



# e-News

August 21st, 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  
Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

Tasty food—Bingo—Bags—a Bounce House—Fun!

**Special guests— MATSIKO WORLD ORPHAN CHOIR**

## MIDWEEK—Starts Sep. 11th

**5-6pm SOAR HIGH**—register online today!

Kids age 3 –8th grade will have a Bible lesson and related art lessons, games, and other activities

Kids 5yrs—8th grade will also have singing & instrument lessons

**6pm**—Fellowship dinner for all

**6:45pm**—Adult Bible Study and kids rec time

## DINNER OUT GROUP

September 19th at 6pm

Agave Azul, 330 W. North St., Manhattan

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

## August 21st, 2024

### Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$217,447
Year to Date Expenses	\$205,260
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 of health and healing for:

Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, Mark Fumagalli, Judy Jordan, Jean Smietanski, Klint DeGeus, and JoAnn McBride.

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

Prayers and sympathies for Mary and Don Caisley and their family after the passing of Mary's brother Will.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/25/24

**PREACHING:** Mark Morrison

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

**COFFEE:** Reed Mott

**LITURGIST:** Dee Mullen

**ACOLYTE:** Kennedy Orr

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

## 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.

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Word:** COURAGE— Choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

**Lesson for Sun. 8/25:** 'Lydia' Acts 16:11-15

**Bible Verse:** "Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!" - Psalm 27:14

## 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 all the matches we received through the CLC system (more than 65 people) and invited the top candidates to apply. Once we receive additional information from these candidates, the interview process will begin. Your PNC continues to diligently and thoroughly search for the person best suited for First Pres.

*A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea*

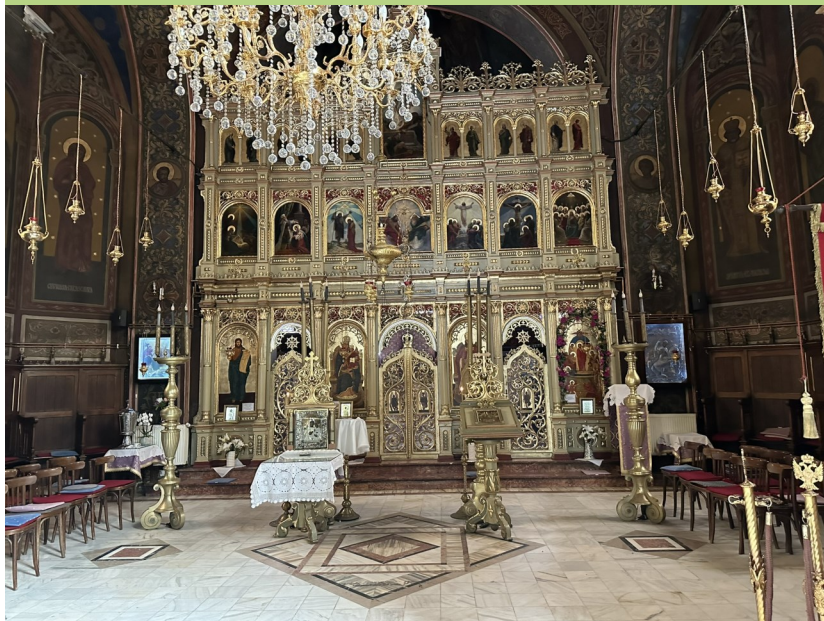
On this last day of my trip I want to share with you something about the Orthodox Church that I find to be of value in regards to balance. Every church has a place where people go and light candles as means of prayer. As you enter the church courts, there is this little place where you see people going in and taking time to bring their prayers before God. It is a time to reflect on those that have passed, and also to think about those that are still around. Without getting into the theology of afterlife, I find this custom to be a beautiful picture of living in a communal spirit. Who we are today is, in part, thanks to those who came before us, and the ones that keep us going today, who motivate us to be our best. Faith moves us from 'us' as individuals, to 'us' as people. I love to take time to walk to the cathedral in the town square and think about my grandparents, or other people that are not with us anymore, but are in the presence of God. I like to take time and pray for those that are with us. It keeps me grounded. Today that is my prayer for us: Lord, help us to find the balance between the past and the present that will speak to our future. May the Lord help us. Amen.

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

*P.S. As soon as I send this email, I will go and finish packing my luggage, as I will be getting ready for the trip back. I know I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday, and you might not want to miss being there because in my bags there are a few treats for you all.*



## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MATSIKO WORLD ORPHAN CHOIR

Through our in-country Matsiko learning centers, every student is given an opportunity to sing in the Matsiko national choir program. Talented students can then audition to sing in Matsiko's national children's touring choir in their own countries or even be a part of a USA bringing orphaned or vulnerable children from all over the world together! Matsiko has performed at the White House under three administrations, the Rose Bowl, Dallas Cowboy Stadium, Disneyland / Disney World, and other NFL, NBA, MLB, & MLS stadiums across the USA! However, the favorite time for the children in Matsiko is when they are at local performances where they can share important bonding time individually that means the world to the children.

World Orphan Choir members are chosen because they have demonstrated the character qualities that we want to see modeled by all of our children. They become ambassadors of hope for the 600 million voiceless and invisible children of the world who deserve an equal opportunity to get an education, develop their talents, and belong to a community where they are valued as human beings. While in the choir they learn unity, important ethics that go beyond ourselves, and racial harmony as they care for one another.

While on tour, they work diligently to complete their school work for their grade, while dramatically improving their English language skills. Every child receives one-on-one tutoring which allows them to advance grades when they return to their own country. They go home as much better students and in appreciation for their experience, they are guaranteed a full ride scholarship through the university or vocational schooling in their country.

### HANDBELL CONCERT

**September 21st  
1:30pm in Hoffman Hall**

Our very own Glory Ringers Handbell Choir are hosting a joint performance with the Bell Choir from Hinsdale United Methodist Church.

