



e-News

April 2nd, 2025

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

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

And on the 7th day ... God rested

Now that's really something! What a conversation this will be. It seems to me that more often than before, I run into "tired" people, and it feels like the whole world is busy and rushing just about every day. And then you have the whole, 'we need to live balanced lives, centered living, shalom, and wholeness' conversation. But even before we get to the wholesome talk about life, what is this Biblical rest that we speak about? What did Jesus mean when he said: "Come to me, take my yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light"? What does it mean to rest in God?

I told you this will be a good conversation. Especially in this season of Lent, as we look at rebalancing our lives and priorities this conversation becomes of utmost importance. This Sunday, we will come and worship, rest in the Lord, and seek to find peace in that blessed hour of prayer. I am looking forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western

- Please continue to **pray for the needs of our congregation**. From the day to day, to the prayer list, the needs are many, and yet in prayer we can together believe and wait in the Lord. Please reach out to someone you did not see in a while, send them a card, give them a call. It will mean so much to them.
- Thank you to all people that made the Spring Craft and Vendor Fair a success. There were lots of people around and I know we raised a few more dollars for our missions we support. (We will have numbers soon.)
- This Sunday we will have the **Soar High kids with us in worship**, and it should be a time filled with lots of smiles and visitors. Welcome these visitors in our 1st Pres style, with the love and care that I know runs deep in our veins.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 12th 9am-10:30am

Bring the whole family for an egg-cellent morning of Easter excitement! Celebrants can expect: **Breakfast** at 9am, an Easter Celebration at 9:30am including the **Easter Story** and the **Soar High kids** sharing the news of Jesus through the gift of music, **crafts, photos** with the Easter Bunny, and OF COURSE by-age **egg hunts**! Don't forget to bring your basket for all your eggs!

VOLUNTEER AT THE EGG HUNT

Volunteers are still needed to help with greeting, the kitchen, clean up, crafts, and helping the Soar High kids. This a fun opportunity to support our children's ministry! You can sign up with the link on our website, or by contacting the office.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: April 13th 8:30am Breakfast 10am Worship Service

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

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

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 a Sunday if there's an abundance of kids.

If you are interested please contact the church office or a member of the childcare team.

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!

EASTER FLOWERS

If you'd like to help decorate our sanctuary with flowers for Easter, please fill out the form below and place it with your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. They are \$15 each.

Checks should be made payable to: First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers. **The deadline for ordering is April 13th.**

How many? (at \$15/pot):

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums _____ Hyacinths

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

___ to the Glory of God

___ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones

___ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Name: _____

This form is also available on our website, and there is a link to place your order online.

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

4/5 Free Pancake Breakfast

4/6 Soar High performs

4/12 Easter Egg-stravaganza

4/13 Easter Flowers orders due

4/13 Palm Sunday

4/15 Dinner Out Group

4/17 Maundy Thursday

4/18 Good Friday

4/20 Easter Sunday

4/26 Oasis Mosaic Cross Workshop

4/26 Handbells Open House

5/4 Oasis afternoon at the theater

5/17 Serve Day at St. John's Food Pantry

Join us for a unique way to worship God through music this Sunday!

"Soar High" from the Children's Music program will share the message that God is in control. The children will start by playing Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones), marimba, while parents and friends lead the congregation in singing and playing "World Music Drumming" in the pews. They will then invite you to "Get On Board" the Gospel Train. And end by spreading the Joy of Jesus through a special version of "Ode to Joy" by Beethoven. Please join the children in Hoffman Hall after the service for their end of year Celebration of "Soar High" Music.

Invite your family, friends, neighbors and their children so they can see what we do.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 4/6: Grow Through Prayer
—Matthew 26:31-58

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

April 2nd, 2025

Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$747,600
Year to Date Income	\$574,766
Year to Date Expenses	\$586,918
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.

OASIS: Women's Ministry

Upcoming dates:

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/6/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Reed Mott, Pat Haldorson

COFFEE: Barb Rodgers

LITURGIST: Lynn Kosowski

ACOLYTE: Xavier DeNieuwe

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Dave and Sharon Cavanaugh

SPECIAL MUSIC : Soar High kids