



e-News

October 22nd, 2025

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A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

This coming Sunday, I would like to share with a few thoughts on Pontius Pilot, the reluctant governor of Judea. His story comes to us in a time when we might find ourselves in the same circumstances as he did, when faced with a decision regarding Jesus. You see, this is more than a little chapter in the Easter story, it is the challenge that the church has faced time and time again. I would like to ask you to read Mathew 27-28 and meditate on this one question: What if it was me holding the power in that instance? What would my response be?

Looking forward to sharing the word with you on Sunday and sharing in the joy of serving the Lord as a church each and everyday.

Blessings, Pastor Bo

Happening at 806 Western:

- I cannot miss the opportunity to say THANK YOU to the Glory Ringers and Michael Lockler for the wonderful concert they shared this past weekend. Everything from the music, the welcoming, the homemade cookies, was wonderful. And if I were to list every person that made this happen, I am sure I will miss someone, and more likely this letter will be very long. So, please know that I am so thankful to you all for serving and welcoming the people around our church at this time. May we always have that servant heart.

- This Sunday is Bible Sunday. And it is not about just the little ones. It should come as no surprise to you that as a church, sharing, putting the "good book" in people's hands is one of those things that this church has done faithfully for years. If you need a Bible, if your friend or little one is curious about it, we've got you. In the service on Sunday we will celebrate the faithfulness of God, Reformation Sunday, and share the gift of the word. What a wonderful and joyous occasion for us as a congregation.

- As this month comes to a close, please remember MorningStar and their mission to serve and make our community better by opening their doors to the needy. MorningStar is not just a homeless shelter, as they provide so much more in terms of helping people navigate their hard times. They provide support with recovery, food and shelter and so much more. You can visit this page to learn more about this partnership:

<https://morningstarmission.org/>

- **And don't forget, TRUNK 'n' TREAT is tonight.** As I often say: It is about the kids! Kids, families that need a reminder that love and kindness is part of what this church, and you, are about. See you tonight! I will be the one collecting smiles from the people joining us for food, candy, and just a nice evening of joy. Look for me.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Jean Smietanski, Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Joyce Bossen, Sherry Jones, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), and Xian Qi (Hasen Qi's brother).

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

TRUNK N TREAT

TONIGHT!!! 6-7:30pm

You can come and serve food or host a trunk even if you did not sign up to do so, just be here by 4:30.

Everyone is invited to the free festivities!

Enjoy some hot food, games, and a petting zoo.

Kids should bring a bag for their treats.

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.**

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

TODAY!—Trunk N Treat 6-7:30pm

10/26—Bible Sunday

10/27—Project LINUS at 9am

11/5—Directory Photo Day

11/13—Dinner Out Group

11/18—Directory Photo Day

11/23—OASIS: Christmas Cards for Veterans, 11:30am

11/25—Thanksgiving Worship Service at 6:30pm

11/29—Christmas Decorating at 9am

11/29—Harvest Arts concert at 7pm

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 is available during Music and Bible times.
Contact the church office if you have a child interested in joining.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

NO SOAR HIGH TONIGHT — IT'S TRUNK N TREAT!

PROJECT LINUS

Oct 27th 9am in Hoffman Hall

Every 4th Monday of the month

The only skill required is that you can tie knots in fleece fabric to create a soft, warm, comforting 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.

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday November 1st, 8:30-10am

Our Night Deacons host a free pancake breakfast each first Saturday of the month. All are invited to enjoy this breakfast and to help serve our community.

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 had your photo taken yet.

OASIS: CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR VETERANS

Sunday, November 23rd at 11:30am at First Pres

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

Watch for more OASIS events coming soon!

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 as 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 gifts given to children in need worldwide.

DROP OFF IN THE BOX IN HOFFMAN HALL

MENARDS REBATE COLLECTION

Drop your UNUSED Menards rebate receipts in the designated box in Hoffman Hall. Rebate coupons will be used strictly for building repairs/improvement.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 10/26/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Scherrie Sanchez, Laura House

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Marie Blunk

ACOLYTE: Rylie Blaser

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

GREETERS: Larry & Sanne Whitford, Georgene Venske

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: SHELTER: God protects us

Lesson for Sun. 10/26: Esther Protects God's People
—Book of Esther

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

October 22, 2025

Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$314,456
Year to Date Expenses	\$297,292
Per Capita	\$44.00

You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving. You may also text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044.

Thank you for your generosity.