



e-News

August 14th, 2024
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY SAVE THE DATE—September 8th

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

Tasty food—Bingo—Bags—a Bounce House—Fun!

Special guests— **MATSIKO WORLD ORPHANS CHOIR**

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Sheila Lundeen, Al Brooks, Lindsay Gordon, Mark Fumagalli, Judy Jordan, Jean Smietanski, Klint DeGeus, and JoAnn McBride.

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

Prayers and sympathies for Mary and Don Caisley and their family after the passing of Mary's brother Will.

MIDWEEK—Starts Sep. 11th

5-6pm SOAR HIGH—register online today!

Kids age 3 –8th grade will have a Bible lesson and related art lessons, games, and other activities

Kids 5yrs—8th grade will also have singing & instrument lessons

6pm—Fellowship dinner for all

6:45pm—Adult Bible Study and kids rec time

SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/18/24

PREACHING: Eric Heinekamp

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Joe Boyd, Nola Boyd

COFFEE: Nola Boyd

LITURGIST: Karol Boyd

ACOLYTE: Caleb Adler

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

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.

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$207,048
Year to Date Expenses	\$187,214
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: **COURAGE**— Choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

Lesson for Sun. 8/18: 'Mary Anoints Jesus' *John 12:1-8*

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

Have you ever asked someone: What's the deal with all the genealogies in the Bible?

Recently I got caught up in a conversation with my dad about our family. As with all families, there are people we like, people we love, and people we don't want to talk about, but we will. We will talk about our people because they are our people. And their lives, their stories, are ours too. Genealogies are important, as they can speak to who deserves what in terms of inheritance. Speaking of belonging, genealogies are important when we talk about histories. Maybe the most important thing for me in this conversation, is that in the great genealogy of Jesus, God has made a way for the gentiles to become part of that great story. Grafted, not replacing, the great history and spiritual inheritance of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Here's a little more insight in this conversation, from a Biblical perspective. At times we only speak about the great things that the people in these genealogies have accomplished, and not their failures. In many ways we are very grace-filled towards those that went before us. And yet, when it comes to here and now, we might not be as gracious or grace-filled. The amazing thing about this conversation, is that today's people are still writing their story, they are still writing their chapter in the history book. As a preacher once said: The Book of Acts does not have a last chapter because we continue to write it each and every day as we wake up and go out the door.

That is my prayer for us today as a church: May we all be honest in our conversations, may we all be kind, and may we all love with a love that will write the best chapter in the Book of Life that was ever written.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

PS. I know I will be offending some people there, but I have to say the espressos I have had on my trip are soooo much better than anything I have had in the U.S. Don't get me started about the sweets, the pastries. All that is to say, I miss you guys, and I am praying for you. Wish you were here. See you soon.

Preaching on Sunday

The Rev. Eric Heinekamp serves as Transformational General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for Blackhawk Presbytery. Prior to this call, Eric served as pastor at First Presbyterian Church of DuPage and Director of Business Affairs for the Presbytery of Chicago. Eric is a life-long presbyterian and a second career pastor. Prior to his call to ministry, Eric worked for 20 years in commercial banking. He holds an MDiv from McCormick Theological Seminary and an MBA from the University of Michigan. Eric and his wife, Patty, have been married 44 years and live in Naperville. They have 3 adult children, 5 grandchildren, a dog, and one grandcat.

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

As you're reading this, we're likely just heading to Haunted Trails for our final youth group outing of the summer - a lovely evening of mini golf! I'm grateful for one last hurrah with our students as they head back to school this week, but also as I close out my time at First Pres. As you know, tomorrow is my last day in the office.

I have loved my time here with all of you so much. This really has been such a beautiful season of my life, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to do ministry with all of you. Thank you for sharing your hearts with me, for praying with me and for me as I've continued to battle with chronic migraine, and for helping me find a home here. I will miss you all dearly.

Thank you all for the kind words you shared with me this Sunday, and for the cake and flowers! Rocket was thrilled to join you all this Sunday as well. I'll be sure to send Gordon family updates from time to time about how we're doing at Princeton - and I'll be sure to include some Rocket photos as I do so!

I'm grateful that the Lord has allowed us to cross paths, and that we are all united in Christ. This isn't goodbye - it's just a "see you later!"

Until then,
Lindsay Gordon



DINNER OUT GROUP

August 15th 6pm

Metro Grill and Bar in Joliet

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.