



# e-News

August 27th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

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firstpresjoliet.org

*A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea*

One of my father's favorite saying comes from Ecclesiastes 3:12-13  
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

*"I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil."*

I thought that this verse would be appropriate as we are heading into the Labor Day weekend. But before anyone says that Pastor Bo is encouraging everyone to indulge themselves too much, let me say this: Rest in the Lord, and let your own heart find peace before waking up to a new day of labor.

You see, I love that verse as it speaks to something as simple and beautiful as enjoying a meal surrounded by your people, family and friends, sharing with them and having them share with you the many blessings that come from your labor. At times our Western culture comes under scrutiny because we tend to skip the part of life that speaks to rest, to slowing down. I will go as far as to say that for Western Christians laboring for the Lord every waking minute becomes a badge of honor. And yes, as one that is in ministry, in the harvest as you might say, I pray for those dedicated people that serve the Lord faithfully. But I also pray for the same people to see the blessing that comes as one learns to rest in the Lord.

So this weekend, take some time to celebrate the blessing that the Lord gave you, and share those with someone that needs a blessing in their life.

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## Happening at 805 Western

- **Pictorial Directory** is coming up. Yes you heard that right we will have a new pictorial directory. That means we will need your help to get photos and prepare the information for the new book. Our photo day is Tuesday, October 7th 2pm - 8:30pm. The website to make reservations is <http://www.ucdir.com> Click 'photography session sign-up' The log in is 'il448', and the password is 'photos'. Do me a huge favor and head there right away and book your time, so we can get this done ASAP.

- **Back to Church Sunday** is coming up. Sept 7th we will have a day of celebrating the faithfulness of the Lord in the ministry year so far, and focus on what is ahead. This will be a great time to bring a friend and introduce them to 1st Pres of Joliet.

- **Sept 17th - Midweek is back.** If you did not plan on being there this might be a good time to add it to your calendar.

## Church Family

### Prayers of health and healing for:

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

## PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays at 10am in Fireside Room

*Starting Sep 4th*

Join together in prayer.

## 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.

## **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**

- 9/3 Chancel Choir resumes
- 9/4 Prayer Group resumes
- 9/7 Back to Church Sunday
- 9/11 Dinner Out Group
- 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. 8/31:** Transformed by Faithfulness  
—Daniel 3:1-30

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

**August 27th, 2025**

### **Stewardship Report**

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$209,456
Year to Date Expenses	\$199,068
Per Capita	\$44.00

Received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Texas flooding  
\$1781

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**

(Last Summer Choir Sunday!) 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

## **FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Saturday September 6th**

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.

## **PROJECT LINUS**

**Sept 22nd 9am-11am**

**Every 4th Monday of the month**

The only skill required is that you can tie knots in fleece fabric to create a soft, warm comfort blanket for children in crisis. If you can use scissors to cut the fabric, that will be a bonus. And there is plenty of time to chat with the other 'knotters' while making the blankets.

## **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.

## **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 8/31/25**

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott

**COFFEE:** Jasmine Keir

**LITURGIST:** Hasen Qi

**ACOLYTE:** Rylie Blaser

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina

**VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

**GREETERS:** Judy Garrison, Nick Sanchez

**GUEST SOLOIST:** Erin Lindor