



e-News

March 13th, 2024

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill in below and mail to the church office. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers" Online payment is available as well. The deadline for ordering is March 24th.

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

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums

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.

Treasurer's Update: The end of March is the end of our fiscal year. If you have questions about your where you stand with your pledge, please call or email the office. If you need to catch up on your giving, you may do so in person, by mail, or online via our website. Thank you for your commitment to the ministry and mission of First Pres.

March 13th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$584,372
Year to Date Expenses	\$580,774
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.

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 for Mary Caisley's sister Linda.

Prayers of recovery for Karen Myers.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Joyce Miner. Visitation at Carlson Funeral Home, Friday, March 22, 3-7 pm. The Memorial Service will be at First Pres on Saturday, March 23 at 1:30 pm.

Prayers of recovery for Holly Tomashek following a recent surgery.

Prayers for Bob and Jean Smietanski.

Prayers of healing for Jodi Farr.

Prayers of health and recovery for Sheila Lundeen.

Prayers for Bill Penhale as he prepares for surgery on 3/14.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 3/17: 'Praying in the Garden' *Luke 22:39-46*

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

Lesson for Wed. 3/13: 'God Cares for Birds' *Matthew 10:29-31*

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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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 Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea

This morning I had a lovely conversation with one of our folks, and I was reminded of a simple and powerful thing: your attitude towards life makes a big difference. I keep thinking about that, and how much it sounds like faith. Faith changes everything. Even when the outcome is not the best, or what we desired, faith comes to carry us through. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." I sometimes find myself praying 'Lord, help my faith!' Not because I do not believe, or have no faith (I tend to think I am a positive person), but because as life challenges me, I need my faith to carry me through. Or if you want, my faith has to grow, to raise up to meet the challenge.

The next time you feel your faith being challenged, please remember this prayer: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:24 May the Lord water that seed of faith that is in our hearts, and may we all be witness to God's grace in our lives.

Happening at 805 Western

- **Count Your Blessings Commitment Sunday** :This week you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Council that also includes a commitment card. We are blessed to have such faithful people in our congregation, that support this church financially. You are part of the blessings we are so thankful for. Let us celebrate God's faithfulness this Sunday, as we bring the commitment cards for our offerings.
- **March 23rd - Easter Egg Hunt** : We are getting the whole church ready for this special family event. It is more than eggs, or crafts, it is a way to share the Easter Story and capture some of that resurrection excitement in our hearts. I hope you can join us, and help spread the word.
- **Palm Sunday Breakfast** : Night Deacons are hosting this breakfast and you all are invited. 8:30 am to 9:45 am right before worship. What a great day to start your day!
- **Holy Week Services** : This is such a special week in our faith journey. Please carve in some time to be part of these special services that remind us of God's love.

I am looking forward to joining you in worship this Sunday as we celebrate the Lord's promises for us. Oh, and one more thing: Pastor Craig Herr is joining us this Sunday as he is bringing the Word.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

Every week at youth group, we always play at least one game together. In true "youth group" fashion, there is always a fun level of competition and trash talk involved. This week, one of the games we played was Pictionary. I am not an artist by any means, but I'll jump in and do what it takes to try to help my team win! Even if you're not the best artist, if you can come up with a clear vision for what you're trying to communicate to your team, it becomes possible for them to catch on and figure it out.

Our collective vision for what we want to see out of our children's and youth ministries is simple: we want to see growth in discipleship, in deepening relationships with Jesus, and in the families we reach out to. This isn't a task that can be accomplished by any one person, but by the collective body of the church coming together around our families and our community. Even if you're not in the classroom with the kids on Sunday mornings, or challenging a teenager at Pictionary at youth group on Sunday nights, you can be a part of this vision, too. We're better together!

One way to be a part of this vision is by being a part of our community outreach efforts, such as the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. It's already a week from Saturday, and we need your help! If you'd be willing to help direct families, serve food, assist with crafts, make coffee, decorate, or anything in between, please feel free to reach out to me anytime.

What a blessing it is to be able to be on mission for the kingdom of God together!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/17/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Barb Rodgers, Al Brooks
COFFEE: Sue Fordyce
LITURGIST: Ed Schultz
ACOLYTE: Caleb Adler
SOUND: Rich Pool
VIDEO: Todd Hayden

DINNER OUT GROUP

Thursday March 21st

Meet at Public Landing in Lockport at 6pm. Speak with Carol Kline to be included in the reservation. 815-630-7099

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!

If you're interested in volunteering please speak with Lindsay Gordon.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRES

PALM SUNDAY: Breakfast 8:30-9:45am, Worship at 10am
MAUNDY THURSDAY: Dinner at 5:30pm, Worship at 6:30pm
GOOD FRIDAY: Worship at 6:30pm
EASTER: Worship at 10am

BLESSING OF THE PETS

April 20th 9am to 11am

Mark your calendar!