



e-News

November 11th, 2024

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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STARS OF HOPE

October 27th— November 24th

Partnering with MorningStar Mission, we have stars available. Each star has a 'wants' or 'needs' list for a child in need this holiday season. You can claim a star (sign it out) and shop for those items, and **return them to FPJ by 11/24 unwrapped.**

Childcare Volunteers

Thank you to those who responded and will help our Children's Ministry Team in the future.
We are still looking for some folks who are willing to help in the nursery if needed on any Sunday with an abundance of kids.
If you are interested please contact the church office.

Soar High is Requesting: 1 - Donations by November 17 or sooner of empty Pringle cans for the Soar High K-8 Children to make rain sticks. (leave in Hoffman Hall) 2 - Soar High is excited to have 38 active children participating. However, we need at least two adult volunteers to help every Wednesday from 4:45-6pm. (No musical experience needed.) We are asking people to have fun with the children and sign up to help at least one Wednesday between now and April. Fill out a Google Form for EACH adult Volunteer in the family willing to help. Volunteer sign up on our website. Once you fill out the Google Form, you will be sent an email link to a Google Sheet to sign up for the date(s) you are willing to help. Thank you so much! Sarah Randolph, Soar High Children's Music Volunteer

November 13th, 2024

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$329,212
Year to Date Expenses	\$320,364
Per Capita	\$43.00

Received for Hurricane Relief \$6,070.00

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, Jean Smietanski, Klint DeGeus, and Mary Jane Johnson.

Praise and Thank God Anna made it through her heart surgery! She is now home and doing well. Thank you for all your prayers! Sarah and Craig, Carol, and Nathan

We appreciate your prayers for Mariora Mircea, Pastor Bo's mom, and ask for continued prayers of quick healing as she recovers at home.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/17/24

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Dale Mullen, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Holly Tomashek **ACOLYTE:** Joseph Adler

SOUND: Cliff Stepina **VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday November 26th at 7pm
Here at First Pres.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated their time to our Soar High program each Wednesday and on Sundays when the kids share the songs they've been learning. Thank you to our Soar High families and everyone who makes this ministry possible.

NOTE: The church office will be closed November 19th for a Presbytery Meeting.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Harvest—God provides for our needs

Lesson for Sun. 11/17: God Provides More Than You Can Imagine
2 Kings 4:1-7

Bible Verse: "The Lord carried out just what he had promised."
Genesis 21:1

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The Pastor Nominating Committee is excited to report that the congregation approved the recommendation to install Rev. Bogdan Mircea as Lead Pastor. The final piece is approval of the Presbytery of Blackhawk at their presbytery assembly meeting on November 19. Please continue to pray for Pastor Bo and the people of First Pres as we look forward with excitement to the ministry opportunities that lie ahead.

A letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

A Month of Thanksgiving!

Where do I even start??? This past Sunday was one of those days when I walked out of church I was overwhelmed by everything that happened already that morning. I got in my car, and I paused for a moment. Thankful for this Church! Thankful for the opportunity to minister and be a part of your lives for 15 years, and yet it still feels like just yesterday. Thankful for a Sunday when we can celebrate the children of our congregation. Thankful for the Soar High kids and their families that are teaching me every week what 'love your neighbor' looks like. Thankful for old friends, new friends, and the support you have shown me not just on Sunday, but for so many years.

If I am a little emotional today, please know it comes from a good place. A place where I understand that God is using simple people, like all of us, for a greater purpose, so we might see our place in God's great plan. As a church we have a lot to discover about that plan, and this is the part where I am asking you to pray and seek out God's hope for us. I am looking forward to this coming Sunday, as we continue to speak about thanksgiving and how that idea moves us to a place of service. Philippians 1:1-11 is our starting Scripture for this coming Sunday. Can you pray that God will use this scripture to shape our hearts and prepare us for the work he has for us?

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western

- **Big thank you** to all the people that came out and **packed 500 meal boxes with MorningStar** this past Saturday. What a great way to connect and serve. If you have a great SERVE opportunity coming your way please share it with all of us and let's see what God can do when we say: That sounds so cool.

- We still need a few people to **help us on Sunday with the kids** ministries, especially in the next few Sundays (11/17, 11/24) as some of our Kids ministry team will be out of town. Please talk to Kaleigh Belfield on Sunday if you are able to help.

- **Youth Group** meets at church this Sunday. The Blasers are going to lead a conversation on "Who is Jesus". That is some pretty good stuff. Please let your youth know about this. Sunday 5 pm at church.

- **Thanksgiving Service** - Here at church, just us but with thankful hearts - Nov 26th at 7 pm. More details soon :)

- **Stars of Hope** - Thank you to all that have already dropped off their gifts. I know there are a few more stars available, you can check those on Sunday in Hoffman Hall.

As the Night Deacons mentioned during our last meeting, there is so much going on at this time in this church, and what an exciting time to be here for it. Have a great week serving the Lord and loving his people.



SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

11/20 OASIS: Women's Ministry meeting

11/21 Dinner Out Group—Craft'd in Plainfield

11/24 Stars of Hope due

11/25 Project LINUS

11/26 Thanksgiving Worship Service

11/30 Advent Decorating

12/6 Advent Concert with Harvest Arts

12/14 Brookfield Zoo trip

BROOKFIELD ZOO TRIP

December 14th 3pm-9pm

We'd like our congregation to visit the zoo together and see our decorated tree and all the lights! Discounts and carpools available. Find more info online or on the attached form.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting each Sunday from 5pm-6:45pm. These meetings will include Bible discussions, activities and some dinner and fellowship. You can register for Youth Group on our website, reach out if you have any questions!

OASIS: Women's Ministry

**Each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays during Midweek
Room 217 from 6:45—7:15pm (after dinner)**

Calling all women of our church and community age 15 and older to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6pm for dinner and 6:45 for fellowship with fellow women.

We'd appreciate YOUR help to decorate our church for Christmas!

This year we will be gathering to decorate and beautify our church for the Advent season on **Saturday 11/30 at 9am**. This important task takes many hands but makes for a fun morning—with enough help this decorating can be accomplished in 2-3 hours. Please consider being a part of our decorating crew—sign up online.

HURRICANE RELIEF

We are still accepting donations for the relief efforts of hurricanes Helene and Milton which will be forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Just make a notation on your check or put it in a specially labeled envelope available in the narthex. You may also donate online; choose "Hurricane Relief" on the drop down menu. These funds will directly benefit those affected by the devastating storms.

**Thank you to
everyone who went
out to MorningStar
Mission to help pack
meal boxes for
families in need in our
community!**