



e-News

January 15th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

This coming Sunday is a great Sunday for the church as we celebrate Elders and Deacons on their ordination day, with prayer and laying on hands as we commission them into ministry. It is such a beautiful showcase of what the church is, and how the church functions. The church functions not as one person, but as many, called and empowered to lead and serve faithfully. This Sunday is a Sunday of great joy to me because I get to celebrate people gifted by God in so many ways, people that have said yes to using those gifts for the Glory of God, and even more so people that have said yes to serving this congregation, the people that gather in this place. This Sunday I will preach from 1 Peter 5:1-11 about what it means to tend to the flock, about what it means to be an elder or a deacon in the Presbyterian Tradition, but more so to speak about how we are all called to serve.

I am looking forward to celebrating the Joy of Ministry at First Pres this Sunday, see you in worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western

- **Dinner Out Group** - This Thursday (1/16), 6pm, at Casa Margarita at 145 S Weber Rd in Bolingbrook.
- **Midweek Tonight** - We will continue working through the Gospel of John after dinner with the adults, and the kids are enjoying their Art Camp portion of the Soar High program before dinner. If you are able to lend us a hand with the kids, as class management, sign in, dismissal process, etc, please talk to Sarah Randolph for more information.
- **Session meets this Thursday**- I am asking for your prayers as we meet. There is a lot to do for us as a church, and I am asking you to pray for strength, wisdom, and unity for all of us as we work as one.
- We will soon have some new dates for **Service Days**, days to be out in the community serving along side other churches and other volunteers. This is also a great opportunity to get to know some new folks from our church. Stay tuned for details.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Klint DeGeus, and Mary Jane Johnson.

Prayers and sympathy to Sherry and Dennis Jones and their family after the recent passing of Sherry's sister.

NOTICE:

The Church Office will be closed Monday January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

SUNDAY INSTALLATION

Sunday Jan. 19th

This Sunday, during worship, we will ordain and install our new deacons and elders.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

Upcoming dates:

1/22 2/5 2/19 3/12 3/19 4/2 4/30

Oasis will meet at 5pm for fellowship and various service opportunities, Midweek dinner is at 6pm each Wednesday (free but donations appreciated), and after dinner the ladies are invited to tea and dessert with Oasis until roughly 7:15pm. Children are invited to participate in the Soar High program running at the same time, and nursery care is available before and after dinner.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Treasure Seekers—We discover God together

Lesson for Sun. 1/19: Encounter God
—Exodus 25:1-31:13; 35:4-40:38

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

THANKS TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I would like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee, Mary Caisley, Sue Fordyce, Reed Mott, Edna Droz, and Ed Schultz, for their persistence and diligence in getting the slate of candidates for the upcoming Session and Night Deacons. Thank you again for all your hard work.

- Dave Steinberg,
Chairman of the 2024 Nominating Committee

SOAR HIGH AND MIDWEEK

Kids age 3 through 8th grade can participate in Soar High. 5-6pm kids will be learning music, art, and a Bible lesson. Kids are split into similar-age groups.

At 6pm everyone is invited to a fellowship dinner. The meal is free but donations are appreciated.

After dinner kids have a rec time while adults are invited to join the Adult Bible Study, and women are invited to Oasis: Women's Ministry twice a month.

Nursery care is available except during dinner, guardians are responsible for all of their children during dinner.

January 15th, 2025 Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$443,906
Year to Date Expenses	\$457,241
Per Capita	\$44.00

The new Per Capita amount for 2025 is \$44.00. Per Capita is a shared cost among Presbyterians and is the amount every congregation pays for each active member to cover ecclesiastical and administrative costs to govern the PC(USA).

2024 giving statements have been mailed so you should be receiving yours soon.

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.

SAVE THE DATE- COMING UP

1/15 Soar High and Midweek

1/16 Dinner Out Group at Casa Margarita in Bolingbrook

1/19 Installation of new elders and deacons

1/22 Soar High, Midweek, and Oasis

1/27 Project Linus

1/29 Soar High and Midweek

2/1 Free Pancake Breakfast

2/5 Soar High, Midweek, and Oasis

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.

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 or a member of the childcare team.

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.

DINNER OUT GROUP

January 16th

Meet at Casa Margarita (145 S Weber Rd in Bolingbrook) at 6pm. Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 1/19/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Mark Fumagalli, Dale Mullen

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Jim Huey

ACOLYTE: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale