



e-News

March 26th, 2025

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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Why does the church exist? What is the reason for our local communities? Why do people of faith, in a very faithful and stubborn way, come together and establish faith communities, build buildings dedicated to worship God and service?

When I try to answer those questions, I could spend a long time talking about the Great Commission, or the missional character of the church. But maybe in a more simplistic way, the answer comes down to creating a space where the "little of all these" can come and find the love God has. I am not talking here just about children, I am talking about people of all ages wherever they might be in their faith journey.

And for some reason (or I should say 175 years), this church of ours has been very good at letting "all the children" come and learn about the kingdom of God. Yet today's challenge is that a church like yours would always be open, creative, and welcoming to all who are seeking. This is a prayer I would invite you all to join in as you pray for our faith community, for the church we love, but even more for the "little ones" that are still trying to make their way to find the love of Christ.

Looking forward to sharing more with you on Sunday, about this powerful Gospel lesson and talk a little about the "Loving God- Loving People" - Map.

Have a great week,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- The **Craft and Vendor Fair** is this Saturday - Oasis Women ministry is doing something they do best, opening the doors of the church and loving on the many ministries we support throughout the year. Come and visit.

- **Easter Egg Hunt** is more than an egg hunt this year, our Soar High kids will have a special place in that smile filled Saturday morning. Even if you have no kids in the program, use this time to come and get energized by their love for music.

- **Holy Week** will soon be upon us. Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday Breakfast, Good Friday, and Easter Resurrection Sunday (not in that order) will be great opportunities to invite someone to come and be part of our Resurrection Celebration. Mark your calendars.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, and Zac (great nephew of Mary and Don Caisley), and John Savage.

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!

VOLUNTEER AT THE EGG HUNT

Volunteers are still needed to help with greeting, the kitchen, clean up, crafts, and helping the Soar High kids. This a fun opportunity to support our children's ministry! You can sign up with the link on our website, or contacting the office.

NO SOAR HIGH OR MIDWEEK TODAY

Soar High and Midweek are not meeting today for Spring Break. See you back next week!

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

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



HAND BELL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday April 16th 10am in the Narthex

No experience necessary

Have you ever thought about giving handbells a try?

Now's your chance, it's not too late!

For ages 10 –100

Make it a family event!

EASTER FLOWERS

If you'd like to help decorate our sanctuary with flowers for Easter, please fill out the form below and place it with your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. They are \$15 each.

Checks should be made payable to: First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers. **The deadline for ordering is April 13th.**

How many? (at \$15/pot):

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums _____ Hyacinths

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

___ to the Glory of God

___ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones

___ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Name: _____

This form is also available on our website.

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

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

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: BFF'S—Jesus is our friend

Lesson for Sun. 3/30: Friends Share—Matthew 26:17-35

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 30 different vendors/creators, and a snack shack.

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.

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$559,525
Year to Date Expenses	\$549,544
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:

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/30/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Fumagalli, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Marie Blunk

ACOLYTE: Vivian Orr

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

GREETERS: Nick and Scherrie Sanchez, Diane Milosevich