



e-News

November 6th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

STARS OF HOPE

October 27th— November 24th

Partnering with MorningStar Mission, we have stars available. Each star has a 'wants' or 'needs' list for a child in need this holiday season. You can claim a star (sign it out) and shop for those items, and return them to FPJ by 11/24 unwrapped.

Childcare Volunteers

Our childcare team is looking for someone who could help out on **Sunday November 17th** during 10am worship, and someone to lend a hand with the Pre-K class on **Wednesday November 20th, 5-6pm**. We are also looking for some folks who are willing to help if needed on a Sunday with an abundance of kids. If you are interested please contact the church office.

Soar High is Requesting: **1** - Donations by November 17 or sooner of empty Pringle cans for the Soar High K-8 Children to make rain sticks. (leave in Hoffman Hall) **2** - Soar High is excited to have 38 active children participating. However, we need at least two adult volunteers to help every Wednesday from 4:45-6pm. (No musical experience needed.) We are asking people to have fun with the children and sign up to help at least one Wednesday between now and April. Fill out a Google Form for EACH adult Volunteer in the family willing to help. Volunteer sign up on our website. Once you fill out the Google Form, you will be sent an email link to a Google Sheet to sign up for the date(s) you are willing to help. Thank you so much! Sarah Randolph, Soar High Children's Music Volunteer

November 6th, 2024 **Stewardship Report**

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|------------------------------|-----------|
| 2024-2025 Budget | \$747,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$324,987 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$320,264 |
| Per Capita | \$43.00 |

Received for Hurricane Relief \$4,970.00

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, Jean Smietanski, Klint DeGeus, and Mary Jane Johnson.

Praise and Thank God Anna made it through her heart surgery! She is now home and doing well. Thank you for all your prayers! Sarah and Craig, Carol, and Nathan

Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Sherry Price, who passed on October 24. Her memorial service will be at Dames Funeral Home in Morris on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 5 pm with visitation beginning at 1 pm until time of the service.

Sympathies are extended to Traci Newsome Fitzgerald and her family after the passing of her mother Phyllis Newsom. The memorial service will be Nov. 15th, at 11am at Woodlawn Memorial.

We appreciate your prayers for Mariora Mircea, Pastor Bo's mom, as she recovers from surgery.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/10/24

USHERS: Barb Rodgers, Scherrie Sanchez, Mark Morrison, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Sue and Reed Mott

LITURGIST: Emma Sticklen

ACOLYTE: Jacob Pritz

SOUND: Rich Pool **VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

SPECIAL MUSIC: Soar High Children's Choir

ASSISTING: Eric Heinekamp

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Harvest—God provides for our needs

Lesson for Sun. 11/10: God Provides People at the Right Time—
 1 Samuel 25:1-35

Bible Verse: "The Lord carried out just what he had promised."
 Genesis 21:1

The PNC Process

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|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Planning | Mission Study | Data Evaluation | Resume Evaluations | Interviews | Pastor Visits | Pastor Selection | Pastor Acceptance |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|

The PNC is excited to announce our nomination for Senior (Lead) Pastor, Rev. Bogdan Mircea! After thoroughly reviewing all 75 candidates that were matched with First Pres, we are confident that Pastor Bo is the very best choice to lead our church into the future. Session has called a congregational meeting following the worship service on November 10 to accept the nomination and terms of call for Bo. If you have any questions, we encourage you to speak with PNC members.

A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea

Last Sunday was so special having the Matsiko World Orphan Choir with us. I hope every Sunday at First Pres can be as lively and inspiring. But how can we top that? Not that we are in a competition between Sundays, of course. I just pray and hope that each Sunday is big and exciting for everyone, and that we can see new and creative ways that the Lord is working in our lives. This coming Sunday is one of those big Sundays here at church. Yes, the Congregational Meeting to vote on the new Lead Pastor is scheduled for this Sunday! Yes, there's a Baptism this Sunday! Yes, the Soar High kids are singing on Sunday! Yes, the Youth Group is decorating a Christmas Tree at the Zoo! But above all, on Sunday, we come to worship the Lord with grateful hearts, no matter how busy or exciting the Sunday is. The real excitement is that the Lord comes and meets us every time we come with open hearts in this place.

