



e-News

October 29th, 2025

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

You know how much I enjoy sharing my faith journey with you whenever I get a chance, and today is no exception. As a pastor/preacher, part of the job is praying and dreaming about what this Sunday, and each Sunday after that, will be like. Sometimes, it feels like there's always at least two sermons brewing somewhere. To make things even more interesting, one of these pesky sermons might just stick with me longer than I expect. Even if I think, "Okay, I've got to move on to the next thing," they tend to pop back up. So, I was thinking about kicking off a new sermon series in November, but for some reason I think we need a couple more people to meet before Advent. This coming Sunday, we're diving into: Seeing the world with a fresh perspective.

I have read the story of the Widow's mite multiple times, and I am sure it is one of those beloved examples of faithful living. This past week, it caught my eye reading what Luke captures right before he shares the Widow's story. It broke my heart in many ways. You see right before her story he speaks of the scribes, the religious leaders of the time, and their intentions, means of worship, and perception. Without giving too much away from this Sunday's Sermon, I would ask you to read Luke 20:45-47; Luke 21:1-4 and ask the following question along the way: Have things changed in regards to this reading in the last 2,000 years?

I am looking forward to introducing you again to the characters of the story above, and sharing with you the joy of the Lord's table.

As Isaiah said: Isaiah 55:1

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat!"

See you on Sunday, if not before then.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western this week:

- **Thank you** to all that made Trunk N Treat last week another great time of ministry to those around us. Every year comes with a new challenge and this year was no different. Cold and other factors might have limited the number of people coming, but that did not take away from you all serving and welcoming all the people that were here.

- Looking towards the end of the November, Worship Council is looking for lots of helpers to **decorate for Advent**. On November 29th at 9am we hope to see you here being one of the "good elves" that help us get ready for the Christmas season.

One more thing for today. Just as I was writing this email, Maggie Vick, (she is more than a friend of the church, and if you do not know her yet you should) called about a project that is aimed to help active military personnel here in Joliet. Her family is doing a food drive (now to Nov. 7th), collecting non-perishable and canned food. Please label 'military' These can be dropped off at church or you can call Maggie directly and talk to her - (815) 242-0524.

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).

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.

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 almost fully booked so make sure to reserve your Nov. 18th spot if you haven't had your photo taken yet.

DIRECTORY PHOTO SUBMISSION

If you or your family prefer, you can submit a photo for the new pictorial directory, for a \$15 fee paid at time of submission. Photo must be digital or original print. The photo should be a close up, waist or chest up, no full body.

Deadline for submissions is currently January 20th.

A FORM WILL BE REQUIRED FOR SUBMISSION AND WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

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

DINNER OUT GROUP

November 13th at 6pm

Cracker Barrel at 1511 Riverboat Center Drive

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

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.

MILITARY FOOD DRIVE

Maggie Vick and her family are doing a food drive (from now to Nov. 7th), collecting non-perishable and canned food for active military members here in Joliet. These can be dropped off at church (please label 'military') or you can call Maggie directly at (815) 242-0524.

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 veterans. 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.

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 11/2/25

USHERS: Scherrie Sanchez, Ed Schultz, Dale Mullen, Sue Fordyce

COFFEE: Pat Haldorson

LITURGIST: Jill Strimel

ACOLYTE: Cristian Haldorson-Diaz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Helen & Dave Steinberg, Nik Sanchez

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: ROAD MAP: God shows us the way.

Lesson for Sun. 11/2: Samuel Chooses a King—
1 Samuel 9; 10:17-24

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

October 29, 2025 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$325,315
Year to Date Expenses	\$297,268
Per Capita	\$44.00

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You may also text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044.

Thank you for your generosity.