



e-News

February 26th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Psalm 95:2

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

I keep thinking of this coming Sunday, and I am still trying to make sense in a way, of God, of faith, doing the work, and how everything comes together. Years ago, when I shared my desire to go into ministry, my pastor at the time said: Where there is a will, there is a way. And today I am sharing with you that there is a way and it starts with believing and stepping out in faith. I cannot say how much I appreciate your support and the kind words you have shared with me in these last few months and many years of ministry here at 1st Pres. So please know how much I appreciate you, and how much you mean to me. And in that spirit I want to again invite you to share that joy of ministry and God's faithfulness both on an individual level and as a congregation. So please join us on Sunday at 3 pm, for a time of ministry celebration. I am looking forward to sharing this coming Sunday with you.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening this week at 805 Western:

- We are on the doorsteps of the Lent season, so I want to encourage you to have all your Pączki, or anything else that goes into Fat Tuesday celebrations, and then let us come together and start our journey towards Jerusalem on Ash Wednesday. Dinner at 5:30 pm and then 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service. Please remember that in the morning at 9 am to 10ish, a Drop-In Ash imposition is available for you to stop by for Ashes and a time of prayer.
- A little heads up, our organ is suffering from a little "lung infection"- meaning the blowers need a little work. We are addressing that with some repairs hopefully during this week, and more major work later.
- Saturday we will host our monthly Free Breakfast with pancakes and sausages. Do I need to say it??? Fine I will say it: Best Pancakes this side of Joliet (according to Reed)! See you on Saturday 8:30—10:00am.

FOOD BANK SERVE DAY

March 15th 9:30-11:30 am

Help pack food at the Northern IL Food Bank for those in need.
Sign up online today!

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), and Mary Lynn Keir.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Mary Ann Barcus who passed.

Sympathies and prayers for the loved ones of Sue Brown who has passed. A visitation will be held March 15th from 9-11am, with a memorial service at 11am at FPJ.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5th

Drop-In Imposition of Ashes from 9am-10am

Dinner at 5:30pm and Worship afterwards at 6:30pm

OFFICER TRAINING

Saturday March 8th

At FPJ from 9am—Noon

For Elder, Deacons, and current AD HOC members to meet and plan for the year ahead.

DINNER OUT GROUP

March 13th at 6pm

La Dulce Vita 16108 IL Rt 59 in Plainfield
Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

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 the location 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

- 3/2 Pastor Bo's Installation service and dinner
- 3/5 Ash Wednesday
- 3/8 Officer Training
- 3/13 Dinner Out Group
- 3/15 Oasis Serve Day at Northern IL Food Bank
- 3/29 Craft and Vendor Fair
- 5/4 Oasis lunch and afternoon at the theater

OASIS: Women's Ministry

Upcoming dates:

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.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: April 13th 8:30am Breakfast 10am Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 17th 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY: April 18th 6:30pm Worship Service

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: BFF'S—Jesus is our friend

Lesson for Sun. 3/2: Friends Invite—*Matthew 4:18-22*

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

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.

February 26th, 2025

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$502,918
Year to Date Expenses	\$507,774
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 3/2/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Dale Mullen

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Hasen Qi

ACOLYTE: Abel DeNieuwe

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

GREETERS:

3PM SERVICE

USHERS: Sue Fordyce, Barb Rodgers, Scherrie Sanchez, Dale Mullen