



e-News

April 23rd, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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firstpresjoliet.org

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

I just want to say today that my heart is still full even a few days after Easter Sunday. The sounds of Easter Sunday are still echoing in my heart, from the somber music of the bagpiper, to the joyous sound of the resurrection hymns from the choir and worship band, and even those words from the sermon Eloi, Eloi - My God My God, all make me say 'Lord you are so good to us.'

Now, why would I start a letter talking about last Sunday rather than what's coming up? Well at times we might be rushing to the next thing instead of slowing down and really taking in what God has done for us. If nothing else, today I would encourage you to slow down, to take a deep breath and say in a simple way: Lord, you are so good to me.

This coming Sunday, Pastor Craig Herr is with us and he will be speaking about "Holding on to Hope". I pray that indeed the hope of the resurrection will find us and take a hold in our hearts.

See you around the church this week,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- **Midweek is back on tonight.** One more week (4/30) before we are heading into summer programming. While the kids programming is taking a vacation, I know in my heart that I would love to continue the adult's study on the Gospel of John over the summer days. If you are interested in that, please talk to me about it.

- The month of May will be filled with **serve days**. Night Deacons and Mission Council are heading to St. John's Food Pantry on May 17th in the morning, and the Youth Group will go to Feed my Staving Children on the same day. Please contact Bernie Blaser or any other youth advisers if you have kids willing to go and serve with the rest of the youth, and call Barb Rodgers if you are available to serve at St. John, or sign up online.

- **Pet Blessing** is back on the calendar this year. On May 31st, I am looking forward to puppy kisses, cats purring, and more importantly praying with you, not just for the pets that bring so much enjoyment to our lives, but praying for you. More details will soon follow.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

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

MIDWEEK AND SOAR HIGH

Remaining Wednesday meeting dates are:

April 23rd, and April 30th

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

April 27th

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

DINNER OUT GROUP

Thursday May 8th

Meet at The Landing in Lockport at 6pm for dinner. Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

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.

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

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!

YOUTH SERVE DAY

May 17th

Our Youth Group is organizing a serve day at Feed My Starving Children. If you have a youth interested in helping, please reach out to any of the youth leaders.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 4/27: Grow Through Grace—*John 20:19-31*

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

2024-2025 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$35,856
Year to Date Expenses	\$30,046
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.

SAVE THE DATE— COMING UP

4/26 Oasis Mosaic Cross Workshop —*sold out*

4/26 Handbells Open House

4/27 Congregational Meeting

5/4 Oasis afternoon at the theater

5/8 Dinner Out Group—The Landing

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

5/17 Youth Group—Feed My Starving Children

5/31 Pet Blessing

6/23-6/27 Vacation Bible School—registration open

6/28 Concert and Cookies—Harvest Arts

8/9 Concert and Cookies—REVD OG

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.

PET BLESSING

May 31st

Join us outside as we bless the animals that enrich our lives! All types of pets are welcome (with leash or appropriate container, please), and will receive a token to commemorate the blessing.

VBS 2025 TRUE NORTH

June 23rd-27th

True North VBS shows kids that God is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Folks 6th grade and up are invited to participate by donating their time and lending a hand in guiding the kids through this journey. Register today!

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/27/25

PREACHING: Craig Herr

USHERS: Reed Mott, Mark Dykema, Dale Mullen

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Dee Mullen

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Dave and Helen Steinberg, Jackie Brooks