



e-News

February 28th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

A NOTE FROM SESSION

Dear Congregation,

Session has approved the intermediate plan for ministry from March first until a senior pastor is selected and approved. Pastor Bo Mircea has been unanimously selected by Session to serve as Acting Senior Pastor/Acting Head of Staff from March 1, 2024, until a Called Senior Pastor/Head of Staff is in place. The terms Senior Pastor and Head of Staff are used interchangeably by Presbyterian Church USA. The first is congregation focused and the second personnel focused.

Let us look forward with excitement to what the Lord will do in our congregation as we serve together.

- The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sat March 2nd at 8:30am

Come enjoy breakfast and help serve our community.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday March 23rd @9am

Participants can enjoy a delicious breakfast, craft activities, a reading of the Easter Story, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and of course an egg hunt!

Children's Church Corner

March's Faith Word: REMEMBER—To think about and not forget our faith.

Lesson for Sun. 3/3: 'Jesus Washes Feet' *John 13:1-17*

Bible Verse: "Do this in remembrance of me" *Luke 22:19c*

Lesson for Wed. 2/28: 'The Parable of the Lost Treasure and Pearl' *Matthew 13:44-46*

Church Family

Prayers of relief and recovery for Lindsay Gordon as she suffers through an intense prolonged migraine.

Prayers for Helen Steinberg's brother Jim.

Prayers requested for the healing of Anna Jean Wilhelms, daughter of Carol (Randolph) and Nathan Wilhelms and Granddaughter of Sarah and Craig Randolph to be born about May 30, 2024.

Prayers of health and recovery for Joyce Bossen.

Prayers for Mary Caisley's sister Linda.

Prayers and sympathies to the Duncan family after the recent loss of long-term member Margaret Duncan's daughter Jane Duncan.

SPRING FEVER CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

April 27th 9am-2pm

30+ Crafters and Vendors expected on site

Special prize drawings | Snack Café

Interested crafters & vendors can find more info on our website, or by contacting Kris Hayden.

February 28th, 2024

Stewardship Report

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 2023-2024 Budget | \$772,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$551,402 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$556,994 |
| Per Capita | \$43.00 |

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.

The PNC Process

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Planning | Mission Study | Data Evaluation | Resume Evaluations | Interviews | Pastor Visits | Pastor Selection | Pastor Acceptance |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|

The PNC has finished compiling the information for First Pres' Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). We are in the process of submitting this so that it may be approved and then posted on the Church Leadership Connection website. Once that happens, our search will begin and the website will match potential candidates to our specifications. Please continue to pray for the committee and the process as we seek to find the person God has chosen for First Pres.

A letter from Transitional Head Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and peace be with you. Grace and peace.

Thank you all for your gracious kindness through my ministry with you. You have nurtured my spirit and my heart. I've enjoyed working together and discovering a few new ways to approach ministry and life. Last Sunday was a truly refreshing and joyful time for me. The music. The New Members. Folks back in worship. The loyal Bible Study Class. Our singing sisters in Hoffman Hall following the service. The excellent peach cobbler. And the blessings you shared with me. FPC will always be on my heart, and I will pray for you and your success.

Grace and peace,
Roy

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/3/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Barb Rodgers, Al Brooks

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir, Nola Boyd

LITURGIST: Bev Adelman

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I'm so grateful to have been able to join with you in heartfelt (and tasty!) celebration of Pastor Roy this past Sunday. Although my time with him hasn't been very long, I'm eternally thankful for the impact that he has had on my life already!

As we look ahead to this next season of children's and youth ministry, there is a lot to be excited about, and a lot to prepare for! I would ask that you would join me in prayer at our upcoming ministry outreach opportunities - particularly the Easter Egg Hunt and VBS - and that you would be open-hearted to allow the Lord to potentially use you and your gifts at these opportunities. We will need a lot of help to make these a success! I'd love to speak with you about both - please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Our youth group will be beginning a three week series on prayer this upcoming Sunday, and I'm so excited to have open and honest conversations about such a crucial, yet sometimes intimidating, piece of our faith journey. Ultimately, prayer is just conversation with our heavenly father, but why does it feel so hard sometimes? I know it was intimidating to me when I was a student, so I'm really looking forward to discussing it with our students this March.

Since we spoke with the kids about God's nicknames this Sunday, I am prayerfully expectant at how our Jehovah Jireh will move in this next season - the Lord will provide!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

A letter from Associate Pastor Bo Mircea

Psalm 91:2

*"You ...will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.' "*

I was thinking about faith this past week, and the many aspects of it. I am convinced that faith has many layers, from that mustard seed to faith that moves mountains, from a widow's mite to Lidia and her giving heart towards Paul and his ministry. Faith is sometimes passive, waiting for the water of the word to speak up. Faith sometimes is active, taking us outside our comfort zone. With all these thoughts about faith, once thing was impressed on my heart: When and how do we speak faith? Do we start in our confessions? Do we do it in our prayers? Or in our conversations? Or do we not at all?

Sometimes it is so refreshing to run into someone that has a strong faith, and before I get to say anything to encourage them, they already pour their faith into me. Like I am here to visit you in the hospital, and pray with you and not the other way around... But that is what faith does. It bubbles, it grows, and it speaks. I pray today that your faith will speak loud, from the silence of your prayer room to the mountaintops, sharing the good news of Christ.

One more thing: Life Group continues to meet on Sunday morning. As a matter of fact there will be a bigger table in Hoffman Hall with more chairs and room for anyone who wants to join us for interesting, sometimes deep, and sometimes personal conversation on faith and life. For anyone curious about this pastoral Bible study discussion group, here is a little preview of what we will talk this Sunday: What motivates you in life, work and faith?

Happening at 805 Western

- **Count Your Blessings** - You might hear these words quite often this year, as we are looking at all the things God has called us to do in this place. I would like to encourage you to pray and find ways to share in the things that are happening here at First Pres, and discover God's blessings in a fresh new way.

- On Sunday Morning - **Life Group** - always fresh coffee and warm hearts welcoming anyone to discover life together.

- I hope you are still following up with the **Lenten Devotional** - Lifted up in Love. If you do not have one, please let us know.

- **Holy Week** will be here soon enough, so mark your calendar for Maundy Thursday (3/28) Dinner (5:30)and Worship (6:30), and Good Friday (3/29) Service (6:30).

- **Easter Egg Hunt** for the little ones is on March 23rd- Lindsay has more details on this great Easter Tradition.

- The **Free Pancake Breakfast** will be hosted by our faithful Night Deacons this Saturday morning at 8:30 so come and lend a hand and enjoy the tasty food!

Blessings,
Pastor Bo