



e-News

February 14th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th

5:30pm: Fellowship Dinner

6:30pm: Ash Wednesday Worship Service

DINNER OUT GROUP

Thursday Feb. 15th

Meet at La Dulce Vita in Plainfield at 6pm
 Speak with Carol Kline to be included in the reservation

YOUTH GROUP SUPERBOWL-ING

Sunday February 18th 5-7pm

The participation fee is \$10, and bowling, shoes, food, and drinks are included.

**Reach out to your Youth Group leaders if you're interested.
 Bring your friends!**

Church Family

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

Prayers for Helen Steinberg's brother Jim.

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 and sympathies to the Haldorson and Diaz family after the passing of Lee Haldorson.

Prayers and sympathies to Reed Mott and his family after the recent passing of his nephew Ryan Mott.

Prayers of health and recovery for Joyce Bossen.

Prayers for Mary Caisley's sister Linda.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday March 23rd @9am

Participants can enjoy a delicious breakfast, craft activities, a reading of the Easter Story, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and of course an egg hunt!

Children's Church Corner

February's Faith Word: GUIDE— Showing the way, like the light of Christ.

Lesson for Sun. 2/18: 'Mary and Martha' Luke 10:35-41

Bible Verse: "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior." Luke 1:46-47

Lesson for Wed. 2/14: No lesson—Join us for the Ash Wednesday Dinner at 5:30, and worship service at 6:30 *nursery care provided*

February 14th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$527,743
Year to Date Expenses	\$527,536
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. We are beginning to put together the information that is needed to search for a pastor using the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection website. 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.

Last Sunday's Jazz Service was a great gift from our musicians to our musicians and our congregation. The musicians in First Pres. are very trained, accomplished, and enjoy cooperating to create inspiring music for all of us. In particular I want to thank Ken for all his extra hours of preparation for the service. In addition, our Worship Team helped lead in the vocals along with our excellent choir. It's been such a blessing for me over these last almost 18 months to be inspired by the old gospel songs, classic choral arrangements, new praise music, and joyfully beautiful songs and lyrics lifting our Lord on high. There was another couple of folks behind the scenes who really made a difference last Sunday. Our sound and vision techs, Cliff, Rich and Keith did a great job. A couple of my church friends watched live online, and they were impressed by the balance of the band and the choir and vocals. They worked hard, as did the musicians.

For those of you who may be interested in Christian Jazz, there are many Presbyterians and other denominations who are exploring and sharing their Christ centered music. I recommend Rev. Bill Cater of First Presbyterian Church, Clark Summit, PA, as a great beginning. He is a tremendous force in the religious music scene. A great keyboard player who writes, arranges and is known internationally. You can find his web page at www.presbybop.com There are excellent teaching materials, jazz hymnals, song books, and information to explore the Jazz idiom in worship.

The Lord bless you,
grace and peace
Pastor Roy

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVANTS 2/14/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Morrison, Sue Fordyce, Al Brooks

LITURGIST: Kris Hayden

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

A letter from Associate Pastor Bo Mircea

Why celebrate Ash Wednesday? - You are dust and to dust you shall return - God spoke those words to Adam and Eve, as He passed on judgment for their disobedience. And it seems, that from that moment on, all the creation fell under that judgment. If you are to look around at all that is going on, you might even say Lord, until when? While today might be a very somber day, a reminder of our ephemeral nature, today is also a reminder of God's love for His creation. It is in that reminder that we can look forward, in faith, to the day that we will be welcomed in God's eternal rest, in the peace that the Lord has prepared for us in the eternal Eden. I hope that you can join us tonight for worship and fellowship. Dinner starts at 5:30 pm and service at 6:30 pm.

Happening at 805 Western this week:

- **Ash Wednesday** - Dinner at 5:30 and Worship at 6:30
- Thursday - 6:00 pm **Dinner Group Out** at La Dolce Vita (16108 Illinois Rte 59, Plainfield,)
- **Youth Group Bowling** - Sunday 2/18 from 2-7pm
- **Project Linus** is back on - Monday the 26th from 9 am to Noon - come and help Linus get a new blanky, by making fleece blankets for kids in need in our community.

Praying for you all this week,

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/18/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Mark Fumagalli, Joe Boyd

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Suzanne Penhale

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

Happy Valentine's Day to you and your families, and wishing you joy and peace as we enter into the season of Lent this Ash Wednesday! I am grateful to be back home and able to join in worship with you tonight at our Ash Wednesday dinner and service. I missed being with you all these past couple of Sundays. Thank you so much for your prayers and support - they were felt and so appreciated!

Our Youth Group Super Bowl(ing) has been rescheduled for this Sunday, 2/18, from 5-7pm. We will not be meeting at the church this Sunday for youth group. We will meet inside the front doors of Bowlero in Romeoville. Food, soft drinks, and bowling shoe rentals are provided. Please let me know if you plan on attending at your earliest convenience - \$10 and a signed activity waiver can be turned in the day of. Let me know if you have any questions! I'm so excited!

Thank you again for your prayers, and I look forward to seeing you tonight!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon