18th at 6pm

Meet at McWethy's Tavern in Romeoville (1700 W Renwick Rd.)
 Speak with Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

SERVE DAY

St. John Lutheran Food Pantry Serve Day—Jan 20th

Speak with our Night Deacons if you would like to participate.

KIDS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Sunday Jan 28th

Join us in worship to enjoy & support our Kids Musical Performance and all their hard work.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 6pm-8pm

Starting this Sunday Youth Group will be meeting weekly

Children's Church Corner

January's Faith Word: INCLUDE- to welcome all of God's children in God's love.

Lesson for Sun. 1/14: 'Calling the Disciples' *Matthew 4:18-22*

Bible Verse: "The Lord is good to everyone and everything; God's compassion extends to all his handiwork!" *Psalms 145:9*

Lesson for Wed. 1/10: "God Hears Zechariah's Prayer"
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

Church Family

Prayers for Don and Mary Caisley as their siblings experience serious medical events.

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

Prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson.

Sympathies and prayers to Mark and Maureen Fumagalli on the passing of Mark's brother-in-law, Robert Catalano.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 1/14/24

USHERS: Estella Jurkovich, Sue Fordyce, Mark Fumagalli

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Sue Fordyce

ACOLYTE: Jillian Penhale

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

January 10th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$463,439
Year to Date Expenses	\$446,011
Per Capita	\$43.00

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
----------	---------------	-----------------	--------------------	------------	---------------	------------------	-------------------

The PNC has submitted the finalized Mission Study Report (you can read it on our website) to the Commission on Ministry of Blackhawk Presbytery. Soon we will be able to access the Church Leadership Connection website where we will put together the information that is needed to search for a pastor. We hope to start seeing resumes and applications in the near future. This is a slow and tedious process and we are committed to being thorough in our search.

A letter from Transitional Head Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and Peace be with you.
Grace and peace.

This is the letter which I gave to the Session on December 14, 2023.

“Session:

1) Thank you for the opportunity to serve First Presbyterian Church, Joliet. These months have been challenging and meaningful to me. I believe I've done what I can do, and the process of the church needs to continue as the Lord leads the church. My prayers will remain with you. I look forward to a less busy more focused agenda for myself.

2) My last day of work will be February 29, 2024. This will allow me to give coverage while Bo is on vacation, preparation time for the church to be led by HR with guidance from Presbytery, as well as, a reasonable determination of additional adjustments in the church's ongoing mission.

3) I do have one request for this short transitional time. I believe it is best to keep the church's focus on Advent and Christmas. So my request is that you remain faithful to the executive nature of this time in our meeting, and allow HR with cooperation from the Clerk of Session to announce the resignation on Sunday the 14th of January. HR meets on January 8.

May the Lord continue to work in the hearts and through the lives of this family of God.”

This week in worship we will continue in the preaching series of "How to Share Your Faith." We will employ 1 Samuel 3:1-11 and John 1: 43-51. See you Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Roy

A letter from Associate Pastor Bo Mircea

As I landed in Chicago last night and I was welcomed by the cold and snowy weather, I found myself asking: Was it this cold last year? And the simple answer is: Of course it was, it is winter in Illinois what do you expect? You see sometimes we get caught on the “today” on the latest news or headline, nothing wrong about being passionate or up to date, but when we do that we sometimes forget the ways the Lord is present on our lives. When the Ten Commandments were given, the Israelites were worshiping a golden calf, because they forgot to look to God, and be faithful, and their hearts were caught up in the uncertainty of the day. As I look at my own resolutions and desires for the New Year, there is one prayer I want to share with you: Lord, let me not forget your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22–23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Happening at 805 Western:

- **Serve Day** January 20th 7 am -11pm at Saint Johns (more details to follow)

- **Midweek** is on its weekly schedule along with dinner and Chancel Choir. We will be looking at finalizing the Book of Romans this year.

- This Sunday - **New Members Class** following the Sunday Worship service - If you would like to know more about 1st Press Joliet please stop by and bring your questions.

Looking forward to worship along side you on Sunday,

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Ps. I had a wonderful time with my parents, and indeed I pulled the perfect Christmas Surprise. Thank you for your prayers along the way. Mom and Dad say Hi and wanted me to share their prayers for you.

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

Hello everyone!

I pray this note finds you safe and warm in this winter wonderland we're in! I don't know about you, but weather like this makes me impatient for springtime. Even still, I'm not trying to fast forward too far ahead. I am trying to practice being present, even if the weather is tempting me to not be.

Speaking of the present, we have a lot of fun happening with our kids and our students! I'm excited to get back to Midweek nights with you all tonight. It is always good to gather together, and I've been looking forward to restarting that routine. Our students kicked off this semester of youth group this past Sunday, and we are now going to be meeting weekly! I'm excited and expectant to see what God has in store for our kids and students as we step into this new season.

As many of our kids and students head back to school this week, please let me know if there are ways that I can support your child or student. I would love to attend any events or games and cheer them on!

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon