



# e-News

August 20th, 2025

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[firstpresjoliet.org](http://firstpresjoliet.org)

## *A letter from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea*

This morning, as I stepped back into the office, and we had our regular catch up as the office staff, for a brief moment I thought: Hmmm last week, I was enjoying coffee and watching people, and now I am talking about A/C and paint. How exciting. Even with all of that though, it is good to be back. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone -from the front office to our guest preachers, and everyone else that helped around the church during these past weeks. I can tell you this much: watching online from far away- this church is on the move.

Now this coming Sunday I want to share with you something I would call more of a personal message from me- your pastor, who has thought of and prayed for you from a little distance, having a little time to think about this little church in Joliet. In part this message is inspired by Paul's words, that I would encourage you to read before Sunday.

### *Philippians 1 New International Version*

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons [a]:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Thanksgiving and Prayer

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday,

Blessings,

Pastor Bo

## **Church Family**

### **Prayers of health and healing for:**

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

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.

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

### **Happening at 805 Western:**

APNC is meeting tonight to continue their process working with Presbytery/COM so we can publish the job description ASAP.

Back to Church Sunday is coming up soon. Sept 7th we will have a little ice cream social after church and a later on September 21st a Church Picnic.

I am sure I will have more to share with you next week, as I catch up with everything.

Have a great week!

Bo

## **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.

## **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.

## **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](mailto:music.randolph@firstpresjoliet.org)

## **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 times.  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN) TODAY!***

## **SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP**

**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. 8/24:** Transformed by Goodness-1 Samuel  
18:1-5;20:1-42

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

### **August 20th, 2025**

#### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2025-2026 Budget</b>	<b>\$707,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$181,640</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$196,306</b>
<b>Per Capita</b>	<b>\$44.00</b>

**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**

Summer Choir sings in the Sunday services. 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

## **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.

## **Handbell Practice**

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

## **FPJ DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY**

**October 7th 2pm-8:30pm**

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album. Schedule your photography session online (*info on our website*). Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory.

## **SUNDAY SERVANTS 8/24/25**

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

**COFFEE:** Pat Haldorson

**LITURGIST:** Suzanne Penhale

**ACOLYTE:** Jillian Penhale

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

**GREETERS:** Carla DeYoung, Jen Garlitz