



e-News

April 10th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

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

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.

MORNINGSTAR MISSION LADIES' LUNCHEON

April 21st 1pm

Jacob Henry Mansion's Ballroom

Individual tickets \$25

Visit morningstarmission.org

or contact Erin Shade at (815-722-5780)

(directorofdevelopment@morningstarmission.org)

April 10th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$27,942
Year to Date Expenses	\$1,298
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 of health and recovery for:
 Mary Caisley's sister Linda, Judy Bartels, Cindy Warf, Al Brooks

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a Congregational Meeting at the April 14th worship service for the purpose of approving the revised Terms of Call for Rev. Bogdan Mircea.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/14/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Mark Fumagalli, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Carol Kline

ACOLYTE: Layla Poulos

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: SHARE: To offer God's blessings to others.

Lesson for Sun. 4/14: 'Peter and John' Acts 3:1-10

Bible Verse: "The community of believers was one in heart and mind." Acts 4:32a

Lesson for Wed. 4/3: 'Jesus is the Good Shepherd' John 10:1-16

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 Sunday we are starting to look at some of the things we believe, first as people of faith, and then as Presbyterians. "I Believe" is more than a statement for me. It is a foundation. It is encouragement. "I believe" is the light on my path, is the glimpse of hope in the middle of the night. Too many times in the past few years, I found myself in the middle of a conversation that made me consider 'do we really say that from the pulpit?' I would like to ask you to pray that as we look back at the "I believe", our hearts will be refreshed and encouraged by the Scriptures.

This Sunday we will start to follow Moses in his own discovery of God in Exodus chapter 3. "I am who I am" - it is the invitation to discover who God is, that is still calling us today to that fire that keeps burning with desire to be discovered.

Happening at 805 Western:

- As I meet with different councils and we prepare for session tomorrow, I am reminded of all the good that this church is doing. **Your ministry goes beyond Sunday morning**, it extends grace and love to people that might not even come close to being here on Sunday morning, those who need a reminder that someone is thinking about them, and that is to be encouraged! Please join me as I pray for the many ministries through councils and individual ministries that spring forth from FPJ.
- **Thank you** again to all the people that have made this place bloom, and not just with the sanctuary decorated for Easter Sunday, but in the past month as we went through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.
- **The Pet Blessing** is coming up next week - Saturday the 20th from 9 am to 11 am. Bring your pets by, we will have treats and a little gift for them. This is more than just outreach, it is an invitation to get to know who we are as a church, and to get to know our neighbors. So please stop by.
- Please check in with Lindsay on the things that are coming up in the **children and youth ministries**. The Vacation Bible School registration is open, and planning is under way for a busy summer of ministry.
- Do not forget this week, after worship, Session has called for a **congregational meeting** to approve new terms of Call for Rev. Bo
- **VERY IMPORTANT** - Western Ave will undergo some work in the next weeks to deal with replacing water lines. Please plan accordingly when you come to church. Reed and Raynor parking entrances should be accessible at all times, but Western might be closed.

Have a great week,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

DINNER OUT **April 18th at 6pm**

Meet at Agave Azul
330 W North St in Manhattan
Contact Carol Kline (815-630-7099)
to be included in the reservation.

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I hope that you've been able to safely enjoy some sunshine this week, and maybe caught a glimpse of the solar eclipse through some eclipse glasses! I studied astronomy a bit while I was at Olivet, and even got to work in the planetarium on campus for a little while, so being able to observe events like these makes me very excited. These events always bring to mind Psalm 8:3-4 - *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"* Think about the care and attention to detail that God had to have to create our galaxy and solar system, that such events like these can happen with such precision and alignment. Now think about the care and attention to detail that God had to have to create each of us! It never fails to amaze me.

While we're reminded of the love and care that God has for us individually, let it also remind us of the love and care that He holds for those around us, too. My prayer is that this reminder would prompt us to be willing to share with those around us how God is at work in our lives, especially in the days after Easter, and maybe extend an invite to join us on a Sunday or at one of our upcoming events. We'd love to have new friends join us at the Pet Blessing on the 20th, or at the Craft Fair on the 27th!

I hope to see you back at Midweek tonight. Youth group will meet at the church again this upcoming Sunday, and then at Hammel Woods near the Black Road entrance on the 21st!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

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.

DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

Here is the list of items we are asking for to help with the Snack Cafe - (proceeds to benefit Angel House)

- Canned Soda:
Pepsi/Diet Pepsi , Coke/Diet Coke, Sprite
- Bottled Water
- Lays Classic Potato Chips - individual servings
- Fritos Corn Chips - individual servings - (for chili)

A volunteering shift schedule sign up is available in Hoffman Hall.