



# e-News

August 28th, 2024

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

## PROGRAMMING UPDATE:

Unfortunately the Matsiko World Orphan Choir cannot celebrate with us Sep. 8th for Back to Church Sunday. They do intend to re-schedule, so we will share a new date for their visit when that information is available.

The special Handbells Concert for Sep. 21st has also been cancelled. We will share new information if it gets rescheduled.

## 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 as she awaits her heart surgery.

## NOTICE:

The church office will be closed 9/2 in observance of Labor Day.

## 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!

## DINNER OUT GROUP

September 19th at 6pm

Agave Azul, 330 W. North St., Manhattan

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

## 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.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 9/1/24

**USHERS:** Barb Rodgers, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce, Reed Mott

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Bill Penhale

**ACOLYTE:** Abel DeNieuwe

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Jen Gabl

August 28th, 2024

### Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$221,588
Year to Date Expenses	\$205,273
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.*

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Idea:** Faith in God, what does it mean to you?

**Lesson for Sun. 9/1:** God Creates the Earth—*Genesis 11-25*

**Bible Verse:** "We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things." *Ephesians 2:10*

## 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

Jonah 2:1-2

*Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying,  
“I called to the Lord out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.”*

You know what I realized recently? I do not think I have ever preached on Jonah. I know that over the years I have talked about it, during Sunday School or VBS with the kids, but never in a sermon. If I really think about it I do not remember hearing too many sermons on Jonah. To make things short, this is a fascinating story about real human emotions and responses to the different situations that we experience as people of faith, when our humanity puts us at odds with God. I know we associate the story with the big fish, but the realism of the struggle of obeying God is the real star of the show. I would encourage you to read the story of Jonah, it is a short read. As you are thinking about Jonah may I suggest a question for you to ask yourself? Here is the question: Am I a Jonah?

Looking forward to Sunday worship, and praying for a safe and great Labor Day weekend for all of us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

#### Happening at 805 Western:

- Do not forget **Back to Church Sunday** with Worship and Picnic following right after worship on September 8th.
- While we were excited for **Matsiko** to join us that Sunday, we have to **reschedule** their time with us because of some booking issues on their side. Stay tuned for more on that soon.
- **Midweek** is just about to **start on September 11th**. With kids music and Bible lessons from 5-6pm, dinner at 6pm, and Bible Study at 6 pm. Here's a little information about Midweek: Do you know that most churches have abandoned their midweek programs? Please be in prayer for the things we are doing on Wednesdays, and that the Lord will bless the work of so many people that goes into making this evening a special ministry time for all of us. And please take advantage of it. It is a good thing.
- Lots of **work around the building**. The new fence is going up as I type this. Small victories are big victories. Soon we are going to tackle the Sanctuary lights, and more.

I have been saying this for a while: Where God leads, God provides. May we all live in that promise this week.

## 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

**SOAR HIGH**

**FREE**

Register Today

**MUSIC**

**ART**

**BIBLE**

3yrs-8th grade  
Wednesdays 5-6pm  
Sep. 11th-April 30th

## **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 8th**

10am worship - Picnic after



**FOOD • BINGO • BAGS • CRAFTS**  
**BOUNCE HOUSE**