



e-News

April 9th, 2025

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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. What would your reaction be to hearing those words? The first thing I would think of for myself would be a sense of ease, a feeling of warmth and release as my worries melt away with those very words, spoken by Christ. But faith is more than "feel good" feelings. At least when you think about the cross, the conversation between Jesus and the two thieves, you are challenged to focus on the response as being the most important part of that dialog. It is not necessarily how you feel, but how you respond to the promises of God. Sometimes that response does lead to "feel good" feelings. And yet it is the response that is important. I would like to encourage you to look at all the readings around Holy Week from that perspective, how do people respond to what is happening, and how is that reflected in their decisions? On Sunday we will look at the Triumphant Entry in Jerusalem, or Palm Sunday, and ask the question: What is my response to seeing Jesus walk toward me?

I would also like to take this time to ask you to check your calendar and see if you can come out on Saturday April 12 at 8 am to help us with **Easter Egg Hunt**, we could use some extra hands in the kitchen and craft area.

Sunday the Night Deacons are inviting you to the **Palm Sunday Breakfast**, from 8:30 - 9:45 am. French toast, pancakes, eggs, sausage, potatoes, fruit, and yogurt will make this a breakfast you do not want to miss.

Maundy Thursday - The Day when the Lord's Supper was first captured in the Scriptures, will remind us of the greatest commandment of all as we share in our own supper and fellowship that night. Join us for dinner at 5:30 pm and service following at 6:30 pm.

Good Friday Service at 6:30 pm, is a beautiful and meaningful time to take a different look at the last day of Jesus. I would love to see you there this coming Friday. It will be a special service you do not want to miss.

And don't forget that **Easter Sunday** is coming, and with that the celebration of new life, and new hope springing forth in your lives. I am looking forward to seeing you there and your friends and family, for this really special Worship Sunday for all of us.

As always I am asking for your prayers along the way for all these services and opportunities for us as a congregation to serve, fellowship, and worship the Lord.

Have a blessed week,
Pastor Bo

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, John Savage, Barb Schwandt, and Pam LeVasseur.

* **EASTER EGG HUNT—THIS SATURDAY!** *
* **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

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.

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

- 4/12 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 —*sold out*
- 4/26 Handbells Open House
- 5/4 Oasis afternoon at the theater
- 5/17 Serve Day at St. John's Food Pantry

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.

MIDWEEK AND SOAR HIGH

Remaining Wednesday meeting dates are:

April 9th, April 23rd, and April 30th

DINNER OUT GROUP

April 15th

Meet at McWethy's in Romeoville. Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

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

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/13/25 PALM SUNDAY

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Dale Mullen

COFFEE: Lisa Haldorson-Diaz, Justin Keir—*Breakfast*

LITURGIST: Tandy Penhale

ACOLYTE: Rylie Blaser

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Dave and Sharon Cavanaugh

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 4/13: Grow Through Praise
—*Matthew 21:1-11*

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

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$8,827
Year to Date Expenses	\$2,235
Per Capita	\$44.00

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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.