

THE SERVANTS' LIGHT

Monthly publication from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY

October 7th - nearly full
October 8th 2pm-8:30pm
November 5th - nearly full

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory.

FALL AT FIRST PRES TRUNK N TREAT

Wednesday October 22nd 6-7:30pm

Time to get those treats and trunks ready! Grab your costumes, candy, and a car! Trunk N Treat is a safer alternative to traditional Trick or Treating, and all free. Families are invited to traverse our parking lot for candy, play games, enjoy warm food, a bounce house, and even a petting zoo. It's a fun-filled evening designed for everyone to enjoy, bringing together our community in a festive and secure environment. Decorate your trunks and fill them with goodies, or simply come along to partake in the delights of the season. Volunteers are always welcome to help set up, serve food, and ensure the event runs smoothly. Don't miss out on this chance to connect with fellow members and spread joy to the little ones. Let's make it a memorable night for all! Registration is live on our website www.firstpresjoliet.org.

HANDBELL CHOIR CONCERT

Saturday October 18th at 4pm

The Glory Ringer Handbell Choir will be hosting a concert for all to enjoy. These devoted musicians will be the stars of our next Concerts and Cookies event, this October.



**It was a joy to see the
Midweek/Soar High program
resume with such enthusiasm!**

September 18th 2025

SESSION NOTES

- The Councils are working together planning for a busy and exciting fall ministry season.
- There are 2 more Concerts and Cookies events
 - October 18th is the Glory Ringers Handbell concert
 - November 29th is Harvest Arts
- Trunk N Treat is scheduled for October 22nd - registration is open.
- Session has approved the forming of an ADHOC committee to look at and suggest policies and improvements to our building security.
- Session thanks you for your faithfulness and commitment to this church's ministry and the work we're doing in our community.

SMALL GROUPS

Life Group:

Young adults and up
Sundays 9-9:45am in
Hoffman Hall

PraiseYoga:

T @ 6:30 pm/
Th @ 8:30 am
in the Narthex

Centering Prayer:

Tuesdays @ 1pm
in Room 210

Dinner Out Group:

October 9th @6pm
Backroads Burger and
Bar

Prayer Group:

Thursdays @10am
in Fireside Room

Project LINUS:

4th Mon. of each month
9am in Hoffman Hall

Worship Service:

Each Sunday @ 10am
and Online anytime

Children's

Worship:

After Time with
Children each
Sunday (ages 3 to 11)

DINNER OUT GROUP

October 9th at 6pm

Backroads Burger and
Bar in Plainfield

Contact Carol Kline to
be included in the
reservation.

SOAR HIGH/MIDWEEK

Wednesdays 5:30-7:25pm
Sep. 17th - April 29th

5:30-6:10pm: MUSIC

6:15-6:45pm: DINNER

6:50-7:25pm: BIBLE

**Soar High registration is full, email the church office to be added to the waitlist.
No registration required for Adult Bible Study.**

CONCERTS AND COOKIES

October 18th at 4pm
November 29th at 7pm

In October our dedicated and skilled Glory Ringers Handbell Choir will be performing a special concert for all.

In November we will be hosting Harvest Arts once again for a celebration of worship music.

TRUNK N TREAT

October 22nd 6-7:30pm

Families are invited to join in the festivities by trick or treating or decorating a trunk and handing out candy, or both! Visit our website to sign up to volunteer to serve the families in our community.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN OUR WEBSITE

PHOTO APPOINTMENTS

October 7th 2pm-8:30pm

To schedule your photo appointment

Schedule online at www.ucdir.com

- click 'photography appointment scheduling log in'
- enter 'iL448' in the 'church code' field
- enter 'photos' in the 'church password' field
- Online scheduling is available M-F
- If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots.

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



MorningStar Mission

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.

FOOD: MorningStar operates the East Side Cafe which serves a full nutritious breakfast, lunch, and dinner for everyone who comes in, as well as a Friday Food Pantry.

