



# e-News

August 7th, 2024  
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

## 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

## YOUTH GROUP

**Last Summer Event!**  
**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.

## BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

**SAVE THE DATE—September 8th**  
 Picnic after 10am worship here at FPJ  
 Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

**July 31st, 2024**

### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>	\$747,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$200,654
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$181,319
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$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, Lindsay Gordon, 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.

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Kim Zeman, wife of Chuck Zeman, after her recent passing.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/11/24

**PREACHING:** Craig Herr  
**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott, Mark Morrison  
**COFFEE:** Barb Rodgers  
**LITURGIST:** Jim Huey  
**ACOLYTE:** Jillian Penhale  
**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina  
**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

## 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.

## Children's Church Corner

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

**Lesson for Sun. 8/11:** 'Ruth and Naomi' *Book of Ruth*

**Bible Verse:** "Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!" - *Psalms 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 over 50 candidates from the CLC matching system and invited the top ones to apply. We are in the process of reviewing another batch of 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*

Some vacations thoughts...

There is this one Turkish Coffee Shop on the main street, that has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. And because I am a creature of habit, I always make it there at least once during my trip to my hometown. And, because I am a creature of habit, I always order the same thing, a nice strong, black, full of flavor, little as they come, cup of Turkish Coffee and some dessert. I enjoy the aroma and the delicious dessert while watching people. Today, as I was going through that very ritual, I looked at the people walking around, up and down the street. The crowd, the people, were nothing really special or different than you would see downtown Naperville per se. Heck, I am even willing to say that I have seen more fashion and branded clothing than one would observe normally. The kids, the youth, the older folks all have their cellphones in their hands, and life seems to be moving at a fast pace around me. Somehow, I feel stuck in time. I am stuck in my own old world, where that ritual, the habit I have grown to love, has me in a time when life was simple. The good old times.

Funny enough, this morning I received a text that read: today's ship does not sail with yesterday's wind. And that made me think and pray for who we are as a church. We, at times, are creatures of habit. We go and do things in the way that makes us feel good, while life, new life, walks by at a speed we might not understand. I mean, we see it, we are part of it, but somehow we miss it's flow.

I am sure there is a Bible verse somewhere in the good book to support what I am saying, but I am not going to look for one today. All I am going to do is ask you to enjoy your coffee and pray that life, the people, the times going by you right now are just as important to you as your rituals, the good old times.

Allow me one more observation, because sometimes I do not think I express this loud enough: I am proud of our Church for many things, but the most important one is that we do not shy away from the seeing the people that walk by. And from time to time we are really good at stopping them and offering them a seat with us, where we get to do life together.

I really hope you are enjoying your coffee today, just like I did. Praying for you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

*P.S. When technology works it is such a blessing, and this past Sunday I worshipped with you on stream, paused it and then picked it up again later. The Sound and Video crew did a fantastic job. And oh Boy, how about Cristian Haldorson-Diaz opening worship? All good stuff for 1st Pres. Looking forward to seeing what Pastor Craig has to share with us this Sunday. If you have a chance to write a little thank you card to Pastor David, and share it with the Worship Council I would encourage you to do so. Ok, that was a long P.S.*



*A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon*

Hello everyone!

As you're reading this, we are likely just making our way home from our day at the Brookfield Zoo! I've spent so much of my childhood at the Brookfield Zoo, so this has been one event in particular that I have been looking forward to out of our student summer. I'm so grateful for all the time that we've had to share in fellowship and discipleship throughout this summer. Looking back (which is wild, because this summer has absolutely flown by), we have already done so much!

We kicked off this summer with our trip to the Morton Arboretum - another one of my all-time favorite places! That day was quickly followed by VBS - how was that already nearly two months ago?! We had quite a few students helping out at VBS, and they were all absolute rockstars.

They showed up ready to rock again not long after VBS with our Missions Week! That week was one of my absolute favorites of the entire summer. Our crew worked incredibly hard, and we really bonded over those three days. Those experiences were a first for some of our students, but they showed up ready to work like professionals. It was incredible to witness. I'm still so proud of each of them.

Since then, our summer has mellowed out with our pool day, and now our zoo day! Coming up next Wednesday, we'll have our evening of mini golf at Haunted Trails from 6-8pm. Let me know if I can expect to meet up with your student (or you - come join us!). Bring cash to golf (\$8/round), and if there's time after, we'll hit up the arcade or go karts. It'll be a fun way to close out the summer before heading back to school!

This Sunday will be my last Sunday with you all, and my last day in the office will be the 15th. This month has already gone by so fast - meanwhile, we're trying to get our apartment packed and ready to go! Reminiscing has been fun; I sure do have some wonderful memories to carry with me to Princeton. For that, I am so thankful.

See you Sunday!  
In Christ,  
Lindsay Gordon

**DINNER OUT GROUP**

**August 15th 6pm**

**Metro Grill and Bar in Joliet**

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.