



# e-News

July 9th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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firstpresjoliet.org

A Letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Psalm 46

God's Defense of His City and People

*1 God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.*

*2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,*

*3 though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

This coming Sunday, we will look at "A Mighty Fortress is our God" by Martin Luther, as the conversation hymn in our summer series on hymns that changed the Christian faith, and the church along the way. Without giving away too much of my Sunday sermon, I want to encourage you to meditate on those first three verses from Psalm 46, while asking the question: What is trouble in the context of this Psalm? What do I understand when someone says to me: I am in trouble? And one last question: Is there such a thing as Big Trouble or Small Trouble?

My prayer for us as a congregation continues to be along the lines of: Lord, help us in being faithful to you, and while we ask for your protection from the evil one, let us not be afraid to cause "good trouble" though the work of our hands.

I am looking forward to sharing with you the Hope of the Gospel this coming Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## Happening at 805 Western:

- **Summer Lunch** is going well, and I am happy to report about the joy and many smiles I see as the kids stop by and eat lunch, or play bingo. It is such a great reminder of what it means to "feed my lambs", a practical way to show Christ's love for those in need.

- The Night Deacons are calling you to join them for the **July Serve Day** on July 26th 9am-11:30am. Sign up is now open online.

- **Please continue to pray** for the many ministries that are taking place in this church, and the amazing opportunities to share the Love and Hope we have in Christ.

## 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.

Sympathies are extended to Karen Repko and the family and friends of Bob Harrison, who passed on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services will be held at the Carlson-Holmquist-Sayles Funeral Home Thursday, July 10th at 11:00 A.M. Interment Woodlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 10th from 9:00 A.M. until time of services at 11:00 A.M.

## ACOLYTE

If you would like for your child(ren) to help serve Jesus Christ and His church by being an Acolyte during Sunday morning services, please send an email to Worship Council Member, Sarah Randolph at [music.randolph@firstpresjoliet.org](mailto:music.randolph@firstpresjoliet.org). Sarah will then contact you to show you where things are and how to place items.

The Acolyte would need to arrive at church by 9:50 am. Guardians need to help the Acolyte light the 2 candles on the communion table, then take the battery operated "Christ Candle" to the Narthex and wait for the first hymn, then carry the Christ Candle to the communion table. The Acolyte should then sit up front by the Pastor until the Children's sermon. After the Children's sermon, the Acolyte will go to Sunday School or sit with family.

The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word *akolouthos*, meaning companion, attendant, or helper, who waits continually upon another: a follower. The Acolyte ministry has its roots in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, where the prophet Samuel is seen assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah the Prophet.

Why do we have candles and acolytes?

The lighting of the communion table candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Just as the Israelites were led through the desert by a pillar of fire, we are led by Christ, the light of the world. To acolyte at worship is to bring: Celebration, Reverence, Anticipation of Christ's return. In short, the Acolyte sets the visual table for worship. The Acolyte brings the light of Christ to start worship and leads the light of Christ out before the congregation leaves to serve Jesus Christ.

## 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.

## 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

9/7 Back to Church Sunday

9/17 Soar High/ Midweek programs resume

## Children's Church Corner

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

**Lesson for Sun. 7/13:** The Holy Spirit Invites the Wise—*Judges 4:4-10*

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

July 9th, 2025

### Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$143,158
Year to Date Expenses	\$134,611
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
- Serve Day at Northern Illinois Food Bank
- 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.

### SERVE DAY

**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.

### 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.

## 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 7/13/25

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Scherrie Sanchez, Mark Dykema, Dale Mullen

**COFFEE:** Pat Haldorson

**LITURGIST:** Jim Huey

**ACOLYTE:** Caleb Adler

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

**GREETERS:** Helen & Dave Steinberg, Judy Garrison