



e-News

July 24th, 2024

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

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE—September 8th
Picnic after 10am worship here at FPJ

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Summer Events

8/7—Brookfield Zoo Trip

8/14—Minigolf at Haunted Trails

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

HANDBELL CHOIR

Are you interested in our Handbell Choir, the Glory Ringers? Would you like to try ringing a handbell? Reach out to Susan Pemble or the church office to learn more, or arrange a time to try out the bells, no commitment required.

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$161,103
Year to Date Expenses	\$160,582
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, Lindsay Gordon, Jan Weber, Mark Fumagalli, and 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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/28/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Jasmine Keir, Nola Boyd

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Pat Haldorson

ACOLYTE: Scarlett Poulos

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

HYMN SING: Ken Myers

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 7/28: 'Peter's Dream' Acts 10:1-48

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

This Sunday we are finishing the Sermon Series on Wholeness and Mental Health, by looking at what it means to renew our minds and putting on Christ, living as a new creation (Romans 13:8-14). I want to express my thanks again to Keith LeVasseur for his help last Sunday as we talked about loss and grief. If you missed the sermon last Sunday make sure you catch it, it is on our YouTube channel.

After the Service on Sunday, I will be off for three weeks to visit with my parents. While I am away, please do call the front office for any Pastoral needs, Pastor Craig and Pastor Mark will be providing Pastoral care while I am away. Also Dave Steinberg will be filling in with phone calls and just keeping us connected and ministering, praying, and arranging meals for Helping Hands. The next 4 Sundays are planned out, Pastors are scheduled to be with us and lead worship. So I will tell you exactly what I mentioned to Worship Council: I am not worried about taking some time off. I know I will be praying for you, and I will ask that you would pray for me too.

Some things to keep in your mind at this time: People that you know in your heart to be in need of prayer. Reach out, write a card, include them in your prayers.

Our councils are working on so many things for Back to Church and to get Fall programming ready. The Building and Grounds and Stewardship Councils are working on the many building projects. We hit a couple of hiccups and small delays in our work, but I know they are working hard on getting things done ASAP. There is one more thing that is still making my heart jump with joy. The Dinner Out Group outing last week had 25 people and I heard the Friday outing to see the Slammers was great and everyone had a ball. (hehe, I could not help myself, I had to make that joke). Big huge thanks to Carol Kline and Kris Hayden for organizing those amazing fellowship opportunities. Also look at the kids in Hofmann Hall today as they listen to Nola Boyd during the lunch program! How cool is that.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I've been finding myself in need of catching my breath quite a bit lately. It certainly feels like there is a lot going on, and a lot to keep up with. There is so much happening in our world, and all around us within our community, and now I'm up to my eyeballs in moving boxes. I know I'm not the only one who feels tired! But I was given some much needed perspective this Sunday when my sister sent me a video of my four year old niece, Eleanor, singing on stage at church during a special VBS feature. She was doing a solo of her favorite song - "Gratitude" by Brandon Lake. The chorus is very simple:

"So I throw up my hands and praise You again and again / 'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah / And I know it's not much, but I've nothing else fit for a King / Except for a heart singing hallelujah, hallelujah."

Beyond the simplicity of the words, I was moved by the intentionality and passion of my sweet little niece's worship, singing her sweet little heart out for her Jesus. Whether we're full of energy and vigor, or whether we're gasping for breath down on all fours, we have nothing to offer that could ever measure up to what has been given to us so freely. We can freely offer up our hallelujahs with the faith and joy of a child, no matter what state we're in, because God is good - all the time.

Our youth group has a couple more events happening in August - our trip to the Brookfield Zoo on August 7th, and our Mini Golf outing on August 14th! Please reach out to me if your student is interested in joining us (or if you're interested in chaperoning with me!). There will be ticket costs associated with both of these events, so we will need to know ahead of time who is planning on attending. But we are excited to have some more summer fun to look forward to!

Looking forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon



Pictured: Nola Boyd speaking to the youths benefiting from the Free Summer Lunch Program

DINNER OUT GROUP

Keep an eye out for our next dinner time and place, and join the fun!



Pictured: Lindsay's niece Eleanor performing "Gratitude" by Brandon Lake

