



# e-News

May 1st, 2024

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

## FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Starting June 3rd

Mon-Fri 11:30am-1pm

This ministry provides healthy and free lunches for kids who might otherwise rely on school lunches. If you are interested in supporting this ministry please reach out to Barb Rodgers.

## VBS 2024

June 24th –28th

9am—Noon

SCUBA- Diving into Friendship with God

Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

REGISTER TODAY at <https://www.firstpresjoliet.org/vbs2024/>

Volunteers are what make VBS so spectacular every year, so please consider supporting this ministry by donating your time. Reach out to Lindsay for more information, or register online.



## REGISTER HERE

For participants and volunteers

## 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 to the family and friends of Diane Uden, former Administrative Assistant at First Pres, upon her passing. Visitation at Carlson Funeral Home, Friday, May 3, 4-7 pm; Lying in state at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1910 Black Rd., Saturday, May 4th from 9:00 am until time of services at 10am.

Prayers of health and recovery for:  
Sheila Lundeen, Estella Jurkovich

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/5/24

**USHERS:** Barb Rodgers, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Lisa Haldorson-Diaz

**COFFEE:** Jasmine Keir

**LITURGIST:** Bev Adelman

**ACOLYTE:** Jillian Penhale

**SOUND:** Keith LeVasseur

**VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

May 1st, 2024

## Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$56,570
Year to Date Expenses	\$48,257
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.*

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Word:** LOVE: A closeness and connection that we feel with God and others.

**Lesson for Sun. 5/5:** 'Peter and Tabitha' Acts 9:36-43

**Bible Verse:** "Love each other like the members of your family"  
Romans 12:10a

**Lesson for Wed. 5/1:** 'Jesus Clears the Temple' Matthew 21:12-17

## The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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First Pres has posted our Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website to be matched with potential candidates for Senior Pastor. Please continue to pray for the committee as we search for the person God has for our church.

*A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea*

Matthew 19:17 "So He said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.' "

The 10 Commandments. Are these old testament commandments still good for the modern day? Do you ever think about how much easier life would be without a couple of these in place? Or even going as far as saying: I am good, thank you very much, I do not need these extra rules to help me live right. For me, the 10 Commandments do come into play into our lives, and whether we like it or not, they do define our interactions on so many levels, from morality, to right and wrong, to social expectations, and so on. This Sunday I would like to encourage you with the same words Moses spoke to his people in Exodus 20:1-17. I would also like to encourage you, as you meditate on these words, to pray that the Lord would work in our lives, as we reflect on what godly living is about. This Sunday, we will also celebrate Communion, remembering the grace and love that God has for us each and every day. Looking forward to worship with you on this coming Sunday.

**Happening at 805 Western**

- ◆ With May and Spring cleaning upon us, we are in need of a few capable hands to **help with mulch and rose bushes** around the church. If you are able to help please contact Chuck Tomashek at (815) 954-6276.
- ◆ **Thank you to Parish Council**, Kris Hayden, Mike House, Michael Krueger and Jon Belfield for their work on the Spring Fever Craft and Vendor Fair. It was so nice to see the folks that came out and helped from donations, to welcoming and so much more. Thank you 1st Pres for being a welcoming church.
- ◆ With the school year coming to an end, we too will switch gears and look towards **summer programming**. VBS, Summer Lunch, and youth and kids activities, are becoming the center stage for the next few months. Please pray that all the work that goes into these programs will refresh us all, while we welcome the community around us.
- ◆ **Continue to pray** for the many folks that are on our care list. If you are able to call and encourage them or send a card, please do so. Pastoral care comes in so many forms and through so many people, and you are part of that.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

P.S. On behalf of the Office and the whole church I want to express our condolences to Diane Uden's family. Diane was part of our staff for many years, before she retired. We will always remember her kind spirit and how much she cared for this place. May the Lord keep her in her arms forever, and her family be comforted at this time.

**TAX SAVINGS FROM INVESTMENTS**

Several members have asked to have private conversations with Ken Graham about 'Tax Savings From Investments'. They also broadened the topic list to include Roth IRA's for children and grandchildren, 529 College Savings Plans, Donor Advised Funds, Required Minimum Distributions, and Qualified Charitable Distributions From Retirement Plans. We will now move to private 30 minute conversations before and after service Sunday May 5. Please text Ken at 630 297-5632 to reserve time. Please include your name in your text!

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

Hello everyone!

Our kids all did a fantastic job leading us in worship this past Sunday! We are so thankful for Sarah and all the time and effort she has put into making the music program amazing all year long. What a gift it has been to be blessed by their performances throughout the year. Next time you see Sarah, please be sure to extend your gratitude to her as well.

I will not be with you all at Midweek tonight, but what a joy it has been to gather together each Wednesday! Lisa and Ezequiel have done a phenomenal job providing delicious meals every week. If you've had the pleasure of partaking in one of their meals, please make sure you thank them!

Our students will gather for our Youth Group End of Year Bash this Sunday! We'll talk about summer plans and enjoy fellowship time filled with games and food. It's going to be a great night!

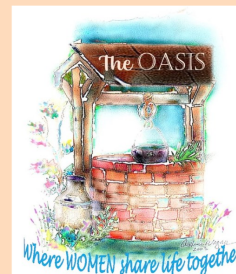
I look forward to seeing you all this Sunday!

In Christ,  
Lindsay Gordon

**WELCOME BACK—  
GETTING 2 KNOW U**

**Oasis Women's Ministry  
6/9th 11:30am-1:30pm**

Ladies are invited to kick off bringing back Oasis Women's Ministry by enjoying a nice lunch, fellowship and fun after worship.



**DINNER OUT GROUP**

**May 16th 6pm  
Al's Steakhouse in Joliet**

Reach out to Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

**GRADUATES**

Here at FPJ we have a tradition of celebrating all of the graduates in our church family. We share this with a board showcasing graduates, in our Narthex. If you have a loved one who is graduating (or did in the winter) we would love to include them. Graduates can be completing any grade or school level, trades programs, certification courses, etc. Graduates can be submitted by a physical form available at FPJ, or the online form available on our website.

**NOTICE:**

As of 5/1 Western Ave is closed for construction. First Pres has a parking lot across Western Ave that is accessible from Raynor.