

June 25th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

If you talk to Ponder the Otter about what it means to wonder, you might find out that all of us question everything in our lives. Some of those questions are small, some questions are big, like real big. Yet, if you can remember to Trust Jesus, those big questions might start to look smaller and smaller because of your faith.

Now that was one of the lessons we learned this week at VBS, but I believe it should be a lesson we all learn and remember as adults too. Your heart can be easily overwhelmed by worries, and truth be told, there might be times where our faith lives in a different zip code than our hearts. But do not lose heart, God is always close even when that happens, we just need a reminder of that. That is where this place we call church, our faith family of brothers and sisters comes into play. Sunday is more than coffee fellowship, or music and prayers. Sunday is our weekly reminder of that love and sweet assurance.

This brings me to this Sunday, we are going to celebrate that grace with the kids from VBS, with Harvest Arts, and with each other. 'Share joy' should be a good slogan for this coming worship service.

I am looking forward to sharing with you a new sermon series: HYMNS THAT CHANGED OUR FAITH LIFE.

See you on Sunday,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- **Big thank you** to all the people involved in our Vacation Bible School. From the kitchen crew to the people serving snack, or taking kids around, this week speaks about what it looks to put in practice the words: Love God, Love People. Good Job 1st Pres!
- **Concerts and Cookies** kicks off this Saturday with Harvest Arts performing at 7pm. They will also join us in leading worship this Sunday, alongside some of our VBS kids.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, John Savage, Brenda Savage, Carrie (daughter of Lyle Weber), Mark Fumagalli, Pam LeVasseur, Al Brooks, Jana Rudisill, Carolyn Schaeffer, and Laura House.

Our VBS journey is half way over and it has been a great week so far! We have trekked through wondering, loneliness, and fear, all with Jesus on our side. Kids have learned alongside Ponder the otter, Clawdia the crab, and Kody the bear.

Thank you to everyone who has hiked the Alaskan wilderness with us. We look forward to two more days of learning that Jesus is our True North.



CONCERTS AND COOKIES

6/28 @7pm

A **Harvest Arts** concert of beloved hymns fused with classical music. Admission is free and afterwards there will be plenty of cookies to enjoy among friends and family. Harvest Arts will also be helping lead worship the next morning at the 10am worship service.

8/9 @6pm

The band **REVD OG** will be performing at First Pres, outside if the weather permits.

Admission is free so grab your family and friends and enjoy an evening of live music and tasty cookies!

Nursery care will be available for kids 2yrs and under.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

ANGEL HOUSE—HOPE 27

Collected for Angel House & Hope 27 to date: \$1,555

First Pres is proudly showcasing our support of Angel House orphanage in Tanzania and Hope 27 which is another system of orphan care in Kenya. More information is in the case hanging by our great map. This is where each monthly mission will be showcased.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Empowered: The Holy Spirit empowers us

Lesson for Sun. 6/29: The Holy Spirit Empowers—Acts 13:1-3

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

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$130,702
Year to Date Expenses	\$116,674
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

- Free Summer Lunch Program— M-F 11:30am –1pm
- Free Pancake Breakfast—first Sat of the month

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

June 5th through August 15th M-F 11:30am-1pm

Youths age 18 and younger are invited to stop in and be served a FREE nutritious lunch. Fridays are fun Bingo days! Reach out to Barb Rodgers if you would like to volunteer or to know how you can best support this ministry.

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday July 5th

Our Night Deacons host a free pancake breakfast each 1st Saturday of the month. All are invited to enjoy this breakfast and to help serve our community.

SAVE THE DATE— COMING UP

6/26 VBS Showcase Ice Cream Social

6/28 Concert and Cookies—Harvest Arts

6/29 Harvest Arts and VBS kids in worship

8/9 Concert and Cookies—REVD OG

MENARDS REBATE COLLECTION

Drop your UNUSED Menards rebate receipts in the designated box in Hoffman Hall. Rebate coupons will be used strictly for Church improvement.

VBS SHOWCASE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday 6/26 at 6pm

Our VBS kids will be showing off what they have been learning at True North VBS this week. After the singing there will be ice cream for everyone to enjoy as we celebrate. If you would like to help out serving please contact the church office.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 6/29/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Joe Milosevich

ACOLYTE: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Marie and Suzanne Penhale, and Dale Endres