



e-News

May 8th, 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.

Praise and Thank God for the gift of Anna Jean Wilhelms born c. 8:35 am Tuesday, May 7, 2024. 7 pounds 1 ounce to Carol (Randolph) and Nathan Wilhelms. Proud Grand Parents Craig and Sarah Randolph.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Diane Uden, former Administrative Assistant at First Pres, upon her passing.

Congratulations to AJ and Taylor Zang on the arrival of Philomena "Poppy" Mae Wolfram-Zang on April 25. Proud grandparents are Dave and Sandi Zang.

Prayers of health and recovery for Sheila Lundeen

SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/12/24

PREACHING: Craig Herr

USHERS: Reed Mott, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Joe Boyd

COFFEE: Pat Haldorson

LITURGIST: Sue Mott

ACOLYTE: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Colin Herr

DINNER OUT GROUP

May 16th 6pm

Al's Steakhouse in Joliet

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

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 5/12: 'The Church Grows' Acts 9:26-31

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

May 8th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$66,447
Year to Date Expenses	\$48,691
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.

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
----------	---------------	-----------------	--------------------	------------	---------------	------------------	-------------------

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

This Sunday is Mother's Day!

Over the many years of ministry, I have understood that this day, while it is filled with joy, cards, and a lot of laughter, it is also filled with great sadness for some. It might be the memories of a mother that has gone to glory too early. Or missing the opportunities to have spent time and cherished that person in your life, and say thank you as you realized how much of themselves they poured into your life. Or the hardship of being unable to be a mother, for some. I would like to take time and share this little prayer for all of the people that have filled that role of a mother in our lives: Lord, may all their love that we received be returned tenfold to them. May their work, effort, and everything they have done speak before you as works of faith, seeds planted for eternity. May you always help us honor their lives in the way we live ours. Amen.

As I mentioned in a recent eNews, summer and all that summer brings to our church, is on all of our councils and staff agendas. It might be VBS, or Summer Lunch program, or summer choirs, or hymn sing, the list goes on. I am sharing this with you because of one thing: While we might think summer is a slower ministry time, in fact during summer there is a lot of ministry going on at First Pres. And that is a good thing. It helps us stay connected to each other, and to the people around us, it gives us something to look forward to as we see what God is doing in our lives. First Pres is at its best when we stay focused on those very things: how we reach out and show what God is doing in our lives. I would like to encourage you to pray for the people we will reach this summer. Pray that this place will be a refreshing oasis from the business or trouble of the world, and that we can serve them faithfully. I would also encourage you to find a little time this summer to join in some of these opportunities. You will find some cool people and some cool stories of what God is doing in this place.

This Sunday, it is a bitter sweet Sunday for us, in part because it is the last Sunday when our Worship Band is in full configuration. As you know May 26th is Kristina Wilson's last day with us. Please take time to encourage her and thank her for her ministry among us. And also encourage Beth Maurer and Michael Lockler as they will continue to lead us in worship. Pastor Craig Herr is joining us this Sunday, bringing us the message. I am looking forward to celebrating this special day of God's grace in our congregation.

P.S. A gentle reminder to all the guys reading this: Buy flowers! Call your mother!

Happening at 805 Western:

- **Session** is meeting this Thursday. Pray that the Lord will give us clarity and strength for His vision for this place for many years to come.
- Session has called a special **Congregational meeting** to receive the Annual Report on May 19th after the worship service. This report is a great reminder of God's faithfulness among us in this past year of ministry and a great encouragement in the ministry ahead of us.
- Don't forget to reach out to Chuck Tomashek regarding the **Spring Mulch Project** if you can help. It is that time of the year when we do a little spring cleaning around the church and we need some help.

Have a great week, Blessings,
Pastor Bo

OASIS: WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

What a joy it is to celebrate the women in our lives as we approach Mother's Day this Sunday! If you've been around for the Easter Egg Hunt or the Blessing of the Pets, then you may have had the opportunity to meet my mom. We've always been very close - God really did bless me with an incredible mom, and I'm so grateful for her kindness, patience, grace, and intentionality. But I've also been blessed with so many other godly women who have blessed me with their love and leadership - other women in my family, friends' moms, women in the churches I've grown up and served at. I've had many "spiritual moms" in my life that I'm also so thankful for, and I know you may be able to think of many, too. Take a moment and reach out to them this week, and thank them for the impact that they've had on your life!

Mother's Day can also be a hard day for those who have lost their moms, have had strained relationships with their moms, have lost children, or have struggled with infertility. Please know that you are seen and loved, and are not forgotten. I hope you feel celebrated for the impact that you've had on others' lives, too.

While our families are coming together for celebrations and summer activities, don't forget to add VBS to your calendar! June 24-28th will be the week of the summer that you will not want to miss. We still need lots of hands on deck - particularly those willing to assist our elementary and preschool friends during the week - but we have a place for everybody no matter where your gift is! Participant and volunteer registration is open on the website.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon

There will be an **Annual Report Congregational Q & A Session** on Wednesday, **May 14th at 6:00 p.m.** in Hoffman Hall. 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.**

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.