



e-News

July 31st, 2024

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

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

First Sat. of the month—August 3rd
8:30-10am

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Mon-Fri 11:30am-1pm until Aug. 20th

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Summer Events

8/7—Brookfield Zoo Trip

8/14—Minigolf at Haunted Trails

Reach out to Lindsay or the church office if you're interested!

HANDBELL CHOIR

Are you interested in our Handbell Choir, the Glory Ringers? Would you like to try ringing a handbell? Reach out to Susan Pemble or the church office to learn more, or arrange a time to try out the bells, no commitment required.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE—September 8th

Picnic after 10am worship here at FPJ
Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

July 31st, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$165,341
Year to Date Expenses	\$181,306
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 of health and healing for:

Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, Lindsay Gordon, Mark Fumagalli, Maureen Fumagalli, Judy Jordan, and Jean Smietanski.

Pray for baby Anna Jean who has almost reached the weight to qualify for her heart surgery.

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Jan Weber after her passing Friday 7/26. Her visitation will be 7/31 from 3 - 8:00 p.m., at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, Funeral services will be held Thursday, 8/1 at 10:30 a.m., at the funeral home.

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Kim Zeman, wife of Chuck Zeman, after her recent passing.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/4/24

PREACHING: David Spaulding

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce, Barb Rodgers

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Ed Schultz

ACOLYTE: Rylie Blaser

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

SPECIAL MUSICIAN: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: COURAGE— Choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

Lesson for Sun. 8/4: 'Rahab' *Joshua 2:1-24*

Bible Verse: "Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!" - *Psalms 27:14*

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The PNC has reviewed over 50 candidates from the CLC matching system and invited the top ones to apply. We are in the process of reviewing another batch of matches. Your PNC continues to diligently and thoroughly search for the person best suited for First Pres.

A letter from Acting Head Pastor Bo Mircea

First things first. Mom and Dad are doing well, and say 'Hi'. The trip itself was not bad, just a lot of people traveling made things interesting at some stages. But all is well when at the end of your trip you have a good time reconnecting with an old friend for the drive home. Pastor Ovi picked me up from the airport and boy did we have a lot of catching up to do.

And that leads me to the second thing I want to share with you today: It has to do with who we are as people of faith as we face the many challenges of life. As I mentioned in the Sunday Prayers in church, life can just be hard at times. And that ripples into everything we do, from work, to ministry, to personal relationships. One of the things that I was chatting with Ovi about centered on this simple, yet hard to do, concept of praying and trusting. Do we actually believe what we pray? Do we actually seek God's guidance as we pray? Do we actually wait for God to answer our prayers?

Isaiah 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Over the last few weeks, I have spent a lot of time praying with, and for, the people of our church, and praying for the church as a whole. At times I wish I could wave a magic wand or extend my arms out like Moses, and take care of certain things. But I am neither a magician nor Moses. What I am is a person of prayer. I want to remind you today that even when life is hard, when you are part of a church, someone will always be praying for you. And I know you will be praying too. So please take time for prayer and waiting to see God.

In prayer for you from Romania,
Pastor Bo

PS. It is kind of fun to watch the Olympic games from Romania, since now I get to cheer for two countries. Go Team USA and Team Romania. :)

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe that another month of summer has already come and gone. I know that August can come with a lot of anxiety and anticipation for both kids and adults alike. I remember well what an uneasy time of year this could be, both as a student and as a former teacher myself! Now I'm experiencing it in a whole new way with my upcoming move and return to school as I head to seminary very soon. Whether you're a student getting ready to go back to school, a teacher preparing to welcome students back into your classroom, or a parent getting ready to send your children back for a new year, my prayer for you is that the peace of God would wash over you and your families, even now.

Before we rush into the upcoming school year, there are still a few more fun summer things happening for our students and families! Next Wednesday, 8/7, we'll be heading to the Brookfield Zoo! We'll leave the church at 9am, and return at 3pm. Tickets are \$15, and spots are limited, so make sure you RSVP with me as soon as possible! I will be ordering tickets on Tuesday, so let me know if you would like to attend before then.

Wednesday 8/14 from 6-8pm, we'll be spending an evening mini golfing at Haunted Trails! We'll meet there and pay individually at the counter, so bring cash! Mini golf is \$8 per game, and we can hit the arcade or go-karts if there is extra time. Let me know if you or your students would like to attend.

Summer isn't over yet! There is still so much to enjoy together, and for that, I am grateful.

In Christ,
Lindsay Gordon



Pictured: Pastor Bo visiting his parents in Romania

THIS SUNDAY'S PREACHER: DAVID SPAULDING

Rev. David Spaulding is from Dixon. He served as pastor of Dixon First Presbyterian Church from 2010 until February 2023, when he retired after almost 32 years in pastoral ministry. Prior to moving to Dixon, he was the pastor of Chazy Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Northern New York. He received his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He has served on Blackhawk Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and is active in the Blackhawk-Kenya Partnership. On the personal side, he has two adult daughters, Anne and Christine. He plays the cello and guitar, cycles, and volunteers with Dixon Habitat for Humanity.