



e-News

July 2nd, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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firstpresjoliet.org

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Happy 4th of July weekend to all of you!

The 4th of July has become one of my favorite celebrations. Not only do I get to watch one of the greatest movies ever made, "Independence Day," but I also get to celebrate a day that means so much to me. It represents finding this country welcoming and a true home away from home. In part, it's because I've found wonderful people along the way who embody the character and beauty of this country. People like you, who have supported me not just in ministry or church work, but by making me feel like part of your family and community.

While I celebrate this great day, I also find myself in prayer for our country, our nation, as people of faith at this time. I'm reminded of this verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

I hope we can all not just celebrate the freedoms we enjoy on this 4th of July weekend, but also be in prayer for our neighbors, our communities, and our country. May God bless this great country.

Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

-So, **after last week**, this place is a bit quieter. But let me tell you, we had an amazing time with our ministry every single day! VBS, Harvest Arts, Sunday Worship, and the Summer Lunch Program all show how much this church values God and people. I hope we can continue to find great ways to show our love while we take a little break.

-By the way, the **Summer Lunch Program** is still going strong! If you're curious to see what's happening, come by Monday through Friday and check it out.

-I also wanted to share some plans for **pastoral care while I'm out of the country**. The end of July to mid-August is the perfect time for me to take a couple of weeks off to visit my parents. This in-between ministry season, as we slow down a bit and plan for the fall, can be a bit challenging. I know nobody wants to get sick, but life happens. So, if you ever need pastoral care or support, please don't hesitate to reach out to the church office. We'll be happy to connect you to the right person. Pastor Craig Herr has graciously offered to fill in for the pastoral needs of the church while I'm away. I know that the Day Deacons, Dave Steinberg, and the front office will do a great job praying and caring for you.

-Also, just a friendly reminder that **I'm always here for you**. Feel free to call me or stop by the office for a cup of coffee whenever you need to talk or need a prayer.

-**This Sunday**, we'll continue our "hymns that changed our faith" sermon series and start the beloved Hymn Sing before the service. Don Caisley will lead this coming Sunday, so please join us at 9:45 am so we can pray and praise God in song.

See you Sunday

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, Carolyn Schaeffer, and Laura House.

Many thanks to everyone who supported VBS 2025!

All pictures available on our Facebook page



CONCERTS AND COOKIES

8/9 @6pm

The band **REVDOG** will be performing at First Pres, outside if the weather permits, so bring your camp chair.

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

Rocky Roast will be present selling gourmet coffee and tea to concert goers.

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

VBS MISSION

We are proud to share that this year our VBS participants raised **\$455** for our VBS mission project—Hope27.

In Kenya, Africa, Hope 27 is developing a farm to create jobs in the community and raise leaders. The money from the eggs and avocados produced on the farm will provide school fees for the kids that are Hope 27 scholars.

THANK YOU

Judy Garrison and Tandy Penhale would like to thank all the people that helped with the volunteer and kids snacks. Also thanks to all that donated baked goods. We really appreciate you.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Invited: The Holy Spirit invites us to wonderful things.

Lesson for Sun. 7/6: The Holy Spirit Invites Children—
1 Samuel 3:1-21

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 | \$135,925 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$134,333 |
| 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

7/10 Dinner Out Group— La Dolce Vita

7/26 Serve Day at Northern Illinois Food Bank

8/9 Concert and Cookies—REVDOG

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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Northern Illinois Food Bank focuses on delivering food and healthy eating services to the Northern Illinois community. As part of the national Feeding America network, they serve our neighbors in 13 counties by providing 250,000 meals per day.

Our July Serve Day will be 7/26 9am-11:30am at Northern Illinois Food Bank. Volunteers will help sort and pack meals for those in need in our community. Registration link is on our website.

Collected for Angel House & Hope 27 to date: \$2,025
(June's Mission of the Month)

SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/6/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Barb Rodgers, Reed Mott

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Diane Milosevich

ACOLYTE:

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO:

GREETERS: Nick & Scherrie Sanchez, Larry & Sunny Whitford