



e-News

May 7th, 2025

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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Another week here at First Pres has passed, and I find myself looking at the calendar and filling up with panic. Do you know we are in May already? This means that all the summer stuff is going to be here in no time, Summer Lunch, VBS, Concerts and Cookies, Serve days, and Summer Worship. I know some of you will say 'Bo slow down, don't panic it's just May', and yes you are right. It is just May, and this what I want to speak to you about today.

For many years I have been teaching the kids: "Every good thing starts and finishes with prayer". As years passed, I started adding "Every good thing starts with some good planning." Then I added one more thing, "Every good thing starts with good people." You see, I do not really panic about things, I get more anxious as I look at finding the perfect balance in ministry between those three things: people, prayer, and planning (not necessarily in that order). If you know me and my style of ministry, you will know that people come first, planning is essential, and prayer, as I believe, makes everything run smoothly.

Sometimes it is hard to find a balance between everything. So I want to ask you a favor today.

- ◆ When it comes to prayer please share your prayers with someone and also include myself in those.
- ◆ When you pray for someone, remember that there is power in corporate prayer. Also, please make a habit to ask: How can I pray for you today?
- ◆ When it comes to people: Call, text, go out for lunch, or just bother your friends. For some people it is very hard to reach out and ask for help. Encourage them, and assure them of the many people that are on the sideline ready to come help. (Also, please let us know in the office how we can help)
- ◆ When it comes to planning: Life, summer, and everything else comes much faster than you would know. Please take time to look at your calendar and schedule things that feed your life, heart, and soul. Family, vacations, and service opportunities all become important when you look for balance.

This Sunday I am starting a little series addressing 'Prayer, People, and Planning' as a way to balance our lives. I will not give too much away, but I will say this: It has to do with a baby, with people complaining, and a long journey.

See you Sunday,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, John Savage, Carrie (daughter of Lyle Weber), Mark Fumagalli, and Carol (Randolph) Wilhelms.

FPJ GRADUATES

Every year we celebrate our Graduates in June. If you have a loved one who is graduating (or did in the winter) we would love to include them. Graduates can be completing any grade or school level, trades programs, certification courses, etc. Graduates can be submitted by a physical form available at FPJ, or the online form available on our website.

FORMS ARE DUE BY JUNE 1ST

Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting May 18 at the worship service for the purpose of approving the minutes of prior congregational meetings and to receive the Annual Report.

An Annual Report Review Meeting will be held in Hoffman Hall on Wednesday, May 14, at 6:00 p.m. to review the Report in detail and discuss the ministry and mission of the prior year.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING

Midweek and Soar High programs are on break for the summer. Details for the fall will be shared as they become available. Keep an eye on our newsletters, our website, and the announcements on Sunday morning to see all the other programming we have to keep you busy this summer.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 5/11/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Pat Haldorson, Jeff Lundeen

COFFEE: Sue and Reed Mott

LITURGIST: Jill Strimel

ACOLYTE: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

GREETERS: Helen and Dave Steinberg, Sunny and Larry Whitford

SAVE THE DATE— COMING UP

5/8 Dinner Out Group—Public Landing
5/14 Annual Report Review Meeting
5/17 Serve Day at St. John's Food Pantry
5/17 Youth Group—Feed My Starving Children
5/18 Congregational Meeting—Annual Report
5/31 Pet Blessing
6/5 Summer Lunch Program begins
6/23-6/27 Vacation Bible School—registration is open
6/28 Concert and Cookies—Harvest Arts
8/9 Concert and Cookies—REVDOG

PET BLESSING

May 31st from 10am-11am

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.

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.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Recipe for Love: Jesus teaches us to love and welcome others.

Lesson for Sun. 5/11: One Part Kindness—*Mark 10:13-16*

Bible Verse: "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other." *John 13:34*

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Stewardship Report

2024-2025 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$58,670
Year to Date Expenses	\$53,980
Per Capita	\$44.00

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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- St. John's Food Pantry—May 17th
- Feed My Starving Children—May 17th
- Free Summer Lunch Program— starts 6/5
- Vacation Bible School—6/23-6/27

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. Volunteer sign ups are full.

YOUTH SERVE DAY

May 17th 5-6:30pm

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. Spots are limited!

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Starting June 5th M-F 11:30am-1pm

Youths age 18 and younger are invited to stop in and be served a FREE nutritious lunch. Various games and activities will be available through the week as well.

More details soon.

Reach out to Barb Rodgers if you would like to volunteer or to know how you can best support this ministry.

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 on our website today!