



e-News

August 13th, 2025

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firstpresjoliet.org

Greetings from Romania!

There are a few things that sometimes I think we take for granted. For me at times that speaks to the many comforts we enjoy in our lives. From the A/C that keeps us cool to the quick access we have to our favorite on-the-go meal, and even the idea of shopping while we sit on the couch.

These past couple weeks I have found that maybe the true comfort is not the access to things, but having the time to spend with your people.

And maybe that has been my prayer for myself and also for you: to find the blessings in the true comforts in life. It is a comfort that starts, at least in my opinion, with knowing and trusting in the love of God, and then searching for ways to live out that love in practical ways with those who God puts in your life and become your people.

As I am writing this today, I am enjoying the quiet heat on a small street café that funny enough has my name on it, but I am thinking about the morning I shared with my parents: watching mom cook, because God forbid helping her is not in the books; going with dad to the dentist and seeing him experience the joy of new dental work. These things remind me that life is sometimes less complicated than we make it out to be.

I know fear, anxiety, and the many things that happen around us can be troubling. And yet I have faith that God can speak to us in the simple things if we are able to quiet down.

Next Tuesday I will be on my way back, until then know you are in my prayers.

Blessings,
Bo



Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Al Brooks, Carolyn Schaeffer, Mary Lynn Keir, and Pam LeVasseur, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), Dawn Fitzgerald (daughter of Emmie Ostrem), and Mark Dykema.

Emmie is very grateful for all the concern and prayers on behalf of her daughter. Dawn is doing well but still in need of prayers for recovery.

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 at noon.

Congratulations to Eric and Adriana Schultz on the birth of Luke Eric Schultz, born July 16th.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

ANGEL HOUSE MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL

Sunday August 24th after worship in Fireside Room

Stop in for this no-commitment informational meeting about a Mission Trip in May 2026 to Angel House in Tanzania.

Handbell Practice

Handbell practices will resume on August 21st with a time change to 6:30pm

SOAR HIGH PROGRAM

Wednesdays Sept. 17th– April 29th

3yr olds-8th grade

MUSIC

DINNER

BIBLE

5:30-6:10pm 6:15-6:45pm 6:50-7:25pm

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

SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

8/14 Dinner Out Group –Juliet's Tavern

8/21 Handbell practices resume

8/24 Mission Trip Informational Meeting

9/3 Chancel Choir resumes

9/7 Back to Church Sunday

9/17 Soar High/ Midweek programs resume

9/21 Church Picnic

9/22 Project LINUS resumes

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: Transformed: The Holy Spirit can change us and bear fruit in our lives.

Lesson for Sun. 8/17: Transformed by Kindness- Acts 9:21-25

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	\$175,976
Year to Date Expenses	\$177,569
Per Capita	\$44.00

Received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Texas flooding
\$1661

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.

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

DONATE YOUR KEYBOARD (INSTRUMENT)

If you have a keyboard (electric piano) you don't use, you can donate it to benefit the Soar High program and the young musicians who participate. If you have a donation please reach out to Sarah Randolph at music.randolph@firstpresjoliet.org.

DO YOU HAVE OLD PHOTOS OF THE CHURCH?

Do you have photos of First Pres before the Sanctuary was reconfigured in the 1960's, especially the old chapel? We'd love to see them. We are also looking for photos of the old Journey to Bethlehem sets. If you have photos to share please contact Sarah Randolph at music.randolph@firstpresjoliet.org

Porch and Park Music Fest 2025

FPJ will have a table with some information and refreshments set up during this Saturdays event. If you're out and about enjoying some local music, stop on by!

T-SHIRT COLLECTION

OASIS: Women's Ministry is collecting used t-shirts to be braided into jump ropes. T-shirts of any size or condition are accepted so long as there is no 'bedazzling' or 'bling'. These shirts will be braided into jump ropes and donated to Samaritan's Purse. Through their ministry 'Operation Christmas Child' the jump ropes will be part of a gift given to children in need around the world.

DROP OFF IN HOFFMAN HALL

SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/17/25

PREACHING: Matt Robinson

USHERS: Scherrie Sanchez, Ed Schultz, Jim Huey

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Bob Rudisill

ACOLYTE: Layla Poulos

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO:

GREETERS: Dave & Helen Steinberg, Larry & Sunny Whitford