



e-News

January 3rd, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

UNDECORATING

1/6 at 9am

Head to FPJ to enjoy a Free Pancake Breakfast from our Night Deacons (8:30am), and afterwards lend a hand to our Worship Council as they dutifully put away the Christmas decorations around the church.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

January 14th after worship in the Fireside Room

Learn about First Pres and officially join our membership.

SERVE DAY

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

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

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. 1/7: 'Jesus' Baptism' - Matthew 3:13-17

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

Lesson for Wed. 12/27: Midweek is on break for the holidays and will resume January 10th. Happy New Year!

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 and sympathies to Dixie Balsley and her family after the passing of her mother Christmas morning.
- 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 1/7/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Al Brooks

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Jim Huey

ACOLYTE: Crey Blaser

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

January 3rd, 2024

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$457,863
Year to Date Expenses	\$443,302
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 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 Transitional Head Pastor Roy Backus

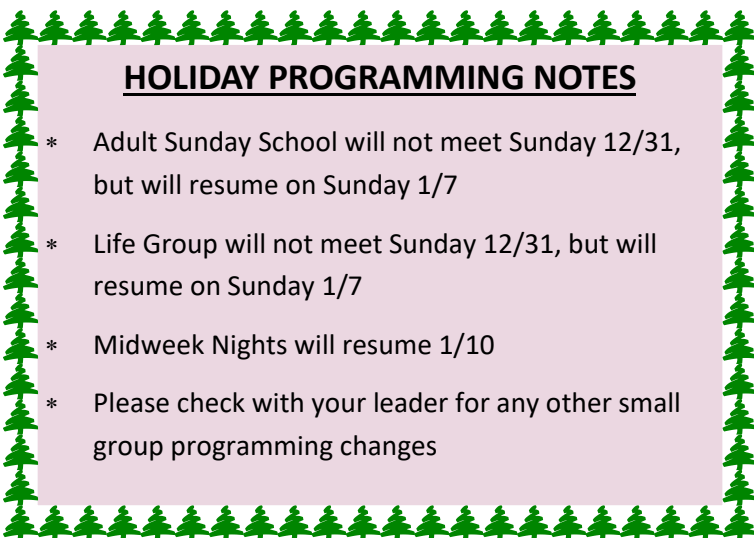
Grace and peace be with you. Grace and peace.

It's the New Year, and we begin a new start on the eternal gospel of our Lord. In every Presbyterian Church I've pastored there's a clear avoidance by active, energized, sold out Christians who are willing to minister in the area of evangelism. Although we all give lip service to bringing people to Christ, few people feel comfortable sharing their love and commitment to Jesus in conversations outside a church setting. It is contradictory that we believe in sharing faith and at the same time we stay so quiet. These next few weeks we will focus on Evangelion. Evangelion refers to the gospel in Christianity, translated from the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (euangélion, Latin: evangelium) meaning "Good News." It's the message of Jesus' life gift for all people. We are not complete Christians unless we can freely speak of our relationship with Jesus in comfortable conversations with others. This sharing has nothing to do with some kind of absolute memorization of certain spiritual truths, but the simple loving conversation about our best friend with other friends. This week we will investigate the ways Christ and Christians have shared the faith with those in their communities.

The Lectionary Texts for this week are: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29:1-11, Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11. See you Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

P.S. New Member Class will meet in the Fireside Room following January 14th Worship Service. We will share a little about this great church and answer questions about our faith and how we live our Covenant, Christian Faith.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING NOTES

- * Adult Sunday School will not meet Sunday 12/31, but will resume on Sunday 1/7
- * Life Group will not meet Sunday 12/31, 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

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

Hello everyone!

The first few days of a new year are always exciting and potentially overwhelming, as we each navigate new beginnings. Maybe you're trying to stick with a goal or resolution, or maybe you're struggling to remember to write "2024" instead of "2023." However these first few days have found you, my hope is that you'll remember that God's love for you never changes. There is no resolution, goal, status, or achievement that can make Him love you any more or less. You are already made worthy by Jesus - nothing we can achieve or fail to achieve will change that.

While we're on the topic of new beginnings, I'm excited for a few reasons. This Sunday at 6pm, youth group will begin meeting weekly! Following our youth group kickoff, Midweek gatherings will begin again on the 10th. I'm so excited for our kids and students to begin to gather again, and to see all that God is going to do this semester.

As sports, clubs, plays, and recitals begin again as well, please let me know if there are ways that I can support your child or student. I would love to attend any events and cheer them on!

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon

Sundays @ FPJ

9 am—Adult Sunday School with Pastor Roy

9am—Life Group in Hoffman

10 am—Live Worship Service

Before and After Worship—Coffee Fellowship

Lessons and activities for kids age 3 through 5th grade are during the 10am worship service
-kid's will leave the service after 'Time with Children'

Nursery care is available during all worship services