



e-News

January 24th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday January 28th

We will hold our annual congregational meeting for to elect new officers for this year so they may be ordained and installed. At this worship service we will also be receiving our new members.

KIDS CHOIR

Sunday Jan 28th

Join us in worship to enjoy & support our Kids Choir and all their hard work as they perform select songs.

YOUTH GROUP SUPERBOWL-ING

February 9th

Youths in 6th-12th grade are invited to a night of fun at Bowlero in Romeoville. Bring a friend!

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th

9am -10am: Drop-in imposition of ashes & prayer time
 5:30pm: Fellowship Dinner
 6:30pm: Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 1/28: 'God's Kingdom' Luke 13:18-21

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

Lesson for Wed. 1/24: "Jesus Teaches Us to Live Differently" Matthew 5-7

Church Family

Sympathies and prayers for Don Caisley and his family after the recent loss of his brother Bill.

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

Continued prayers of healing for Lee Haldorson.

Prayers for Helen Steinberg's brother Jim.

Prayers for Carol as she considers hospice care, and for support for her family in this decision.

Prayers requested for the healing of Anna Jean Wilhelms, daughter of Carol (Randolph) and Nathan Wilhelms and Granddaughter of Sarah and Craig Randolph to be born about May 30, 2024.

Prayers for peace and comfort for George Redman as he is hospitalized.

Prayers of health and recovery for Brandon Voga, a friend of Pastor Roy, following his surgery.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 6pm-8pm

Each Sunday in room 206 (Unless otherwise specified)

January 24th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$481,918
Year to Date Expenses	\$480,310
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
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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.

The Apostle Paul lived, preached and wrote about the great tension between freedom in Christ and responsibility to live an example of Christ. We live in this dichotomy every day in our own Christian lives. Yes, the Lord removes the barriers and offers forgiveness and a new start daily, but he also requires us to live as people totally committed to him without any rights of our own. The freedom of salvation and new life was purchased through the sacrifice of Jesus. He laid down his life for us. He gave up all his rights, including his right to live, to pay the price of our sin. In our present times, we are totally consumed with protecting our rights over giving of ourselves for others to experience full, free life. We wrestle and argue for our freedoms, while millions around us have very few. The Apostle Paul reminds us of our Christian calling and the thoughtfulness which is required of us as witnesses to Christ.

Together we will investigate this lifelong challenge as we read the ancient inspired words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 8. Inspecting our souls, attitudes and actions we are guided to meaningful life. See you Sunday.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

P.S. Be preparing for our Jazz Worship on February 11! We will practice clapping on beats 2 and 4 in each measure! You will be blessed!

SUNDAY SERVANTS 1/28/24

USHERS: Jeff Lundeen, Sherrie Sanchez, Al Brooks, Mark Fumagalli

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Evan Lundeen

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

A letter from Associate Pastor Bo Mircea

*“May we live in peace without weeping.
May our joy outline the lives we touch without ceasing.
And may our love fill the world, angel wings tenderly beating.”*
-Traditional Irish Blessing

There are days when prayer is not the easiest thing to do. Days when the words of prayer feel like drops of lead falling all around you, and yet we pray. We pray, not so much to talk to God, but more so in a desire to hear from God, to receive that word of life, direction, comfort, or strength. We pray with a thirst and a hunger that is hard to understand. And yet we pray. I want to encourage you in this day, not to give up prayer when those hard times come your way. Even if that prayer is ‘Lord have mercy!’ Pray. It is in those times that God works in us, and as hard as it might be, it is in those times we learn to lean on God. That is my prayer for you today. May you know that God is there in the silence, in the tears, and may you know His presence.

Happening at 805 Western

-Tonight at **Midweek** we will continue our journey through Romans, after we enjoy some good food and fellowship. Don't forget Kids Music Class and Kids Bible Class are always before dinner on Wednesday Night.

-**Thank you to everyone that volunteered** last weekend at St. John Food Pantry. Another serve opportunity will soon be presented. This is a great connection opportunity with new and old friends, as we get to serve.

-For **Parents and Grandparents**, please stop Lindsay on a Sunday and ask her about all the things that are coming up for the kids and the youth. Some great exciting stuff is always around the corner.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

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

Hello everyone!

I hope this message finds you all nice and warm somewhere! I'm one of those people who would much rather be hot than cold, so these past couple of weeks have not been the most fun. But I'm thankful that we're back up in the double digits, and hopefully it stays that way!

Last week at Midweek, we had a fun conversation with the kids about miracles during our lesson, titled “Jesus is amazing!” Part of that conversation was focusing on the miracles that we don't realize are happening all the time - such as our hearts beating, our brains containing billions of synapses constantly communicating with each other, and our lungs constantly refilling themselves without us even needing to think about it. It was convicting for me to see their eyes light up with wonder at the miracle of their own bodies - something I know that I often take for granted. When we look around our world with the expectation that God is still performing miracles all around us, we begin to notice the things that may seem small or overlooked.

I know that I needed this reminder in this season - both with the weather and with my health (thank you so much for your prayers while I still battle this prolonged migraine!). God is at work all around us! May we all be encouraged by that truth, and have the eyes to see how He is moving.

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon