



# e-News

June 12th, 2024

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 [firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

## Church Family

Prayers for Lindsay Gordon as her migraine persists.

Prayers of health and healing for:

Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, and Pat Haldorson

Pray for baby Anna Jean to gain 5 lbs to qualify for her heart surgery, and prayers of thanks that she was able to go home.

Prayers and sympathies to the friends and family of Betty Jones who passed to glory last week.

## VBS DONATIONS

Here are a few types of donations you can make to support our VBS this year. **1)** Donating snacks for the volunteers, or bags of ice **2)** Making a contribution specifically towards helping cover VBS costs, (link on VBS page of our website) and **3)** Making a contribution to our VBS Mission Project (Giving Page on our website). Financial contributions can be done online or specially marked if passed or mailed in. Contact Lindsay for more info.



June 24th –28th 9am—Noon

### LET'S MAKE A SPLASH

#### **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

## FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

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.

June 12th, 2024

### **Stewardship Report**

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$96,990
Year to Date Expenses	\$95,271
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.*

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 6/16/24

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott, Mark Fumagalli

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Jill Strimel

**ACOLYTE:** Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

**SOUND:** Rich Pool

**VIDEO:**

**MUSICIANS:** Glory Ringers

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Word:** PEACE-Living together in harmony without fighting. To be calm and know God's presence.

**Lesson for Sun. 6/16:** 'Be Peaceful' Psalm 23:1-6

**Bible Verse:** "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children." Matthew 5:9

## 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

Isaiah 46: 9

*"Remember your history, your long and rich history. I am God, the only God you've had or ever will have - incomparable, irreplaceable ..."*

Have you ever gotten lost on a road trip? I have, and I have to tell you there are two ways to deal with that. One is to be frustrated, get upset, and try to see how you can get back towards the right destination. The second way to deal with that is to recognize that your journey might be different than you originally planned, and now you have a chance to see new things, discover, and enjoy a new view as you are getting to your destination. Too many times the church lives in the first part of the journey, with the frustration and everything that comes with it, or the classic "we have always done it this way." The challenge of modern ministry today is how to make the journey, the call of the church, new and exciting to the people getting on the faith road. Part of that is remembering that God has called the church to go and teach, preach, and make disciples. Part of that is for the church to remember that God has empowered us to do all the things he has called us to do. Part of it is for us to accept that call, and find the joy that comes with it. I pray that as we worship on Sunday and seek God's heart about what it means to be "Sent Out" we will remember God's faithfulness to us and to this Church.

#### Happening at 805 Western:

- As **Session** meets this week, I am asking for prayer for steadfast vision and direction for those that work in our councils and oversee the many aspects of this church's ministry, myself included.
- I want to express my **thanks to all the councils** that are working so hard from greeting, to women's ministry, fellowship building, and so on. It is such a joy to see what the Lord is doing when people come together and serve.
- I know you have questions about what it means to be in the middle of **building renovations** for the church. We are working on a new fence. We are working on fixing the lights in the sanctuary. We are working on the parking lot, and so much more. Why? Because this place is intended to be welcoming, inviting, and ready, for when a new person stops in on a Sunday morning. But all these things will not mean much if we are not ready. Please keep an eye out for new visitors, and encourage them on Sunday to join you for coffee, or the other ministry and fellowship opportunities that are coming up.
- **Dinner Out Group** is coming up next week (6/20), at Mama Onesta's. Please call Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.
- The **Girls Scouts' Little Lending Library** has been installed in front of the of the church, just in time for the Summer Lunch Program and VBS. And it is fully stocked with books for the little ones. Thank you to all the girls in the Troops.

I am sure I am missing so much as I write this today, but I know we are making a lot of progress and hard work does pay off.

See you Sunday in Church,

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

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

Hello everyone!

I had an absolute blast this Sunday at our Oasis gathering - my first one ever! It was wonderful being able to get to know the wonderful ladies of First Pres even more. Kris, Jackie, Diane, LuAnn, and Pam all did a fantastic job putting together a lovely afternoon filled with delicious food and fun activities. I can't wait to see what they do next!

Something that I loved about our afternoon at Oasis was that it encouraged us to get out of our comfort zones a bit. We all need some help with that every once in a while, don't we? The great news is that this summer, FPJ has all kinds of opportunities to branch out and try new things! Whether that's signing up to volunteer at VBS or with the summer lunch program, or applying for Missions Week if you're a student, there are so many ways to be encouraged to step out of your comfort zone, all while serving our local community and sharing the love of Jesus.

Speaking of VBS, we're just two weeks away! If you're unable to volunteer the week of VBS but would still like to contribute, there are ways that you can do that! We would love to be able to provide snacks for our volunteers, and we will also need lots of ice during the week. If you would like to donate baked goods or packaged snacks for our volunteers, or bags of ice, that could be a possible way of helping out with VBS without having to be here in person while it's happening. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

And speaking of students - we have lots of fun coming up! Our next event will be on the 19th, and we'll be spending an afternoon at the Morton Arboretum! We will meet at the church at noon (*note the time change from the postcard*), and return back to the church around 5pm, unless otherwise communicated. Please RSVP by Monday the 17th so we can make sure we have enough seats in cars!

Lastly, Missions Week is coming up, and we are still looking for a couple more projects. If you have needs around your home or yard that we could help with, please reach out to me! Our time is limited, so projects will be determined based on the size of our group, as well as our timeline. Student Applications are due by June 28th - it's going to be an amazing week, so don't wait to apply!!

See you Sunday!

In Christ,  
Lindsay Gordon

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

If your information has changed please contact the church office A.S.A.P. so it is updated in the upcoming FPJ Directory.  
office@firstpresjoliet.org 1(815)727-9259

### 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.

<— Girl Scouts installing their new Little Lending Library outside FPJ

