

**December 31st, 2024**

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)



**LET'S CELEBRATE 2024 AS  
ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR OF  
SERVING IN JESUS' NAME.**



## Church Family

### Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Klint DeGeus, and Mary Jane Johnson.  
Prayers for baby Anna, granddaughter of Sarah and Craig Randolph.

Prayers and sympathy to the family of Julee Coughlen. Visitation will be here at First Pres on Saturday, January 11 from 10-11am, with memorial service beginning at 11 am.

## Are You a Shepard Also?

In Luke, Chapter 2, the angels announced the birth of our Savior to the shepherds. Upon hearing this news, they immediately left their flocks and went in search of the baby Jesus. When they found Him, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. After leaving the stable, they shared the news with all of the wondrous things that they had seen and heard.

What will we do this Christmas season? Will we be like those Shepherds? During our time at work, at Christmas parties, and gatherings with family and friends, will we continue to spread the news of our Savior, the Christ Child? Will we remember that He has given us peace, joy, comfort, and salvation in our lives?

May the Lord bless us this Christmas season and in the upcoming year.

- Dave Steinberg

## **Children's Church Corner**

**Faith Focus:** Treasure Seekers—We discover God together

**Lesson for Sun. 1/5:** Seek God—*Matthew 2:1-12*

**Bible Verse:** "Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you." - *Matthew 7:7*





## SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

- 1/4 Free Pancake Breakfast 8:30am-10am
- 1/4 Christmas Un-decorating at 9am
- 1/12 Congregational Meeting
- 1/16 Dinner Out Group at Casa Margarita in Bolingbrook

## HELPING HANDS UPDATE:

This marks the 19th year of the Helping Hands ministry here at First Pres. Since our inception in October 2005, we have delivered over 4800 meals, including over 200 this year. We would like to thank those of you in the congregation who have made referrals, have prepared and delivered these meals, and have taken the time to visit with the recipients. We are currently utilizing Golden Corral for our meal preparation. If you know of anyone you would like to refer to receive a meal or if you would like to help with the delivery of these meals, please contact the church office or Dave Steinberg at 331-212-0627. Again thank you. God bless all of you.

## We'd appreciate your help taking down our Christmas decorations!

Worship council sincerely thanks all the volunteers who assisted us with Advent decorating on Saturday, November 30th—you did a WONDERFUL job! Now we must think about taking these decorations down after the Christmas holidays. **We'll be meeting on Saturday, January 4th at 9am to complete this task.** There is a FREE pancake breakfast that day as well, so you can come early (starting at 8:30) and have breakfast beforehand! Please consider helping—putting away these decorations doesn't take very long, so we should finish well before noon with YOUR help! If you can assist, please sign up on our website.— With sincere gratitude, First Pres Worship Council

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 1/5/24

**PREACHING:** Craig Herr

**USHERS:** Scherrie Sanchez, Pat Haldorson, Mark Dykema, Ed Schultz

**COFFEE:** Jasmine Keir

**LITURGIST:** Jen Garlitz

**ACOLYTE:** Jillian Penhale

**SOUND:** Rich Pool

**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**January 12th**

Session will be holding a Congregational Meeting to elect new elders and deacons.

## Childcare Volunteers

Thank you to those who responded and will help our Children's Ministry Team in the future. We are still looking for some folks who are willing to help in the nursery if needed on a Sunday if there's an abundance of kids.

If you are interested please contact the church office.

## **December 31st, 2024 Stewardship Report**

<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>	\$747,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$434,185
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$435,948
<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.**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated their time to our Soar High program each Wednesday and on Sundays when the kids share the songs they've been learning. Thank you to our Soar High families and everyone who makes this ministry possible.

## SOAR HIGH AND MIDWEEK

Both Wednesday night programs are on break for the holidays. But don't worry, they will return Wednesday January 8th. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in January!