



e-News

March 19th, 2025

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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

It almost feels like I was writing this eNews a few hours ago, but guess what? Even if it feels like a New York minute, I still have something for you to ponder today.

Revelation 3:20
New Living Translation

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”

Faith, your faith, starts with answering the big question: Would you let God become the main driving force in your life? I know those words are scary, but when you really listen to that question, you soon realize that it becomes something more like walking with you rather than leading you. Life becomes that “two step” dance that I like to refer to. Maybe this is the hardest part for us to wrap our minds around: Life, Christian life, faith life, is about giving and receiving, trusting and believing while you still make the decisions that need to be made.

I pray today that you will know the voice that knocks at your door and that you will have the power to discern between the good and the distractions of the world that want to make their home in your mind. May your mind and heart be at peace in the company of your Lord.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening in this Old Church:

- This Sunday, Rev Matt Robison is with us bringing the Word of Hope. Looking forward to worship, do not forget Life Group/ Pastor Study/ Sunday School meets at 9 am before the service. We do have coffee.
- The Egg-Stravaganza is coming fast, April 12th, and as we are sending the invites out we are also asking for your help with the event. If you can help lend a hand please let us know, sign up online.
- Do not forget the Craft and Vendor Fair - great opportunity to support the Mission work of our church and do a little shopping :) March 29th from 9am-4pm, stop on by.

CHILDCARE JOB OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking a compassionate, dependable, and enthusiastic Nursery Caregiver to join our team and provide a safe and nurturing environment for children in our church’s nursery. This is a paid part-time position. The ideal candidate will be dedicated to supporting the spiritual and developmental growth of young children during worship services and other church events. Contact the church office if you are interested.

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 Amy Gibson.

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 12th 9am-10:30am

Bring the whole family for an egg-cellent morning of Easter excitement! Celebrants can expect: **Breakfast** at 9am, an Easter Celebration at 9:30am including the **Easter Story** and the **Soar High kids** sharing the news of Jesus through the gift of music, **crafts, photos** with the Easter Bunny, and OF COURSE by-age **egg hunts!** Don’t forget to bring your basket for all your eggs!

Thank you to all 15 people who helped make a difference at Northern IL Food Bank last week. This organization is amazing and feeds our community. It was an honor to serve; look for more opportunities to come. Together with other volunteers 8,326 pounds of food were prepped providing 6,940 partial meals for hungry neighbors in northern Illinois. 17, 230 cereal bowls, 578 cans of corn cleaned and labeled, & 22,500 fruit roll ups packaged.



Jane Ferguson, Jennifer Beck, Judy Garrison, Jen Garlitz, Nick, Luke, Andrea, LuAnn and Cliff Stepina, Todd & Kris Hayden, Trish Seban, Jackie Brooks, and David and Becky Church.

OASIS: WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Free Mosaic Cross Workshop

April 26th 10am-2pm

at Lockport Legacy Vineyard Church Café

FREE (\$35 value) Limited space—rsvp with Kris Hayden by 4/1 First come first serve



CRAFT FAIR DONATIONS

The Craft/Vendor Fair Café is seeking supply donations to offset the cost of purchasing all of the needed items—this way there can be more PROCEEDS to support the named ministry. Donations needed on/before March 23rd. Thank you IN ADVANCE!

Cans of Soda: Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi/Diet Pepsi, Sprite/7-Up, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew, Fanta flavors (no off-brands please)

Lays Original Potato Chips—individual bags (50ct at Sams Club)

Original Fritos—individual bags (50ct at Sams Club)

Bottled Water

Theater Candy

Monetary donations—to purchase donuts, creamer, chili ingredients, and pizzas.

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

3/22 Youth Group bowling

3/29 Craft and Vendor Fair

4/5 Free Pancake Breakfast

4/6 Soar High performs

4/12 Easter Egg-stravaganza

4/13 Palm Sunday

4/17 Maundy Thursday

4/18 Good Friday

4/26 Oasis Mosaic Cross Workshop

4/26 Handbells Open House

5/4 Oasis afternoon at the theater

5/17 Serve Day at St. John's Food Pantry

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.

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

PROJECT LINUS

Monday March 24th 9am

Meet in Hoffman Hall to make some blankets for kids in need in our community. All you need is the ability to tie a knot!

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: BFF'S—Jesus is our friend

Lesson for Sun. 3/23: Friends Listen—*John 4:4-42*

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

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$542,424
Year to Date Expenses	\$549,655
Per Capita	\$44.00

Commitment cards have been mailed. Please bring yours to church with you on one of the next two Sundays or mail it in to the office. Thank you for your pledge to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044. You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

SERVE DAY at ST JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

May 17th 7am-11am

Our faithful Night Deacons will be volunteering their time at the St. John's Food Pantry, and invite you to join them. You can sign up on stjohnfood.org, just click 'Serve With Us' and scroll down to May 17th.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

Upcoming dates:

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.

YOUTH GROUP BOWLING

March 22nd at 5pm

All youths are invited for an evening of bowling at Channahon Lanes. Reach out to the office or Youth Leaders Laura Pritz, Matt Blaser, Marie Penhale, or Tiffany DeNieuwe if you're interested.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/23/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz, Scherrie Sanchez **COFFEE:** Pat Haldorson

LITURGIST: Caroline Gheorghiu **ACOLYTE:** Joseph Adler

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur **VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Dave and Sharon Cavanaugh