



e-News

July 23rd, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Just curious, do people still practice daily devotions? You know, like reading your Bible while you have coffee in the morning, or praying before you start the day? Or while you walk?

In the true spirit of confession, there are days where I catch myself plopping on the couch, watching Netflix, while doom scrolling the news, Facebook, or some of the blogs I subscribe to and then I think I am too tired for devotions. I know I am not the only one that gets caught up in that. But for some reason I ask myself: Do people still know the secret of walking with God?

On Sunday we will explore this “walk in the garden” as we worship and celebrate the goodness of the Lord.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship.

Blessings,

Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

This Saturday - Northern Illinois Food Bank Serve Day

August 9th - REVDOG Concert

Summer Lunch Program - still going strong

Lots of summer clean up and small projects happening around the building at this time. Our custodians work and lots of volunteer hours are going to make this place more welcoming and functional for the many programs we have running each week. Thank you to everyone who is making this possible.

This coming Sunday after the service I will be on my way to Romania, and I am asking for your prayers along the way, for both my parents and I. As some of you can relate, sometimes when parents get older a visit is not just a visit, but it is about supporting and helping your folks. Please pray for me as I pray for you. There will soon be pictures from Romania :)

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Al Brooks, Carolyn Schaeffer, and Mary Lynn Keir.

Sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of Fred Krueger III (Michael Krueger's father) after his passing. A service will be held at FPJ on Sep.13th time TBD.

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.

PRAYER GROUP

A Prayer Group is forming for all who are interested. An informational meeting will be held 7/31 at 10 am in Fireside Room here at FPJ

CHOIR

We will again form our Summer Choir to sing in the Sunday services in August. The choir meets in the choir room upstairs at 9:30 am prior to each service. We prepare a simple anthem to sing in the morning service. We select pieces we know, pieces that others should be able to quickly pick up. If you have some choral experience and would like to sing with us, you are welcome to join and be a part of this summer tradition.

Chancel Choir will resume on the Wednesday night following Labor Day at 7:30 pm. and continue weekly to prepare and perform anthems each Sunday through our regular choir season (Sept. - May).

Ken Myers - Choirmaster

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.

SOAR HIGH PROGRAM

Wednesdays Sept.17th– April 29th

3yr olds-8th grade

MUSIC	DINNER	BIBLE
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5:30-6:10pm	6:15-6:45pm	6:50-7:25pm
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Students will be grouped by age, ability, and skill level. Music will include singing and playing instruments. Bible lessons will be age-appropriate with lesson based games and crafts.

Nursery care will be available during Music and Bible times.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN) TODAY!

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

7/26 Serve Day at Northern Illinois Food Bank

7/31 Prayer Group Informational Meeting

8/9 Concert and Cookies—REVDOG

8/14 Dinner Out Group –Juliet's Tavern

9/7 Back to Church Sunday

9/17 Soar High/ Midweek programs resume

9/21 Church Picnic

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 7/27: The Holy Spirit Invites the Unexpected -
1 Samuel 16:1-13

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	\$156,545
Year to Date Expenses	\$157,726
Per Capita	\$44.00

**Received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Texas flooding
\$457**

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 August 2nd

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.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

We are collecting for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, in response to the tragic flooding in Texas. There will be specially marked envelopes in the monthly mailing this month, and in the Sunday bulletins. You can also give online through our website, make sure to select 'Presbyterian Disaster Assistance' in the drop down options.

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 7/27/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Estella Jurkovich, Mark Dykema, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Tiffany DeNieuwe

ACOLYTE: Jillian Penhale

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Marie & Suzanne Penhale, Steve Boyd