



e-News

May 29th, 2024

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

VBS 2024

June 24th –28th
9am—Noon

SCUBA- Diving into Friendship with God

Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

REGISTER TODAY at <https://www.firstpresjoliet.org/vbs2024/>
VOLUNTEERS are what make VBS so spectacular every year, so please consider supporting this ministry by donating your time. Reach out to Lindsay for more information, or register online.



REGISTER HERE

For participants and volunteers

WELCOME BACK—GETTING 2 KNOW U

Oasis Women's Ministry
6/9th 11:30am-1:30pm

Ladies are invited to kick off bringing back Oasis Women's Ministry by enjoying a nice lunch, fellowship and fun after worship. Contact the church office if you need childcare or nursery care.

GRADUATES

Include your grad on our graduate board!

LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT— DUE BY MAY 31st!

May 29th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$86,438
Year to Date Expenses	\$90,406
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.

Church Family

Prayers for Lindsay Gordon as her migraine persists.

Prayers of sympathy for Duke Barnes and family on the passing of his sister in law, Donna Barnes.

Longtime member Mary "Molly" Wachtl passed away in Arizona on November 23, 2023. Friends are invited to join the family at Cemenos's Pizza this Friday, May 31, anytime between 3-6 pm to remember Molly and celebrate her life.

Prayers of health and healing for: Anna Jean Wilhelms, Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, Tim Reyes, and Pat Haldorson

CHURCH DIRECTORY

If your information has changed please contact the church office A.S.A.P. to make sure it is updated in the upcoming FPJ Directory. office@firstpresjoliet.org 1(815)727-9259

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Starting June 3rd Mon-Fri 11:30am-1pm

This ministry provides healthy and free lunches for kids who might otherwise rely on school lunches. If you are interested in supporting this ministry please reach out to Barb Rodgers.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 6/2/24

USHERS: Mark Dykema, Ed Schultz, Mark Fumagalli

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Joe Milosevich

ACOLYTE: Jillian Penhale

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: PEACE-Living together in harmony without fighting. To be calm and know God's presence.

Lesson for Sun. 6/2: 'Abraham and Lot' *Genesis 13:1-18*

Bible Verse: "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children." *Matthew 5:9*

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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First Pres has posted our Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website and is being matched with potential candidates for Senior Pastor. Please continue to pray for the committee as we search for the person God has for our church.

A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea

1 Corinthians 11:26 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

What is the Gospel? Good News - right? We have been familiar with those words for many, many years in our church lingo. But how is death good news? How is the proclamation of the Savior's death good news? Think about receiving a huge inheritance, of getting all the things you always wanted, but at the cost of losing someone that really loved you. I know it is probably not the best way to capture the fullness of the love present in the Cup and the Bread we share as part of our Christian devotion. Yet, I still believe there is an ounce of beauty in that illustration. Christ loved me so much that He chose death, his body broken, his blood spilled, for me to be able to enter into the eternal promise that God has for me. As a result, I am now a new creation, a redeemed prodigal son, a citizen of heaven, always sharing in the eternal promise.

There is good news that comes from proclaiming the sad news. And each time we partake in that proclamation, not only do we testify to our faith, but we speak good news to the world. I want to invite you to come with an expecting heart this Sunday in Worship, ready to receive grace, and ready to take that ounce of hope to the world that needs it.

I am looking forward to sharing with you more about Baptism and the Lord's Supper as we continue our dive into the "I Believe" series. I would also like to extend an invitation to help me if you can, with a short three week sermon series focusing on "Balanced life- a short dive into what the Bible says about Mental Health". If you have a story, a testimony, or something to share I would love to speak to you. The Bible speaks to the wholeness of who we are, and does not shy away from talking about the struggles of life, so why should we? I look forward to sharing some thoughts on the way God cares for us, in July.

This year is a little different for me as we enter the month of June, as I would normally be looking for volunteers for VBS, looking at T-shirts, snacks, and so much more. I confess some days I just want to go full 'VBS Bo' and forget all the other things that are on my plate. But I won't. Lindsay and the whole VBS team are working on getting all the things set up for the last week in June. Firetrucks, ice-cream, celebrations, and more will all be here. If I can ask anything of us as a church this time around, it's this: Please stop by one morning, or during the celebration, encourage all the volunteers, and see the joy of what it means to minister to kids and youth. There is something contagious about it. I can hardly wait to see what our team will do with the great theme of SCUBA - Diving into friendship with God. That reminds me, if you have teenagers at home, or your teenagers have friends that are hanging at your home, send them our way. We would love to see them not just volunteering for VBS but for all the Youth Group summer fun.

I would also like to ask you to think about Sunday Morning Worship. As you know, we will be looking for a Worship Vocalist to help enhance our Sunday Worship services. If you know someone gifted in that area, with a strong faith, and a passion to lead the people of God in music, please talk to them and let us know. Worship Council would love to hear from you.

One Last thing today: As you know there is a lot of construction going on around the church. As always I would encourage you to use the parking lot across the street if you can. Stewardship is working with the Building and Grounds Committee to replace the aging and collapsing fence in the parking lot, and also making plans for a new parking lot surface and striping, when the proper conditions are in place. In other words: Pardon our dust. We are still open for business.

Have a great week and see you Sunday,

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I hope you all had a restful and fun holiday weekend. We were able to enjoy some family time and relax around a bonfire, which always makes things feel more like summer. It felt like a great way to kick off all the exciting things that are coming up this June - it's hard to believe that June will already be here at the end of this week!

This Sunday after service, we will be sticking around to make some VBS crafts together! These crafts will be part of our decorations, so by making a few crafts with us, you will be helping to decorate the church for VBS! We will be ordering pizza for those who can stay and craft with us - whether that's for just a few minutes or for a while, we appreciate your help!

Next Wednesday, our youth group will be meeting up for our first outing of the summer at Family Fun Zone in Crest Hill, for an evening of roller skating from 6-8pm! Admission is \$10, and skate rentals are \$5. **If you invite a friend, we'll cover the cost of admission and skate rentals for you and your friend!** Please fill out an activity waiver and turn it in before entering Family Fun Zone to participate. Families are welcome to join us as well!

Applications were mailed out for our Youth Group Missions Week! Please let me know if you did not receive one and need one for your student. We will be gearing up to serve the Joliet area July 9-11th, with the church as our home base for the week. It is going to be an amazing week of service and fellowship, and your student will not want to miss it!

As always, please let me know how I can be supporting your family - whether in prayer, or by cheering on your child at their summer sporting event! Grateful to be on mission for God's kingdom with all of you.

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

VBS CRAFT DAY

We need your help! **June 2 after service** all people of all ages are invited to join us to create decorations for VBS. Come make one or more of the following projects. All supplies and lunch will be provided.



This is a fun opportunity to make a big show of support for this ministry that is so important to our church and our community.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Summer is a hiatus for the Chancel Choir. This creates a need for volunteers to provide special music during services in June and July (and likely August). If you have the necessary skills to perform **either vocally or instrumentally** and wish to volunteer your talents, **please contact the office**. More info available on our website.