



e-News

October 15th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

Do you know Stephen? The guy that manages to run/walk by a chariot and share the Gospel with the Ethiopian? Yes, that one. Acts 8:26-40 tells that story, and I would encourage you to read it and meditate on it before Sunday's sermon. As you do that please ask this question about the story: How did these two people happen to be on the same road, at the same time, and both were open to a conversation? Maybe ask yourself: Would I be able to do the same?

You see life, as some describe it, is a series of fortunate or unfortunate events. Sometimes difficult things that make us question if this was meant to happen. But we are reminded of Right time, right place, right person, type of scenario. May this coming Sunday bring us all that type of openness as we seek God in our common worship.

See you this weekend,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western

-Hear ye hear ye! Our own musicians, the Glory Ringers Handbell Choir and Michael Lockler on flute, are hosting a special **concert this Saturday at 4 pm**. Your presence is requested along with your friends and neighbors.

-Since this October is a month of outreach, do not forget **Trunk and Treat is next week, October 22nd at 6 pm**. We can still use some trunks and help for the event. Please let the office know if you are able to be here, or register on our website.

-Planning ahead for Thanksgiving? If you are, know that we will host a **Thanksgiving service on November 25th at 6:30 pm** here at church. Plenty of time to share and spend the word.

-**Session** is meeting this week. Keep praying for those that are around the leadership table to lead with creativity, imagination, courage, and compassion as they labor at this time, in this place.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski as she is in the hospital, Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), Xian Qi (Hasen Qi's brother), Joyce Bossen, Sherry Jones, Barb Rodgers as she is in the hospital, and thank you for your prayers for Pastor Bo's father Jan.

Sympathies to Lori Clemens on the passing of her mother Dorothy Clemens on Oct 12th. The visitation will be here at FPJ on Oct. 28th from 9-11am, with the funeral service to follow at 11am.

TRUNK N TREAT

October 22nd 6-7:30pm

Everyone is invited to the free festivities! Bring a bag for your treats, enjoy some hot food, games, and a petting zoo.

Registration is open our website!

!!!WE NEED MORE TRUNKS!!!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

MORNINGSTAR MISSION

In Joliet

MorningStar Mission is a non-denominational organization dedicated to relieving the spiritual and physical hunger of the poor by providing food for the hungry, clothes for the needy, shelter for the homeless and the gospel of Jesus Christ for all. Through their many Christ-centered programs and services, they aim to help people in need by getting to the core issues of what has caused their homelessness. Whether the problem stems from alcohol, drugs, mental health or family matters, their services have been developed for those who have reached the decision to make a real change in their lives.

BIBLE SUNDAY

October 26th

Each Bible Sunday First Pres excitedly gifts a new, age-appropriate Bible to 4 year olds, 3rd graders, and 6th graders. **If you have a youth who would like a new Bible please let the church office know.**

SOAR HIGH PROGRAM

Wednesdays through April 29th

3yr olds-8th grade

MUSIC **DINNER** **BIBLE**

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

Students are grouped by age, ability, and skill level. Music includes singing and playing instruments. Bible lessons are age-appropriate with lesson based games and crafts.

Nursery care will be available during Music and Bible times.

Contact the church office if you are interested in joining.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need greeters and extra helpers—contact Sarah Randolph at music.randolph@firstpresjoliet.org

NO SOAR HIGH 10/22 FOR TRUNK N TREAT

SAVE THE DATE— COMING UP

10/18 Handbell Concert at 4pm

10/22 Trunk N Treat 6-7:30pm

10/26 Bible Sunday

10/27 Project LINUS at 9am

11/5 Directory Photo Day

11/18 Directory Photo Day

11/23 OASIS: Christmas Cards for Manteno Veterans

11/25 Thanksgiving Worship Service

11/29 Christmas Decorating @9am

11/29 Harvest Arts concert @7pm

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: SHELTER: God protects us

Lesson for Sun. 10/19: God Protects and Provides for Elijah

—1 Kings 17:1-7

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

October 15th, 2025

Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$310,889
Year to Date Expenses	\$297,265
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.

CONCERTS AND COOKIES

October 18th at 4pm

The next concert is our very own Glory Ringer Handbell Choir, with the special addition of Michael Lockler on flute. Celebrate this music ministry and enjoy some tasty fellowship time.

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

OASIS: CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR VETERANS

November 23rd at 11:30am

At First Pres

OASIS: Women's Ministry invites all women to join together and make some lovely Christmas cards for the folks at Manteno Veterans Home. A light lunch will be served.

More OASIS events coming soon!

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

NEW: NOV. 18TH 2-8:30PM

Another Photo Day has been added on Tuesday November 18th from 2pm-8:30pm. The Nov. 5th date is fully booked so make sure to reserve your Nov 18th spot if you haven't gotten your photo taken yet.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 10/19/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Sherrie Sanchez, Nick Sanchez, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Dave Zang

ACOLYTE: Emmy Palmer

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Dave and Sharon Cavanaugh