



e-News

November 12th, 2025

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

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

JAMES 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

I like that verse a lot. But what about the things that are not so good and perfect? How about the things that are just plain bad, that make you question who God is? How about those things? Some will say: "it is all a matter of faith". If you have faith you will see God's hand in all things, and if not then you need more faith. I think that is a shallow understanding of who God is. Life is not perfect and even if we are to try and define a perfect life, we will only find ourselves in trouble. As we look towards Thanksgiving, I would like to encourage you to look at life a little differently. You have been blessed beyond the day in front of you and its challenges. In your faith, God has given you strength to carry on and witness not just through the good times, but also in the challenges. It is not the good or the bad that we let in our lives, but rather the faith that shapes our outcomes. So in this day, let us praise God in the good and perfect but also in the challenges we face. May we all recognize God's grace.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening this week:

- **Thank you** to all Soar High kids and parents, volunteers, and teachers. What an awesome celebration of the continued hard work that has been put into the last three years of Midweek. I cannot be more proud of the kids, parents, teachers, and all. Good job 1st Pres.

- **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**— I am happy to report we have received the first list of names of candidates and the next step is for us to meet, pray, and see if our next associate is in this first batch. Pray with us.

- **Pray for the many councils** meeting at this time and working on everything from building and grounds, security, to day to day ministry. Busy, busy times around here.

- Don't forget the next **Concerts and Cookies - Harvest Arts** on Nov 29th at 7 pm. Invite a friend.

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

Grief and Care Packages for Bereaved Parents

Our November Mission of the Month is a heartfelt initiative dedicated to supporting parents who have recently experienced the profound loss of a child in the hospital. Our goal is to assemble and deliver grief and care packages that offer comfort, hope, and practical support during their time of unimaginable sorrow. You may drop off these items at church.

This mission involves preparing thoughtful packages for mothers and fathers grieving the loss of their child. Each package will contain items designed to provide gentle care and solace, such as handwritten notes, devotional booklets, comfort items (like blankets and candles), and resources for emotional and spiritual healing. We will work in partnership with Saint Joe's Hospital to ensure these packages reach families most in need, letting them know they are seen, loved, and not alone.

FPJ DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY

NOV. 18TH 2-8:30PM

Make sure to reserve your Nov. 18th spot if you haven't had your photo taken yet.

If you cannot be here to have your photo taken you may submit one for the directory for a \$15 fee. Photo must be digital or original print. Photos should be close up - from waist or chest up, no full body. **A required form is on our website and in the church office.** Deadline for submission is January 20th.

UPDATED NURSERY HOURS

Moving forward our nursery will be staffed earlier, starting at 9am each Sunday, through the end of the worship service. As always the nursery facilities are also available to guardians regardless of if you drop your child off.

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

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.

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

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. Please bring any extra cards you may have.

A light lunch will be served.

Watch for more OASIS events coming soon!

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 11/16: The Servant Girl Speaks Up
—2 Kings 5:1-19

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

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Tuesday November 25th at 6:30pm

Take some time to give thanks in this special worship service.

We are asking for donations of canned soup for our Micro Pantry, helping feed our community.

Nursery care will be available during the service.

November 13th, 2025 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$341,205
Year to Date Expenses	\$319,602
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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/16/25

USHERS:

COFFEE:

LITURGIST: Aubrey Herr

ACOLYTE: Isabella DaMassa

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Sharon and Dave Cavanaugh