



# e-News

March 20th, 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.

## Church Family

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

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.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Joyce Miner. Visitation at Carlson Funeral Home, Friday, March 22, 3-7 pm. An additional visitation will be at First Pres on Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 pm, with her service to follow at 1:30pm.

Prayers for Bob and Jean Smietanski.

Prayers and sympathies to Helen Steinberg and her family on the recent loss of her brother Jim.

Prayers of health for:

Mary Caisley's sister Linda, Karen Myers, Jodi Farr, Sheila Lundeen, Mark Fumagalli, Spud Vaughn, and Marvin Balsley

**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.

## 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

## NOTE:

The church office will be closed Easter Monday, 4/1

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Word:** REMEMBER: To think about and not forget our faith.

**Lesson for Sun. 3/24:** 'Jesus Enters Jerusalem' *Matthew 21:1-11*

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

**Lesson for Wed. 3/20:** 'Jesus Heals a Deaf Man' *Mark 7:31-37*

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### Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$594,793
Year to Date Expenses	\$600,475
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
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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

John 12:12-16. 'The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!"'

Palm Sunday carries so much meaning in our faith. In part because we associate the day with celebration, with the triumphant entry in to the city of David, of seeing Jesus as a King, surrounded and loved by multitudes. I do love that picture, but what I love even more is the sounds of the crowd, the noise, the celebration, and the yelling. 'Hosanna, Lord save us' sometimes gets lost in our culture, where we associate Hosanna with praise, with celebration, and not the dependency on God, with that cry of 'Lord I need you'. Yes, Palm Sunday is a day of celebration, but it is also a day for us to remember that salvation is at hand, that who we are will always be in connection to Jesus. He is the King! This Sunday let us celebrate the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

**Happening at 805 Western** This place is on the move, there is so much going on, and there is something for everyone. It all starts with loving God and loving people.

- **Dinner out Group** - If you have not connected with these lovely folks, I would encourage you to do so. I am looking forward to tomorrow night at Public Landing. Good food and good people, what more can you ask for?
- **Easter Egg Hunt**- Saturday 9 am - This Easter tradition is not just about the eggs, it is about sharing the hope of resurrection, and sharing the love of this congregation to the neighborhood around us. Also it is a good time!
- **Holy Week**- Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday - all these days are an invitation to find that balance between the somber ways of Lent, of setting ones self apart for God, and embracing the celebration of resurrection. I hope you will join us for these worship services that are not only special in message, but creative, and full of meaning.

See you Sunday morning, if not in person, maybe online.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

*P.S. Congratulations to Lindsay on her first poetry book!*

### A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everybody!

There is so much to anticipate as we approach this weekend, with the Easter Egg Hunt and Holy Week right around the corner. It would be perfectly understandable to feel a little overwhelmed by it all - after all, there is quite a lot on the calendar! I myself try really hard to not get lost in it all, as Holy Week is one of my favorite times of the year.

I was reminded of a word that I try to be very intentional about by observing my dog, Rocket, this week. Today is his first "Gotcha Day" - one year ago today, my husband and I brought him home from the animal rescue! I, of course, want to celebrate and spoil him with special treats, so I got him a dog bakery treat from Pet Supplies Plus. The treat itself is massive - it probably would give Rocket a belly ache if I let him chow down on the whole thing, as much as he would like to try. So, I broke it up into a few pieces, so that Rocket can *savor* his Gotcha Day treat over a few days of celebration instead.

As we step into the Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, as well as Palm Sunday and the other Holy Week celebrations to follow, stop and give yourself a moment to *savor* the moments of celebration and reflection to come. Maybe for you, that means stopping to take a mental picture of the celebrations happening around you, or calling a friend or family member who you may not get to see this Easter. Maybe it means inviting someone to the Palm Sunday Breakfast or to the Easter Egg Hunt (please do, actually!). Maybe it means spending some time in quiet reflection, journaling about some of the Easter scriptures. However slowing down to *savor* looks for you, I hope that you grant yourself the space to do so.

For those volunteering at the Easter Egg Hunt, our set up will be happening at 6pm this Friday, and our call time on Saturday morning will be at 8am. We'll be getting started at 9am - please share that time with those you will be inviting to join us in the fun!

I am truly excited to be able to celebrate this season with you. Thank you to all of you who have joined in for the Easter Egg Hunt! I look forward to sharing about it with you soon.

In Christ,  
Lindsay Gordon

### 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'd like to volunteer please speak w/ 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

### WHY30 AXE THROWING

**April 20th 3pm**

All of our young-ish adults are invited to an afternoon of axe throwing at Master Axe Throwing in Bolingbrook. Closed toe shoes required, \$24 pp for an hour. If time allows, dinner will follow.



### SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/24/24

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Joe Boyd, Nola Boyd

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST & ASSISTING IN WORSHIP:** Dee Mullen

**ACOLYTE:** Rylie Blaser

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

**MUSICIANS:** Bev A. on organ, Worship Band, Chancel Choir