



# e-News

September 10th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org

*A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea*

Do you know Titus? Yes, the Titus that Paul speaks about as being his most trusted friend and worker in God's vineyard. Do you know him? Do you know what he's about? What did he do, or what he had to do in his ministry among the people of Crete?

Bo, why are you asking all these questions? Well, in part because I was thinking about how little we think about people like Titus, who pop up here and there in the Bible, that we are not very familiar with. Yet their lives carry a lot of important lessons that can be applied to our daily lives. As we enter this new season of ministry here at 1st Pres, I will take time on Sunday mornings, at least for a while, to introduce to you (or reintroduce) some of these folks so together we can pray that the Lord will teach us what it means "to be a Christ follower" in today's world. This coming Sunday we are starting by looking at the Epistle to Titus, and I am praying that our hearts will be open to the words found in this letter.

**Here is what is going on at 805 Western this week and month:**

1. This coming Sunday, we will have our **congregational meeting** to elect the Nominating committee that will work to nominate people to serve as Elders and Deacons beginning January 2026.
2. I would encourage you to read the story of **Siloam Ministry** for the Blind found here: <https://siloam.co.kr/en/introduction/greeting/> (the website takes a little time to load, but is worth exploring). Please continue to pray for their work and those that seek healing under their wings.
3. The **1st Pres Picnic** is on the 21st right after the worship service. I should never ask a Presbyterian to come to church and stay for a meal, but I will still do it: Please, carve out time for this fellowship and a great chance to reconnect with your church family.
4. **Midweek is starting next week.** If you are looking for a place to serve a couple of hours we could use your help. Please contact Bo for details.
5. If you need help to sign up for the **Photo Directory**, please call the front office. We would love to have the spots filled soon so we can plan accordingly.
6. A **New Members Class** is meeting on Sunday the 28th after Sunday Worship, in the Fireside room. Do you have any questions about your faith, this church or how you fit in at 1st Pres? Stop by and say hi!

## **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), Estella Jurkovich, Becky Church, and Xian Qi (Hasen Qi's brother).

A memorial service for Fred Krueger (Michael Krueger's father) will be held at FPJ Sept 13th at Noon.

Session has called a Congregational Meeting at the September 14th worship service for the purpose of electing the Nominating Committee to select Elders & Deacons to fill vacancies for 2026-2028.

## **CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE PEOPLE?**

Worship Council members have spent a significant amount of time this summer reorganizing and inventorying the storage spaces in our church. During this work, we found these two portraits. They have no identification on them and we would like to correct that! These people were obviously important to our church and its history, so we'd like to make sure they are properly identified. If you know who they are, and can include any historical details about them, we will make sure that this information is included with the portraits. Please email or call Joan Schultz at: joanschultz27@gmail.com (815) 685-3864 Thank you so much for your "Detective" assistance!! Worship Council: Bev Adelman, Sarah Randolph, Joan Schultz



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Our Wednesday night programming is starting back on 9/17. In order to be prepared for dinner we ask that you submit a quick response to a form on our website **letting us know how many in your family will be enjoying the fellowship dinner** at 6:15pm.

### 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!***

### 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

Thursdays at 10am in Fireside Room

Join together in prayer.

### 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.

### SAVE THE DATE– COMING UP

**9/11** Dinner Out Group

**9/17** Soar High/ Midweek programs resume

**9/21** Church Picnic

**9/22** Project LINUS resumes

**9/28** New Members Class

**10/7** Directory Photo Day

**11/5** Directory Photo Day

### MISSION OF THE MONTH

#### **SILOAM EYE HOSPITAL**

Siloam Eye Hospital is a Korean medical institution founded by the grace of God. It is a hospital devoted to medical missions work. Following Christ's example of love and healing, the Siloam Eye Hospital aims to bring Light—through free eye treatment, blindness prevention, and eyesight-recovery operations—to those suffering at home (in Korea) and abroad.

### **Children's Church Corner**

**Faith Focus:** LIFELINE: God Rescues Us

**Lesson for Sun. 9/14:** God Appears to Moses—*Exodus 2:11-3:22*

**Bible Verse:** "The Lord is my strength and my power; he has become my salvation" - *Exodus 15:2*

### FPJ DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY

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

**November 5th 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.

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#### **Stewardship Report**

<b>2025-2026 Budget</b>	<b>\$707,600</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$225,206</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$222,147</b>
<b>Per Capita</b>	<b>\$44.00</b>

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.***

### SUNDAY SERVANTS 9/14/25

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema. Scherrie Sanchez, Sue Fordyce

**COFFEE:** Barb Rodgers

**LITURGIST:** Karol Boyd

**ACOLYTE:** Rylie Blaser

**SOUND:** Rich Pool

**VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

**GREETERS:** Diane and Joe Milosevich