SHELTER: A Men and Women's Emergency Shelter is operable 7 days a week/365 days a year. MorningStar runs a Women and Family Center and assists with transitional housing.

RECOVERY: Their Men's 180 Residential Recovery Program serves to help those seeking to break from chronic homelessness and addiction. Graduates can be a part of the Hope House transitional housing program.

RESOURCES: MorningStar Mission hosts the New Day Drop-In center which provides resources and services, such as computers, referrals, and telephones for those experiencing homelessness.

THRIFT STORES: MorningStar Treasure Chest is the local thrift store where MorningStar provides vouchers for those in need to be able to acquire clothes, furniture etc.

How do we help?

Mission work at MorningStar
past and present



First Presbyterian Church of Joliet considers MorningStar Mission an important partner of ministry in Joliet. Our relationship with them spans decades. Over the years you could find our volunteers helping cook and serve on Saturday mornings at the cafe, renovate and paint the Men's Shelter, or raising funds so the dream of a Women and Family Shelter would become a reality. While ministry over the years has changed, MorningStar Mission is still in our heart at Christmas time as we participate in the Stars of Hope program where numerous children get new clothing and a special gift for Christmas. MorningStar Mission is indeed a ministry of hope that we are so happy to partner with.

A Prayer for MorningStar Mission:

Lord God, we call on you as father to the fatherless, mother to the motherless, one that is always close to those in need. On this day we ask for your comfort for those that are in need of having a place to call home, we ask for your love to surround those looking for assurance of how precious they are in your sight. Especially we pray for places like MorningStar, open door emergency shelters, homeless shelters, food oasis for the needy, and places where help becomes real. We ask for churches, ministries, individuals of faith to stand in the gap for those in need, for hearts to always be open to the least of these. Lord, be close to these.

Amen

FPJ Member Spotlight



Feeling at Home with Vivian Pritz Helwich

As a lifelong member of the Joliet community, First Pres has always been a part of my life. I was baptized, confirmed, and married my husband, Tom, here. I absolutely love this church as it has created an environment of love and holds a true sense of family to where my husband and now children have been accepted with open arms.

Growing up, I was a member of the Youth Group and enjoyed going on mission trips. Two memorable trips were to New York City and Washington D.C. where we delivered food, mowed people's lawns, and visited homeless shelters. On the New York City trip, I was a Senior in High School. We slept on air mattresses and I had the best time not only working with fellow Christians but getting to know myself. There was an incident with my air mattress, when we came back from working all day. There was a leak in the ceiling and water covered the entire air mattress. It was a funny reminder of such a bigger picture of what I was learning that week. Our mission week focused on feeding the homeless. I realized that having a soggy mattress was nothing compared to various challenges others face. Thinking of others, being grateful, and spreading kindness are not only gestures or characteristics but help when making genuine connections with others.

Through these experiences, and several others like this, First Pres. helped shape me into the person that I am today. I've created lasting memories serving as a Youth Group Leader, participating in Trunk and Treat, volunteering for events; and more recently, serving on Growth Council.

My husband and I love experiencing First Pres through our children's eyes. Collin and Isla get so excited on Sundays. They love seeing Pastor Bo, and it is wonderful to see him be a part of the important events in their lives. They love the Soar High Program, and we can't say enough good things about it. All of the leaders Sarah Randolph, Kaleigh Belfield, and Pastor Bo are consistent positive influences in their lives. It is those special connections that have made being a part of First Pres such a meaningful experience.

At our wedding, we used candles that my grandfather had made for church. When my nephew, Ryan Jeffrey Pritz, was baptized, Pastor Bo included the hymn "I Danced in the Morning," in the service because he knew that it had special meaning for the Pritz family. Often, Pastor Bo somehow knows what I've been going through the previous week; and in his sermons, he seems to be talking directly to me.

First Pres has always been and will continue to be part of my family. I'm eager to watch our children grow and thrive within our beloved church and create lasting memories as well.