



e-News

September 3rd, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259

firstpresjoliet.org

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

Back to Church Sunday!!!

When you think about this coming Sunday, there are two ways to look at it: **1.** Summer is done, everyone is back to a more regular schedule and so it starts the return "BACK TO CHURCH" (or at least until football starts) on Sunday mornings. **2.** Everything good and exciting that the church has is starting as "BACK TO CHURCH" brings everyone around to celebrate, grow in faith, and get ready for fall, advent, and so on.

I myself tend to like the second approach to Back to Church Sunday. To me, it feels filled with energy, excitement, and potential for the things God is going to do in our next season of ministry. So this coming Sunday, we will have a little celebration of God's faithfulness and look at the challenges and opportunities of the season ahead of us.

Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward."

Happening at 805 Western Ave:

1. Because you are so good at signing up for the **pictorial directory** now we have a second day opened for pictures. November 5th—sign ups are now opened and ready for you. Visit www.ucdir.com, click 'photography appointment scheduling log in', enter 'il448' in the 'church code' field, and 'photos' in the 'church password' field. (info also available on our website www.firstpresjoliet.org)
2. **Tanzania Mission Meeting** is coming up this Sunday after church. There is still room for you if you are interested in going to Angel House.
3. As we are **preparing for Midweek**, we need your help. If you are planning on attending and staying for dinner please fill in the RSVP so we can plan accordingly. The link is on our website.
4. Don't forget the **Church Picnic** is coming up on the 21st.
5. **New Members Class** on September 28th after church.

And much more to come :)

Have a great week First Pres,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

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!***

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
9/28 New Members Class
10/7 Directory Photo Day
11/5 Directory Photo Day

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: LIFELINE: God Rescues Us

Lesson for Sun. 9/7: Baby Moses is Saved
—Exodus 1:8-14;2:1-10

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

September 3rd, 2025 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$214,859
Year to Date Expenses	\$219,076
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.

CHOIR

Chancel Choir will resume tonight 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.

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.

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 9/7/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Dale Mullen, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Lynn Kosowski

ACOLYTE: Isabella DeMassa

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Reed and Sue Mott, Nick Sanchez