



e-News

February 19th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

As you all know, the last week we had two funeral services. I was thinking about the whole experience, with everything involved in it, from the families grieving the loss of their dear ones, to friends coming to support them along the way, and why each service in itself was so important in this whole time of remembering the people that went to be with the Lord. My mind went quickly to the Scripture that was read in those services and how important the words become in those moments in life. Words that especially have the power to transcend culture, time, and even the most difficult situations in our lives. It is, at the end of the day, the great foundation we have as people of faith, that thing that can only be called the foundation of our faith: The Word of God. You see, even after many years of ministry and walking with people in those hard moments, at times the only words I have are the words of the Scriptures. When those words are spoken there is something that happens in the conversation, that can only be attributed to God at work in our lives over many years of depending on those words. That is why the reading, the meditation and memorization of the Scriptures becomes of importance in the lives of the believers. It is the seed that comes to bloom when it needs to. It is the Word coming and bringing peace and assurance when we need it most. It is the Spirit of God, reminding us of who God is and the faithfulness that these old words bring over time when they are spoken.

This Sunday we will speak those words of faith as we gather in worship, and as people of faith we will embrace and love the Lord as we say: May your word be a Lamp unto our feet, a light on our path.

See you on Sunday, the day we all are called to put the words of the world to the side, the day that even our own words will be silent as we seek to hear from the Lord. Pray that the Lord will speak, and that His word will bring peace and comfort, hope, and faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western Ave:

- The **Soar High Kids** are singing this Sunday and what a day of celebration that will be. I know I am looking forward to seeing what the kids have learned, but even more how God is working in their lives at this time.
- Last call for **RSVP on the Installation Service and Dinner**. March 2nd at 3 pm and dinner following. Please contact the office and let us know if you can be there.
- **Session** is meeting this week, and as always please pray for those that lead this church at this time.
- **March 8th 9 am-12pm Officer's Training** here at Church. Elders and deacons please come ready to be in prayer as we will speak about the year ahead of us and what God is calling us to do.

P.S. Midweek is on tonight, boy it feels good to write that.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, Aaron (grandson of Mary and Don Caisley), and Zac (great nephew of Mary and Don Caisley), Sue Brown, and Mary Lynn Keir.

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Klint DeGeus after his recent passing.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Mary Ann Barcus who passed. Her memorial service will be Monday the 24th at 10am at Carlson Funeral Home.

Lead Pastor Installation Service and Dinner

March 2nd at 3pm, dinner afterwards

Pastor Bo's Installation Service will be held on Sunday, March 2 at 3 p.m. here at First Pres. This is a formal worship service in the Presbyterian church. It's a celebration of God's call in a person's life and in the life of a church. Come to share in the joy and celebrate what God is doing at this time at First Pres.

Following the service we will enjoy a delicious dinner in Hoffman Hall.

***RSVP NOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE DINNER
FOLLOWING THIS CELEBRATION OF FAITH***

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5th

Drop-In Imposition of Ashes from 9am-10am

Dinner at 5:30pm and Worship afterwards at 6:30pm

DINNER OUT GROUP

March 13th at 6pm

La Dulce Vita 16108 IL Rt 59 in Plainfield
Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

Where is the WHALE???? How about that Cajun Box Drum (and no it is not cajun flavored chicken drum stick box - even if it sounds delicious!!!!)

Anyway if you know the location of a whale or a box drum, would you please contact Sarah Randolph and let the office know of the latest "whale adventure".

On a serious note, and I'm not making a Big Whale out of it, the Worship Council is taking inventory with pictures of what the church has and WHERE items are stored. So, if you can help us in this effort we would appreciate it. How can you help? If you borrowed something recently, please return it. If you borrowed something a long time ago and nobody is asking you about it - give us a call and ask- Do you guys still use this?

Any way, as fun as this is for me to write, this is a whale of a business and as serious as cajun food.

Signed with all seriousness
Bo
"pun master in residence"

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

2/23 Soar High performance in worship
3/2 Pastor Bo's Installation service and dinner
3/5 Ash Wednesday
3/8 Officer Training
3/13 Dinner Out Group
3/15 Oasis Serve Day at Northern IL Food Bank
3/29 Craft and Vendor Fair
5/4 Oasis Night at the Theater and dinner

OFFICER TRAINING

Saturday March 8th

At FPJ from 9am—Noon
For Elders and Deacons

OASIS: Women's Ministry

Upcoming dates:

2/19 3/12 3/19 4/2 4/30

Oasis will meet at 5pm for fellowship and various service opportunities, Midweek dinner is at 6pm each Wednesday (free but donations appreciated), and after dinner the ladies are invited to tea and dessert with Oasis until roughly 7:15pm.

OASIS SERVE DAY: March 15th 9:30-11:30 am at the Northern IL Food Bank

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Praise Makers—We worship God together in different ways.

Lesson for Sun. 2/23: We Worship God with Our Service
—Acts 9:36-43

Bible Verse: "Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you."
-Matthew 7:7

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Stewardship Report

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|------------------------------|------------------|
| 2024-2025 Budget | \$747,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$496,650 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$507,757 |
| Per Capita | \$44.00 |

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.

SPRING VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR

March 29th 9am-4pm

\$3 entry donation grants shoppers access to a unique shopping experience with 50 different vendors/ creators, and a snack shack.

Check info on our website for vending sign up.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/23/25

USHERS: Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce, Dale Mullen, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Dave Zang

ACOLYTE: Jacob Pritz

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Marie Penhale and Betsey O'Mara