



e-News

April 3rd, 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 **by 4/6**

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.

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.

April 3rd, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$1,540
Year to Date Expenses	\$8
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 for:
Mary Caisley's sister Linda, Judy Bartels

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/7/24

PREACHING: Craig Herr

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Al Brooks, Joe Boyd

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Nola Boyd

ACOLYTE: Scarlett Poulos

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

MUSICIANS: Bev Adelman, Worship Band, Chancel Choir

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 4/7: 'The Great Commission' *Matthew 28:16-20*

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

Lesson for Wed. 4/3: 'Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath' *Luke 13:10-17*

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 11:25-26 *‘Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”’*

That is one of the biggest questions in life: Do you believe this? Easter is about moving on from the grave with deeper and renewed belief. Let me explain this: We all come before God with our set of preconceived ideas, we look at God through the lens of previous experiences. And while all those things form our “belief”, we need to come to terms with who Christ is to us in a way that continues to speak to who Christ really is. To know Christ is to desire to know Christ. So my prayer for us in this post Easter season is that our hearts will always pursue a deeper and more meaningful walk with Jesus.

Happening at 805 Western:

- This week is **another busy week** here at church. Please keep those who serve on so many committees and session in your prayers, as their work is so important for us as a church going forward.
- On Saturday our Night Deacons are hosting their monthly **Free Pancake Breakfast** for the community. Come and join them for some fresh pancakes, sausage, and good coffee.
- **This Sunday** Pastor Craig Herr is bringing the message, focusing on relationships. As I have mentioned before, the Worship Council will continue to work with me to provide support by inviting special Guest Preachers, to provide some respite. And after a great Holy Week and a Easter Sunday (thank you to all the people involved) I surely do appreciate it.
- April weekends are already booked and I hope you will find something to be part of; from the **Craft Fair, Axe Throwing, or the Pet Blessing**. Invite a friend and spread the word, that would help us so much.
- Just a reminder that our **services are online** on YouTube. They do come in handy if you are away for the weekend. You can always access that channel with the link on our website homepage, or by searching ‘firstpresjoliet’ on YouTube.

Have a great week,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

First Sat. of the month—April 6th

8:30 am– 10 am

Come help our Night Deacons serve our community or just enjoy a fresh and tasty breakfast!

MIDWEEK

Each Wednesday night

5-6:15 Kids Music and Bible classes

6:15- 6:45 Dinner

6:45 - 7:15 Adult Bible class and kids rec/gym time

7:30 Chancel Choir practice

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I hope you had a restful and joyful Easter! It was incredible being able to reflect and celebrate with you all this past weekend. Our kids and students did a beautiful job of sharing the good news with us to begin our Easter service - Christ is risen!

The big question I often ask myself following Easter is quite simply this: “Where do we go from here?” Easter doesn’t end after the Bunny goes away, the lilies die, and the Reese’s eggs go on clearance. Rather, we get to live in the power and the hope of the resurrection each and every day.

I’m looking forward to what’s coming up for us this month in family ministry! Midweek will resume this Wednesday (4/3), and it will be wonderful to gather together with everyone once again. Youth Group will be back this upcoming Sunday, and we’ll be starting a four week journey through the book of Philippians. Save the date - April 21st, we’ll be gathering at Hammel Woods! More details to follow, but we’ll meet by the Black Road entrance.

As we look ahead to spring and summer sports and activities, please let me know if there is a way to support your child, whether that’s attending a spring musical or cheering them on at a sporting event - I always want to be able to cheer on our kids and students!

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.