Isaiah 12:4-5 *And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.*

If you listened to my sermon this past Sunday, you might recall me saying that sometimes we need a little reminder. The reason for that is because I want us to approach this month as a Month of Thanksgiving. This month is a chance for us to open our hearts and minds to the very core of our relationship with God. Thanksgiving, living with the awareness that God is always with us, even in tough times, can lead us to a place of peace and trust. It's a place where we can be the people that God called us to be. My prayer for us today is that amidst all the chaos, fear, news, Facebook posts, and everything else, we can take a moment to pause and say thanks. Let's call on the Lord and trust. This is the cue we might need today. May the Lord hear our prayers and fill our hearts with thanksgiving that brings joy and hope.

Looking forward to seeing you in church on Sunday,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western this week

- **Midweek is tonight** - Do you know Lisa and Ezequiel? If you do not, you have to come and meet them. Midweek dinner is really a huge blessing to so many families, and a huge part of what we do on Wednesday Nights. But the most important part is that Lisa and Ezequiel not only cook for all of us, they help make this place welcoming and loving. I hope you will stop by, even if it is to say hello to them and have a meal with us. But if you would like to come and stay for the Bible study, or for the kids program you know we will always have a place for you.
- **Saturday Serve Day - 11/9** -We will meet at the MorningStar Mission warehouse 251 Republic Ave. at 8 am and we will help pack Thanksgiving boxes.
- **Sunday at 1:30** the **Youth** will meet in the parking lot to head off to the Zoo to decorate our sponsored Christmas tree. Next Sunday Youth Group will be back meeting at church at 5 pm.



FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

FEMA has reached out to share about their Disaster Assistance program. If you suffered damages or financial losses due to the severe storm in July and subsequent power outages in the area, you are encouraged to learn more about this program.



DisasterAssistance.gov
(800) 621-3362

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

- 11/9** Serve Day at MorningStar Mission (sign ups open)
- 11/10** Soar High kids singing in worship
- 11/10** Congregational Meeting following worship
- 11/10** Youth Group Zoo Tree Decorating
- 11/21** Dinner Out Group—Craft'd in Plainfield
- 11/24** Stars of Hope due
- 11/25** Project LINUS
- 11/30** Advent Decorating
- 12/6** Advent Concert with Harvest Arts

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting each Sunday again typically from 5pm-6:45pm. These meetings will include Bible discussions, activities and some dinner and fellowship. You can register for Youth Group on our website, reach out if you have any questions!

This Sunday we're going to Brookfield Zoo to decorate our Christmas tree! Meet at FPJ at 1:30pm. Tickets are free.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

**Each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays during Midweek
Room 217 from 6:45—7:15pm (after dinner)**

Calling all women of our church and community age 15 and older to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6pm for dinner and 6:45 for fellowship with fellow women.

We'd appreciate YOUR help to decorate our church for Christmas!

This year we will be gathering to decorate and beautify our church for the Advent season on **Saturday 11/30 at 9am**. This important task takes many hands but makes for a fun morning—with enough help this decorating can be accomplished in 2-3 hours. Please consider being a part of our decorating crew— sign up online.

With sincere thanks, First Pres Worship Council

NOTE: The church office will be closed November 11th for Veterans Day and November 19th for a Presbytery Meeting.

HURRICANE RELIEF

We are still accepting donations for the relief efforts of hurricanes Helene and Milton which will be forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Just make a notation on your check or put it in a specially labeled envelope available in the narthex. You may also donate online; choose "Hurricane Relief" on the drop down menu. These funds will directly benefit those affected by the devastating storms.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

November 10th Immediately following 10am Worship

This congregational meeting will be for the congregation to accept the nomination and Terms of Call for Bo Mircea as Lead Pastor, and for electing the Nominating Committee for Deacons and Elders. The Nominating Committee as proposed, is Reed Mott, Ed Schultz, Mary Caisley, Edna Droz, and Dave Steinberg.