



e-News

July 3rd, 2024

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
to **EVERYONE** who made VBS 2024 such a spectacular
success! You made a real **SPLASH** this Summer!

Check out our Facebook page for more pictures.



July 3rd, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$142,395
Year to Date Expenses	\$138,824
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 health and healing for:

Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, Pat Haldorson, George Redman, Barb Huey following surgery, Jeannette Miller following her injury, Ezequiel Diaz following injury and upcoming surgery, and Holly Cowgill following recent surgery.

Pray for baby Anna Jean to gain 2 lbs to qualify for her heart surgery.

Prayers and sympathies to the friends and family of Ann Barbini on her passing. Details of her service TBD.

YOUTH GROUP OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

July 10th Meet at 7pm

Outdoor Movie Night will be in Matt and Laura Pritz's backyard, on the other side of the FPJ parking lot. Movie TBD

DINNER OUT GROUP

July 18th at 6pm

Meet at McWethy's in Romeoville

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/7/24

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

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Tandy Penhale

ACOLYTE: Abel DeNieuwe

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: **BELONG**— To know you are accepted and included in God's family.

Lesson for Sun. 7/7: 'Babel' *Genesis 11:1-9*

Bible Verse: "For you all are one in Christ Jesus." *Galatians 3:28b*

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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We have received and reviewed the first 30 applicants and requested additional information from the top candidates. We are also requesting additional matches through the CLC system. Your PNC is working diligently to access and review perspective applicants in order to find the person best suited for First Pres.

A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea

John 16:33- "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Have you wondered about this peace that Jesus talks about? Is it the absence of conflict? Is it a state of serenity? Is it feeling that all is right with the world? What is peace? Peace, God's peace, is more than any of us can understand at times. It is feeling safe when the world around us is not. Peace is feeling comfort when bad news comes. God's peace is learning to trust and rely on God. This Sunday I am preaching on wholeness, peace, and the Prodigal Son. I would encourage you to revisit that parable and ask yourself this one question: If I was him, what would I do with my life?

I am looking forward to worship with you on Sunday and celebrating the Lord's supper. Don't forget Hymn sing starts this Sunday so make sure you get to church early.

Also wishing you a Happy and safe 4th of July. May you celebrate the blessings we remember on this day, and continue to pray for this country that we all love. God Bless America, indeed.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe that our time at VBS has already come to an end! Scuba was so much fun, and being able to celebrate with you all this past Sunday brought me so much joy. Continue asking the kids to share what they learned with you, and next time you see one of our wonderful volunteers, be sure to thank them again! We truly could not have done it without them.

Just because VBS has concluded does not mean that we are pumping the brakes on anything! Our youth group's Missions Week is coming up next week, and we are shifting from an overnighter model to individual projects over the course of July 9-11th. Our students will be serving at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Feed My Starving Children, and MorningStar Mission. If your student is interested in serving on any or all of these projects, please contact me as soon as possible in order to check on the availability of spots for each project.

On Wednesday the 10th, during Missions Week, our students will have their Outdoor Movie Night in Matt and Laura Pritz's backyard, just on the other side of the church parking lot. We'll gather at 7pm at the back of the church and walk over together for an evening of fun and fellowship!

I hope you all have a fun and safe Independence Day weekend!

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon



SPECIAL MUSIC

Summer is a hiatus for the Chancel Choir. This creates a need for volunteers to provide special music during services in 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!!

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**First Sat. of the month—July 6th
8:30-10am**

Come help our Night Deacons serve our community or just enjoy a fresh and tasty breakfast!

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.

LUNCHES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE 7/4

YOUTH GROUP MISSION WEEK

July 9th-11th

Each day there is a different way we can serve our community. Contact Lindsay Gordon for details or to sign up!