



# e-News

May 22nd, 2024  
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

## 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 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 following surgery.

Prayers of sympathy for Duke Barnes and family on the passing of his sister in law, Donna Barnes.

## 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

## 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.  
 Contact the church office if you need childcare or nursery care.

## 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.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/26/24

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Fumagalli, Mark Dykema, Nola Boyd  
**COFFEE:** Barb Rodgers  
**LITURGIST:** Laura Sutton  
**ACOLYTE:** Xavier DeNieuwe  
**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina  
**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

## May 22nd, 2024 Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$82,262
Year to Date Expenses	\$72,483
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. 5/26:** 'Love in Action' Romans 12:9-18

**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 is 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

Somedays I still think about Tevye singing about his desire to be rich, so he can spent time in the House of the Lord:

*"If I were rich, I'd have the time that I lack to sit in the synagogue and pray And maybe have a seat by the Eastern wall And I'd discuss the holy books with the learned men, several hours every day And that would be the sweetest thing of all"*

There is something so deep about those words, in part because they capture the deep need of who we are as people seeking peace and balance, but also because they speak to the need of being connected to our source of life, God. It is the ministry of the church, that we pray, where those connections happen. We pray that in our ministry we will inspire people to catch on the wind of God, and let that hunger for the Kingdom above transform their lives. Now, you might hear me say these words in my Sermon on Sunday: 'We are by no means the perfect church, but we are still the church.' And I believe this will ring true in your heart as you hear it. And even more, I want to ask you to pray, and seek the Lord, as we try to be the church, and discover still today in these very controversial and ever-changing times, what it means to be the church. Nevertheless, just like David said, I pray that we all can say:

Psalm122:1

*I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

See you Sunday!

### Being the Church at 805 Western Ave:

- This Sunday we are **celebrating** and saying 'The Lord bless you and keep you' to **Kristina Wilson**. Kristina has been not just a voice in our services for so many years, but she has been an important part of this church's life and ministry. Please join us on Sunday as we will say farewell.
- Night Deacons' June 1st **Free Pancake Breakfast** is around the corner. We are in need of a little help in the kitchen, with making some delicious pancakes. If you can help, please let Reed Mott know, or call the office.
- A special **thank you** this week to all the people that are helping, serving, stocking, and re-stocking the **Micro-Food Pantry**. I cannot tell you how important this little box is for the ministry of the church. Just last week, I witnessed a few young kids running to the box to look for a little snack on their way home from school. Yes, it was cute, but even more, it touched my heart knowing that they see this place as a safe and welcoming place for them.
- As the **Chancel Choir** is taking a little summer break, I want to express my thanks for their ministry of music and fellowship, that helps us as a church to celebrate God's love when we come to the House of the Lord. I look forward to seeing how the Lord will lead us over the summer with different voices, and people leading us closer and closer to God through their music.

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**. More info available on our website.

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

Hello everyone!

Here is your reminder to pause and take a nice, deep breath - inhale... and exhale... very good! I know this time of year can get intensely busy with the end of the school year, graduations, sports, parties, and camping trips for Memorial Day weekend, and countless other things. There is a lot on everybody's plates, and if you feel like it's a lot to try to manage, I promise you that you're not alone!

We've got some fun opportunities coming up for our kids, students, and their families this summer, and they will be here before we know it! VBS will be happening June 24-28th, and registration for both kids and volunteers is open. We will also have a serving opportunity coming up on June 2nd after service, where families can participate together to help prepare some crafts that will serve as decorations for VBS! Lunch will be provided, as well as visual samples of the crafts to be prepared. Stay tuned for more information!

Our first youth group summer events will be coming up in June as well, as well as our Missions Week in July! Our students will be serving at local agencies July 9-11th, while staying at the church and having a blast together. Keep an eye out for the application, which will be mailed out shortly. Copies will be available on site as well.

- **June 5 - Roller Skating** @ Family Fun Zone, 6-8pm
- **June 19 - Morton Arboretum** (meet at church, 10am)

Please reach out to me if you have any questions!

In Christ,  
Lindsay Gordon

### VBS CRAFT DAY

We need your help! **June 2 after service** all people of all ages are invited to join us to create decorations for VBS. Come make one or more of the following projects. All supplies and lunch will be provided.



This is a fun opportunity to make a big show of support for this ministry that is so important to our church and our community.

### 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.