



e-News

April 16th, 2025

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

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

Do you ever think about how these words were received by the ones that followed Jesus all around Judea? Think of Peter or John hearing those words and wondering if Jesus is questioning their commitment, their faith. I was even thinking about those words in front of the cross, when the disciples seemed so scattered. But even more I ask myself, what do these words mean to me on a daily basis? In this Holy Week, as we set our sights on the Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, or the hill of Golgotha, that question becomes louder and louder in my heart. As we gather for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Sunday, my prayer for you is that we can come to the understanding that Christ's love will speak to our hearts in such a way that we never have to question our love and commitment to the Lord.

As I said this is a special week for us here at First Pres, with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services. Each service in itself is different and trying to capture a different view of the week. From the last supper, to the last words spoken by the Lord, to the good news of resurrection, it all comes to speak to our faith. As always I want to encourage you to join us this week in worship, and receive from the Lord in faith as we worship as one, as we pray and bring our own sacrifice of praise before the cross.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- **Thank you** to all that made this Palm Sunday weekend filled with joy and hope. The Egg Hunt, the breakfasts, the kids programs, and Palm Sunday worship, made me say: This was a good ministry weekend. And all of this is possible because of who we are as a church.

- April 27th Session has called a **Congregational meeting** to Elect the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, as the next step in our ministry plan.

- Please remember the **Glory Ringers Handbell Open House** on April 26th at 10am in the Narthex. Everyone ages 10-100 are invited to give handbells a try, it's never too late!

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, John Savage, Barb Schwandt, Pam LeVasseur, and Zac (great nephew of Mary and Don Caisley)

MIDWEEK AND SOAR HIGH

Remaining Wednesday meeting dates are:

April 23rd, and April 30th

NO MIDWEEK OR SOAR HIGH TODAY 4/16



**THANK
YOU**

**For a faith-filled and
fun Egg Hunt and
Palm Sunday!**



HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 17th 5:30pm Dinner
6:30pm Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY: April 18th 6:30pm Worship Service

EASTER: April 20th, 10am Worship Service

**Please return your commitment card to the
office if you have not done so yet. Thank
you for your pledge to support the
ministries of First Pres.**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Community:

The Bradford family would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the continued prayers you have offered for our son, Zac. Knowing that he has received prayers from your church family since the day of his accident has brought us so much comfort and strength during a challenging time. He has made huge progress toward recovery and we are in a very positive place right now. While this is the hardest moment our family has ever faced we have recognized so many blessings along the way and this act of kindness is one of them.

With love and gratitude,
Joe, Hallie, Isla and Zac Bradford

SAVE THE DATE— COMING UP

4/17 Maundy Thursday
4/18 Good Friday
4/20 Easter Sunday
4/26 Oasis Mosaic Cross Workshop —*sold out*
4/26 Handbells Open House
5/4 Oasis afternoon at the theater
5/17 Serve Day at St. John's Food Pantry
5/31 Pet Blessing
6/23-6/27 Vacation Bible School—registration open

HAND BELL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday April 26th 10am in the Narthex

No experience necessary

Have you ever thought about giving handbells a try?
Now's your chance, it's not too late!

For ages 10 –100
Make it a family event!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

April 27th

Session is calling for a Congregational Meeting to elect members for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

SERVE DAY at ST JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

May 17th 7am-11am

Our faithful Night Deacons will be volunteering their time at the St. John's Food Pantry, and invite you to join them. You can sign up on stjohnfood.org, just click 'Serve With Us' and scroll down to May 17th.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

Upcoming dates:

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.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Seeds of Faith—Jesus helps us grow in our faith

Lesson for Sun. 4/20: Grow Through Love—*John 20:1-18*

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

April 16th, 2025

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$26,856
Year to Date Expenses	\$30,105
Per Capita	\$44.00

Please return your commitment card to the office if you have not done so yet. Thank you for your pledge to support the ministries of First Pres.

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044. You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

Thank you for your generosity.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVANTS 4/17/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Dale Mullen

LITURGIST: Kyla Fris

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Lynn Kosowski, Karol Boyd

GOOD FRIDAY SERVANTS 4/18/25

USHERS: Barb Rodgers, Jasmine Keir

LITURGISTS: Karol Boyd, Joan Schultz, Pat Haldorson, Sue Fordyce, and Hasen Qi

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

GREETERS: Larry & Susanne Whitford, Jasmine Keir

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/20/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Estella Jurkovich, Reed Mott

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Sue Fordyce

ACOLYTE: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Jane Vercellotti, Nancy Heye