

# THE SERVANTS' LIGHT

*Monthly publication from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet*

## SMALL GROUPS

### **Life Group:**

Young adults and up  
Sundays 9-9:45am in Hoffman Hall

### **PraiseYoga:**

T @ 6:30 pm/  
Th @ 8:30 am  
in the Narthex

### **Centering Prayer:**

Tuesdays @ 1pm  
in Room 210

### **Dinner Out Group:**

6/12 Ming Hin in Naperville  
@6pm

### **Project Linus:**

4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month  
@9am in Hoffman Hall

### **Summer Lunch Program:**

Starts 6/ 5 M-F @ 11:30am-1pm

## FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

**Mondays-Fridays 6/5 - 8/15**  
**11:30am-1pm**

Youths age 18 and younger are invited to stop in and be served a FREE nutritious lunch. Fridays are extra fun Bingo days! This is an incredibly impactful ministry that directly supports our neighborhood. Reach out to Barb Rodgers if you would like to volunteer or to know how you can best support this ministry.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

**June 23rd - 27th, 9am-Noon**

Get ready, young explorers! Kids from age 3 up to 5th grade are about to embark on the ultimate Alaskan escapade, where the northern lights dance over breathtaking mountains, roaring rivers, and shimmering glaciers. As they navigate the wilderness, kids will discover how easy it is to get lost in today's wild world. But fear not! True North VBS is here to guide them toward Jesus, our ever-trustworthy guide. He's our True North! Adventurers in 6th grade and up, we need your helping hands to steer these young adventurers on their journey. Sign up online today!

## CONCERTS AND COOKIES

**June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm - August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

Mark your calendar and tell your friends! First Pres will be hosting Harvest Arts with a concert of beloved hymns fused with classical music. Admission is free, and there will be plenty of cookies to enjoy! What more could you want, another concert with cookies? Well great news, FPJ will also be hosting the band REVDOG, a blues-infused classic rock band led by Reverend Dogman. Weather permitting REVDOG will be performing outside August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, with more cookies of course!

*nursery care is provided for kids 2 and under*

### **Worship Service:**

Each Sunday @ 10am and  
Online anytime

### **Children's Worship:**

After Time with Children  
each Sunday (ages 3 to 11)

# SESSION NOTES

- Session has formed a small group to further research having a new pictorial directory.
- Session has started a conversation for clarifying property details in regards to the parking lot.

## EVERY PERSON SERVING JESUS

Youth Group  
serving at Feed My  
Starving Children



Night Deacons and  
others serving at  
St. John's Food  
Pantry



Has your contact information or address changed? Let the church office know so it will be accurate in the new directory.  
1(815)727-9259 [office@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:office@firstpresjoliet.org)



## FINDING FAMILY AT FIRST PRES

By Barb Rodgers

After getting divorced in the 1980's, I became a Christian. I have two sons, one who passed away when he was 39 and another son who lives with me who has MS. I also have a rescue dog named Buttons. I live next door to the House family, who are also members. I love being their neighborhood Grandma.

Eighteen years ago, my neighbors across the street, Jim and Cathy Mullins, invited me to visit First Presbyterian Church.

I felt welcome and met a lot of people. I was working in Schaumburg at the time, so my commute made it hard to participate; but once I retired, I joined Night Deacons. I liked the idea of feeding people. Sue Lee started the Summer Lunch Program for Kids, and I took it over nine years ago.

Serving children from our neighborhood, we usually feed lunch to about fourteen kids each day during the summer ranging in age from six to eighteen. It is an open site, so we could have twenty kids or one kid. Sometimes they come with older siblings and often they come with a parent. We get to know the families. We've had older kids come back and visit who tell us how much the summer lunch program meant to them. I also developed a connection with one of the girls and I keep in touch with her and her family.

One of the things that I think is great about First Pres is that when I mention I attend our church, I often hear people talk about all of the things that our church does to help the community. That really feels good. I think our church is a friendly place to be. I like the worshipful atmosphere during the service and enjoy the music as well as the sermons. I get a lot out of the messages. My favorite part of the service is the prayers for the people, and I look forward to our Christmas programs. I loved the Harvest Arts concert last year.

Being involved in a church, you create connections and develop a second family. I really felt the value of my church family when I lost two of my sisters within a month's time.

