



e-News

July 17th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

DINNER OUT GROUP

July 18th at 6pm

Meet at McWethy's in Romeoville
 Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Summer Events

7/24—Pool Party

8/7—Brookfield Zoo Trip

8/14—Minigolf at Haunted Trails

Reach out to Lindsay or the church office if you're interested!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Summer is a hiatus for the Chancel Choir. This creates a need for volunteers to provide special music during services in 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**. If your piece is accompanied, you need to give a copy of your music to Beth Maurer ahead of time for her to practice. And you need to arrange a time to go through your piece with Beth prior to your service performance. The image we project as a church includes the talents we display through our music. So, your contributions can reach both those attending our services and those tuning in online. "Don't hide your light under a bushel" to paraphrase Luke. Here is one more way to witness to a world that needs to hear the message!!

July 17th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$157,182
Year to Date Expenses	\$160,574
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

There are many people in our congregation, in our community, and across the world who are in need of prayer and we ask that you keep them in your heart and in your thoughts.

Prayers of health and healing for:

Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, Ezequiel Diaz following injury, Al Benson, Lindsay Gordon, Mark Fumagalli, and prayers for Maureen Fumagalli

Pray for baby Anna Jean who has almost reached the weight to qualify for her heart surgery.

Sympathies and prayers to Jackie Brooks and her family after the passing of her father Sherman 'Spud' Vaughn, a Navy veteran, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday here at First Pres. His service information is pending.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE—September 8th

Picnic after 10am worship here at FPJ

SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/21/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Barb Rodgers, Reed Mott

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Chuck Tomashek

ACOLYTE: Joseph Adler

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

HYMN SING: Holly Tomashek

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: BELONG— To know you are accepted and included in God's family.

Lesson for Sun. 7/21: 'The Woman at the Well' *John 4:4-30, 39-42*

Bible Verse: "For you all are one in Christ Jesus." *Galatians 3:28b*

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The PNC has reviewed 30 candidates from the CLC matching system and invited the top ones to apply. We are in the process of reviewing 25 additional matches. Your PNC continues to diligently and thoroughly search for the person best suited for First Pres.

A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea

Revelation 7:17

17 "for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This last week has been an interesting week here at 805 Western. This past Sunday, God gave us the opportunity to have a very creative and meaningful unplugged service, that was filled with prayer and an encouraging message from Pastor Craig Herr. At the end of the day, I left church thinking how appropriate, how deep, and well timed that service was. At times, we need to remember that God is still there, even when everything around us is in turmoil. It was a hard weekend thinking about us as a country, praying for our nation, and our church. And with all that, I know down deep in my heart that God can use times like this to bring healing and turn our hearts to what's important: Loving God and loving people.

Here and there, there are weeks where I see the pastoral needs of the congregation increasing. As I preached a few weeks back: Life is messy, and in that mess, where frustration and guilt might slip in, where loss and grief become a reality, where fear tries to take a hold of our minds and hearts, God is still present. And while the storm is loud, God is still there. And that is my prayer for all of us this week, that we can find that peace in the middle of the storm, and call on Jesus to speak to the storm.

Come Lord Jesus, and bring us your peace.

Happening this week at 805 Western

- I would like to extend a special invitation for you to come and **be in worship this Sunday**. Keith LeVasseur and I will bring the message this week, as an honest and deep dialog centered on loss, grief and the way God is close to us in those moments. If you have not read the story of Job, this will be a great time to do a quick read of the book to refresh your memory on it.
- Remember the **fellowship events** going on this week. Dinner Out Group (7/18) and the Slammers Game (7/19). If the weather will cooperate it will be a great time.

I am praying for you as you read this letter today, may God's peace fill your heart.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I wanted to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love and support I have experienced this past week. In case you weren't here on Sunday, we announced some bittersweet news. I received the incredible offer of a full ride scholarship from Princeton Theological Seminary - which I am still blown away by - but that does mean that I will be moving to New Jersey next month in order to pursue my MDiv. My last day will be August 15th. My time here at First Pres has been nothing short of wonderful, and I will miss you all so much, but Lex and I are so excited to embark on this new adventure together as a family, and to see where God leads us. Thank you all so much for your love and encouragement.

There is still lots of fun to be had beforehand! We have several student activities coming up before school starts. Our pool party, hosted by Jeff and Laura Pritz, is coming up on July 24th, from 1-5pm. Please RSVP with me if your student plans to attend, and we will share the address closer to the party date. On August 7th, we'll be spending a day at the Brookfield Zoo, and on August 14th, we'll spend an evening mini golfing at Haunted Trails. Please let me know if your student would like to attend either of those activities - more details will be shared as well.

I look forward to enjoying the Slammers game with you all this Friday; there is lots of summer fellowship yet to be enjoyed, and I am grateful to be able to spend it with you!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

Pictured:

Members of the FPJ Youth Group serving at MorningStar Mission during their last day of Missions Week 2024



FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Mon-Fri 11:30am-1pm until Aug. 20th

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.

SLAMMERS BASEBALL GAME

July 19th at 6:35

Home game