



e-News

March 12th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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firstpresjoliet.org

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Spring is in the air! That's it! I declare it! I know I need the warmth of the sun, the longer days, and even more importantly the freshness of the season. It feels like we are coming out from a long winter (maybe the winter of our discontent), and we all need those spring winds to blow and bring everything back to life.

I am also speaking here about us as a church, in terms on finding joy, hope, and things that we can look forward to in this season of ministry. This past Saturday we had a good gathering with the officers of the church, and looked at what 2025 means to us in the life and ministry of 1st Pres. I was encouraged by the energy and desire to serve God at this time, something that always excites my heart when I see it. I know that the people gathered around not only know and understand the current challenges we face today, and they are many and different than the past years, but they also have a faith and a desire to serve.

This Sunday I will share more with you from that meeting, and talk about some things for our calendar, and more importantly for our hearts and minds to focus on as we seek God's Spirit in the coming year. Looking forward to seeing you in worship on Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- This Saturday come and remember and celebrate Sue Brown's life and legacy. Sue has been a member of this church for many years, dedicating so much of her love for God to help people along the way. Visitation starts at 9 am, service at 11, and a luncheon following the service here at church.
- The Youth are going out bowling on Saturday 22nd at 5 pm at Channahon Lanes. Please let the office know if you can join, or reach out to Laura Pritz, Matt Blaser, Marie Penhale, or Tiffany De Nieuwe (or their spouses) when you see them in church on Sunday.
- The Dinner Out Group is meeting tomorrow at La Dolce Vita at 6 pm. This is always a good time for fellowship and a good meal.
- Project Linus will meet Monday the 24th at 9 am in Hoffman Hall. A blanket provides so much love when received in a time of need, and boy does this group know how to show that love. If you ever considered making a blanket this is your sign to get ready to knot love and fabric.

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.

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.

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!

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!

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.

DINNER OUT GROUP

March 13th at 6pm

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

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

3/13 Dinner Out Group

3/15 Oasis Serve Day at Northern IL Food Bank

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

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

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: BFF'S—Jesus is our friend

Lesson for Sun. 3/16: Friend's Notice—*Luke 19:1-10*

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

-Matthew 7:7

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.

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 3/16/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Scherrie Sanchez, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Chuck Tomashek

ACOLYTE: Rylie Blaser

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Barb Rodgers, Georgene Venske

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget \$747,600

Year to Date Income \$534,641

Year to Date Expenses \$533,493

Per Capita \$44.00

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Thank you for your generosity.