It is hard to describe in words how much it means to be supported and cared for by the people in your church, but you can see and feel God's love at work. I encourage everyone to come and worship with us to become part of our church family and see what God has in store for them at First Presbyterian Church.

# MISSION OF THE MONTH



## Angel House

Angel House Orphanage is located in Gamasara village, in the northwest corner of Tanzania, operated by the Grassroots ministry.

Today Angel House cares for 72 children (with an additional 22 graduates) from over 10 different villages and representing several tribes. All of the children are nurtured by a caring Tanzanian staff and are enrolled in school from preschool to college.

Our goal is to provide our children with a quality education and a family environment where they can develop the skills and faith necessary to be productive and successful citizens when they return to their villages and communities.

## HOPE 27

Hope 27 is developing a farm, which is our long-term plan for funding the orphan scholarships. Hope 27 is an expansion of the mission of Grassroots - From the People, For the People into a new community, in western Kenya. Our guiding verse is James 1:27.

We are using a different model for orphan care in Kenya. Our sixteen scholarship students live with their extended families and we meet together on Saturday mornings for encouragement, character development, and discipleship training.

## How do we help?



First Pres. Joliet has a long history with the Angel House ministry in Tanzania. We have helped provide water wells and internet for the school. We also have proudly provided sponsorships for three girls, Rhobi, Bhoke, and Lucia for over 10 years, funding their education through to their transition to their first apartment.

Last year we became sponsors for 3 young kids, who only had partial sponsorship, and we stepped in to provide for their remaining needs at almost \$3000.

Hope 27, through Holly Heyroth and Grassroots, has become another practical means to support those in need in nearby Kenya. This program cares for under-supported youths and is working on fully establishing their own agricultural homestead. First Pres has contributed to the acquisition of a water well for the farm.

## Our Prayers:

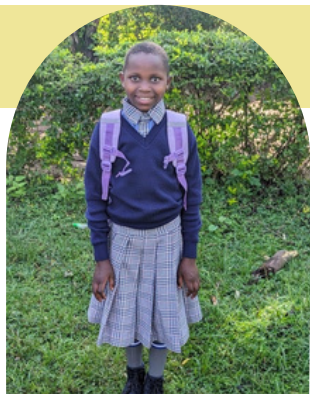
Our prayer this month is Pray for the gospel and Christ's love that is being preached to reach the far corners of this world. We pray for the leadership at Angel House and Hope 27 so they have the wisdom, faith, strength, and right partners to help them support the many lives being changed by the work of this gospel.

Pray for the kids at Angel House and Hope 27 that they grow in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and people. Pray for their physical health, education opportunities, and for their future.



This year First Pres is sponsoring a young man named Baraka at the Angel House orphanage. Baraka has just graduated high school and is deciding his post-secondary school. FPJ is providing \$2,400 to sponsor Baraka as he continues his academic career. Additional donations will be given to support other youths who only have partial sponsorships between Angel House in Tanzania and Hope 27 in Kenya . More information on these youths and their goals will be available soon, so make sure to keep informed in this ministry.

*Below are short profiles of the three youths FPJ sponsored at Angel House in 2024.*



## GLORIA JOHN

4TH GRADE

BIRTHDAY: 1/26/2015

### A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

**Color:** Red

**Food:** Fried chicken & French fries

**Hobby:** Playing netball **Subject:** Math

*Future Doctor*

My prayer request for 2025 is for God to be with me in each step I take towards my success.



## NOEL JOSEPH

Sophomore in High School

BIRTHDAY: 5/1/2007

### A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

**Color:** Red **Food:** Spaghetti

**Hobby:** Playing soccer

**Subject:** Biology/Chemistry/Physics

*Future Doctor*

My prayer request for 2025 is for God to help me succeed in my studies.



## MKAMI MASEKE

3rd Grade

BIRTHDAY: 7/1/2012

### A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

**Color:** Green **Food:** Rice and beans

**Hobby:** Playing soccer **Subject:** Kiswahili

*Future Police Officer*

My prayer request for 2025 is for God to help me in my studies, to achieve my dreams, and to bless my sponsors.



Pictured: Christa Desiderio (left) with Bhoke (center) and Rebecca (right) two youths we sponsored that have graduated.



Pictured: water well system partially funded by FPJ VBS Mission donations.