



e-News

March 27th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRES

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Dinner at 5:30pm, Worship at 6:30pm*

GOOD FRIDAY: Worship at 6:30pm*

EASTER: Worship at 10am**

* nursery care available ** nursery and child care available

BLESSING OF THE PETS

April 20th 9am to 11am

First Pres is excited to announce a Blessing of the Pets. Saturday April 20th, on the front lawn, near the marquee. Join us outside as we bless the animals that enrich our lives! All types of pets are welcome (with leash or appropriate container, please), and will receive a token to commemorate the blessing. Treats will be provided for pets and humans alike.

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 27th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$602,728
Year to Date Expenses	\$605,339
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 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 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, Sheila Lundeen

Thanks be to God for Karen Myers returning home.

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. RSVP with Michael K (708) 846-9056, or Kaleigh B (815) 690-6075 by 4/6

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. 3/31: 'Resurrection' Matthew 28:1-10

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

Lesson for Wed. 3/27: No Midweek

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

Holy Week is an amazing, and I say *amazing*, story capturing the events and emotions of the disciples, the crowds, and all Jerusalem. Just imagine for a second, what happened in that week. A triumphant entry, that some saw as the beginning of a revolution. The temple, and all its established practice turned upside down, and people challenged on what religious life looks like. The uncertainty of tomorrow from the disciples' point of view. And all that comes to this amazing climax that starts in the Upper Room, and takes us to the courtroom in the palace, through the streets of a very crowded town, to a place of shame, The Golgotha, and then in the early morning to a memorial garden, a quiet cemetery. I wish for each one of us to be able to experience that rollercoaster of emotions, that 'oh what will happen next?' that questioning, the doubt, the rejoicing! In part because I wish that we could experience the promise of God anew, like a child going to a baseball game for the first time and getting caught up in the excitement of it. Maybe we have heard the Easter story too many times, and maybe by now it has lost its shine, but one thing is sure for me: The Easter story is still as surprising, and amazing as it was on that first morning. Jesus is alive! His message is still bringing people before God! I pray that you will experience this week in a refined and refreshed way, and may the Lord shine his light over you, as you walk this holy week in faith.

Happening at 805 Western:

An invitation to come and be present in what the Lord is doing:

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday— We will remember, worship, and celebrate our Lord. And we would like to invite you to be a part of that. Share the news, come and be part of this week. Join in faith with us and may we all say Christ is risen.

Blessings,
Bo

Maundy Thursday: *Dinner at 5:30, Worship at 6:30*

Good Friday: *Worship at 6:30*

Easter Sunday: *Worship at 10am*

NOTE:

There will be no Midweek tonight 3/27

Join us again next week!

A BIG THANK YOU

To **EVERYONE** who helped us host yet another amazing Easter Egg Hunt! First Pres was full of excitement and smiling faces and that is what makes this ministry so important. And you are why this ministry is so successful so **THANK YOU!**

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.

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

First, I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the Easter Egg Hunt a success - no matter where you served or in what capacity, you played a vital role in sharing the Gospel and connecting with our community. That is worth celebrating! Thank you so much for being a part of the team. It was such a joy being able to serve alongside you, and I look forward to hearing the stories that will continue to come from it.

You may have noticed the Easter welcome signs that our kids made in class on Palm Sunday as you were leaving service. They did a fantastic job and worked very hard on them! They really capture the spirit of welcoming in those who may not regularly join us on a Sunday morning, and we are likely to see a lot of unfamiliar faces this week for Easter. One of my favorites says "You are always welcome here. Thanks for joining us at church" - my prayer is that this is a truth that we impress upon every visitor this week, and that this would be lived out and demonstrated by every one of us every week!

I am greatly looking forward to celebrating with you during our Holy Week services this week! I will miss being with you all at Midweek this week, as we will not be gathering tonight, but I look forward to seeing you at dinner on Maundy Thursday at 5:30, as well as reflecting on the power and magnitude of Christ's great love together on Good Friday at 6:30.

And of course, as Dr. Tony Campolo once said: "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!" I can't wait to celebrate with you this Easter Sunday as we rejoice in the Good News of the resurrection of Christ Jesus! If you recognize any of our friends from the Easter Egg Hunt, make sure to give them a warm welcome back!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVANTS 3/28/24

PREACHING: Mark Morrison

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce

SOUND: Rich Pool **VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

MUSICIANS: Susan Pemble, Chancel Choir

GOOD FRIDAY SERVANTS 3/29/24

USHERS: Sue Fordyce, Barb Rodgers, Nola Boyd, Joe Boyd

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur **VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

MUSICIANS: Susan Pemble, Michael Lockler

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/31/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Estella Jurkovich, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: Al Brooks, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

LITURGIST: Dave Zang **ACOLYTE:** Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Rich Pool **VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

MUSICIANS: Glory Ringers, Worship Band, Chancel Choir