



# e-News

February 7th, 2024  
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th

**9am -10am:** Drop-in imposition of ashes & prayer time  
**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

## 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!

## SPRING FEVER CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

April 27th 9am-2pm

30+ Crafters and Vendors expected on site  
 Special prize drawings | Snack Café  
 Interested crafters & vendors can find more info on our website, or by contacting Kris Hayden.

## Children's Church Corner

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

**Lesson for Sun. 2/11:** 'Jesus Calms the Storm' Mark 4:35-41

**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. 2/7:** "Jesus Heals a Man's Deformed Hand on the Sabbath" Mark 3:1-6

## 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. His funeral will be Feb 9th, visitation from 10am-12, service at 12, here at First Pres.

## MIDWEEK

Each Wednesday night

5-6:15 Kids Music and Bible classes  
 6:15- 6:45 Dinner  
 6:45 - 7:15 Adult Bible class and kids rec/gym time  
 7:30 Chancel Choir practice

February 7th, 2024

### Stewardship Report

<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>	\$772,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$516,917
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$527,274
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$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.

There is no way any of y'all can be as excited as I am about this week's coming service. We will celebrate the Lord's Transfiguration. We will join Peter, James, and John and take a few moments to see our Lord in an entirely new light! It is my prayer that we will see Jesus in new and always present ways.

We will have the SwingSet Big Band with us in worship. They will accompany our choir and congregation in music. It will be a special time in worship. Ken, Kristina, Beth, the Chancel Choir, and Worship Band members have put a great deal of preparation into this service. We pray we will see you. It will be a truly different worship experience which will touch all our lives in new, fresh ways. The Pastor's Discovery Class Bible Study will be cancelled the next two Sundays (February 11 and 18). We will meet on Sunday, February 25. I can not begin to tell you how much I have enjoyed teaching with all the great folks in our Sunday, adult educational event.

Grace and peace be with you.  
Pastor Roy

*A letter from Associate Pastor Bo Mircea*

I want to share with you my experience with last's year morning Drop-In Imposition of Ashes, and why I would like to encourage you to stop by. Being in the quietness of the sanctuary, on a day that feels just like a work day, and yet being able to pause and meditate on the words: 'From dust to dust'. It is a reminder of your mortal condition, and yet in the same breath it is an understanding in that recognizing our mortality ,there is a grace that comes to meet us and to lift us up into the hope of Easter. These moments are precious because when our hearts seek God in a humble way, with a sense of hanging on to God as our hope, we are able to understand so much more about our condition and our relationship with God, the sustainer of our lives.

As people came into the sanctuary and took time to read a prayer, it felt like opening a door and welcoming a weary traveler. As we prayed in the front of the sanctuary, and received the sign of the ashes, it felt like bringing ourselves as a sacrifice before God, and a rededication of our lives unto the Lord. So, is this something I would encourage someone to attend? You bet. I want to invite you to start your Lent journey early on Wednesday the 14th between 9 am - 10 am for a time of prayer, and a time of grace. I hope to see you next week.

### **Happening at 805 Western**

-Continue to pray for our Session as they are leading us through this season of ministry.

-As you know Lindsay Gordon, our Children and Youth Director is in hospital at this time and we are praying for a quick and lasting treatment for her migraines.

-Meanwhile the Youth Group Bowling outing is being rescheduled. Watch for more details.

See you around church this week.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## **SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/11/24**

**USHERS:** Sherrie Sanchez, Mark Fumagalli

**COFFEE:** Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

**ACOLYTE:** Joseph Adler

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

## **YOUTH GROUP SUPERBOWL-ING**

### **RESCHEDULING**

The Youth Group event at Bowlero that was originally scheduled for Friday Feb. 9th is being rescheduled.

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

***Reach out to your Youth Group leaders if you're interested (you can bring friends!). Make sure to check future communications for the new date.***