



e-News

May 15th, 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

DINNER OUT GROUP

May 16th 6pm Al's Steakhouse in Joliet

May 15th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$72,628
Year to Date Expenses	\$72,676
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 for Lindsay Gordon as her migraine persists.

Prayers of healing for Anna Jean Wilhelms following surgery.

Prayers of health and recovery for Sheila Lundeen, Joyce Bossen following cataract surgery, Cindy Warf following surgery

Prayers for Al Brooks with his upcoming surgery.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

If your information has changed please contact the church office A.S.A.P. to make sure it is updated in the upcoming FPJ Directory.

office@firstpresjoliet.org 1(815)727-9259

SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/19/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Morrison, Mark Dykema, Mark Fumagalli

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Megan Pritz

ACOLYTE: Abel DeNieuwe

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

MUSICIANS: Glory Ringers

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 5/19: 'Pentecost' Acts 2:1-12

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

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 and are being 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

"Once upon a time, not so long ago Tommy used to work on the docks, union's been on strike He's down on his luck, it's tough, so tough Gina works the diner all day, working for her man She brings home her pay, for love, mmm, for love Whoa, we're half way there Whoa oh, livin' on a prayer Take my hand, we'll make it, I swear Whoa oh, livin' on a prayer"

Wait a minute here Bo! You cannot start the eNews without a Scripture verse, and with "Living on a Prayer" - Bon Jovi ... Really??? (My internal thoughts, as I am writing this.) But then again, why not? We all have a go to song, prayer, or person when things get hard. I know I am not the only one that will blast a song just because the lyrics just fit the mood. And, please hear me out, sometimes I think those moments of intense rock and rolling sound more like a prayer than anything else.

Prayer has many ways of capturing us. Prayer goes beyond words. Prayer is like the blood running through our veins, sustaining our spiritual life. And if that is true, why does it feel so hard to pray at times? Why are the words gone when you need them most? I pray that as we talk about the "Lord's Prayer" this Sunday we might find some new life and some answers to those questions. So yes, pray, sing, shout, and talk to God as you set your heart towards Sunday Worship.

Happening at 805 Western:

- ◆ Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** this Sunday to receive the **Annual Report**. As I said this past Sunday, this is a great reminder of God's faithfulness to us in our work and mission. I would encourage you to pick up a copy of the report and rejoice with us in all the good things that God has lead us through in this past year of ministry.
- ◆ Next Sunday, we will **celebrate Kristina Wilson's ministry** among us and bless her as she is starting a new chapter in her life. There are so many things that can be said about her wonderful ministry among us, and I would ask you to join us on the 26th to share with her how much she means to us here.
- ◆ This past Tuesday I was joined by Dave Steinberg as I went to the **Presbytery quarterly meeting**. I would ask you to pray not just for our church, but for the church as a whole, for our common mission and the unity of the body of Christ. If you would like to go to one of these meetings, please reach out and ask. I always love good company at these meetings.

Looking forward to see you on Sunday morning as we worship together.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

SPECIAL MUSIC

Summer is a hiatus for the Chancel Choir. This creates a need for volunteers to provide special music during services in June and July (and likely August). If you have the necessary skills to perform **either vocally or instrumentally** and wish to volunteer your talents, **please contact the office**. If your piece is accompanied, you need to give a copy of your music to Beth Maurer ahead of time for her to practice. And you need to arrange a time to go through your piece with Beth prior to your service performance. The image we project as a church includes the talents we display through our music. So, your contributions can reach both those attending our services and those tuning in online. "Don't hide your light under a bushel" to paraphrase Luke. Here is one more way to witness to a world that needs to hear the message!!

Copies of the **Annual Report** will be available this Sunday morning and from the office at any time. Session has called for the **Annual Congregational Meeting** to take place during the worship service on Sunday, **May 19**.

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I hope you all had joyful starts to the week, especially following any celebrations this weekend. Our kids had a blast decorating cookies for the women in their families - I wish I had taken a photo, but the classroom sure was a sprinkle explosion!

We have a lot to celebrate - and a lot to anticipate - coming up this summer. The Summer Lunch Program will be getting started soon - I know Barb has been working hard and we are so grateful for her. Vacation Bible School is also right around the corner! We've been having lots of kids signing up already, and there are still plenty of opportunities open for volunteering. Please let me know if you have any questions about how to sign up!

Our youth group summer events have also been announced!

Mark your calendars:

- June 5** - Roller Skating @ Family Fun Zone, 6-8pm
- June 19** - Morton Arboretum Day (meet at church, 10am)
- July 9-11** - Missions Week - stay tuned for more details!
- July 10** - Outdoor Movie during Missions Week (details TBD)
- July 24** - Local Pool Party, 1-5pm
- August 7** - Brookfield Zoo Day (meet at church, 10am)
- August 14** - Mini Golf @ Haunted Trails, 6-8pm

It is going to be such a fun summer, and I can't wait to see how God is going to move. I know He has big plans for our community! I'm so thankful to be a part of it with all of you.

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

GRADUATES

Every year we celebrate our Graduates in June. 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.



Thank you to our local Girl Scout troop for their hard work re-beautifying our planters! Head to the back door at FPJ to see what an amazing job they did!

OASIS: WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Welcome Back Getting To Know You Lunch
6/9 from 11:30am-1:30pm

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