



e-News

February 12th, 2025

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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Well Folks IT IS HAPPENING! In my long/short history being here at 1st Pres, I cannot remember canceling Midweek two weeks in a row!!! I am not sure how I feel about it, but I know that it will help keep some of you folks safe and warm.

What I really want to talk to you about today is Pastoral Care. The part of every church ministry that goes out and loves and cares for the people in our community and sometimes provides a listening ear, a prayer, sometimes a meal, or even more practical help. As people of faith we come with the understanding that our shared experience as we go through life, is there to encourage, to edify and build up not just our faith, but our whole community. I recall a time when hospitals would call the church to let us know that Grandma Ethel (not a real character in this story) is in the hospital and she would love a pastor's visit. Not long after that we had to call the hospital with a code to check on our people. And today we are at the point where it is almost impossible to find out who is where, if the family or friends do not share that information with the church. And maybe in a way that is good, because it forces us to reach out, to include our friends in our lives even when that means we are going to let someone know that we need some love and care.

I guess in a nutshell, I am sharing with you a very simple and powerful encouragement that has helped the church over and over again: Your church, your friends will love and care for you if you let them share in the blessing of ministering to you.

Pray, laugh, cry, rejoice, empathize, and serve with your village. Because the more you do the better your village grows.

This week, our church family is going through a tough time. We're saying goodbye to a couple of people who've been with us for ages. On Saturday, February 15th, from 9 am to 10 am, and at 10 am we'll have a visitation and a service to remember Sheila Lundeen. And on Monday, February 17th, from 9 am to 10 am, we'll remember Klint DeGeus. I'd love for you to join the families and help us remember, grieve, and find hope in God's promises as we gather for a time of remembrance.

Stay warm and safe and see you this weekend,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western

- **Thank you all for your support during our Soup-er Bowl.** Over 100 soups were sold, and we have heard the positive reviews about the yummy and extra yummy soup. Thank you again to Lisa Haldorson for cooking, and to Kris Hayden for organizing this fundraiser for the Soar High program.

- Do you know anyone that can **help us in Nursery** on a more permanent basis? We would love to talk to them about it. Please call Bo if you know someone or have questions about this.

- Please don't forget to return your **RSVP for the Installation service** on March 2nd at 3pm. We look forward to celebrating the shared ministry with Pastor Bo and all our congregation.

One more thing:

Can you please pray for health of our congregation? I am talking no more colds, flu, covid, or things of a serious nature. These last two weeks have been filled with this kind of news. Let's pray for health and strength for all in our congregation.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, Aaron (grandson of Mary and Don Caisley), and Zac (great nephew of Mary and Don Caisley), George Redman, and Sue Brown.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Sheila Lundeen who passed last week. Her visitation will be held Friday February 14th at Carlson Funeral Home from 3-7pm. Her memorial service will be Saturday February 15th 10am with the visitation before.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Klint DeGeus after his recent passing. His memorial service will be Monday February 17th, visitation from 9-10am at First Pres, and service at 10am.

Lead Pastor Installation Service and Dinner

March 2nd at 3pm, dinner afterwards

Pastor Bo's Installation Service will be held on Sunday, March 2 at 3 p.m. here at First Pres. This is a formal worship service in the Presbyterian church. It's a celebration of God's call in a person's life and in the life of a church. Come to share in the joy and celebrate what God is doing at this time at First Pres.

Following the service we will enjoy a delicious dinner in Hoffman Hall. If you plan to attend the dinner, please return the card you will receive in the mail, by February 16th to the church office (mail it back, put it in the offering plate, or send an email) so food can be planned accordingly.

**RSVP NOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE DINNER
FOLLOWING THIS CELEBRATION OF FAITH**

Where is the WHALE???? How about that Cajun Box Drum (and no it is not cajun flavored chicken drum stick box - even if it sounds delicious!!!!)

Anyway if you know of a whale or a box drum, would you please contact Sarah Randolph and let the office know of the latest "whale adventure".

On a serious note, and I'm not making a Big Whale out of it, the Worship Council is taking inventory with pictures of what the church has and WHERE items are stored. So, if you can help us in this effort we would appreciate it. How can you help? If you borrowed something recently, please return it. If you borrowed something a long time ago and nobody is asking you about it - give us a call and ask- Do you guys still use this?

Any way, as fun as this is for me to write, this is a whale of a business and as serious as cajun food.

Signed with all seriousness
Bo
"pun master in residence"

SAVE THE DATE— COMING UP

- 2/13 Dinner Out Group
- 2/23 Soar High performance in worship
- 3/2 Pastor Bo's Installation service and dinner
- 3/15 Oasis Serve Day at Northern IL Food Bank
- 3/29 Craft and Vendor Fair
- 5/4 Oasis Night at the Theater and dinner

SPRING VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR

March 29th 9am-4pm

\$3 entry donation grants shoppers access to a unique shopping experience with 50 different vendors/creators, and a snack shack.

Check info on our website for vending sign up.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Praise Makers—We worship God together in different ways.

Lesson for Sun. 2/16: We Worship God with our Gifts – Luke 21:1-4

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

2/12 WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOTICE

With an abundance of caution we are cancelling all Wednesday night programs 2/12 in response to the weather prediction. This includes the cancellation of: Soar High program, Midweek dinner, Bible study, and Chancel Choir practice. We hope to see you Sunday, and back next Wednesday.

DINNER OUT GROUP

February 13th at 6pm

Juliet's Tavern in Joliet 205 N Chicago Street
Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

February 12th, 2025

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$492,027
Year to Date Expenses	\$491,735
Per Capita	\$44.00

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/16/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Karol Boyd

ACOLYTE: Rylie Blaser

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Sue and Reed Mott