

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

This coming Sunday is a special Sunday for the church, because we get to celebrate God's gifts in our midst, as we confirm and bless the calling of service to God for the new Elders and Deacons stepping forward in faith. Thank you to the Nominating Committee and for your prayers along the way.

I will make this eNews the shortest one ever:

Lots of things happening at church this coming week - see below

- Thanksgiving Service Tuesday Nov. 25th at 6:30 pm
- Decorating the Church Saturday the 29th 9 am
- Advent Concert Harvest Arts Saturday the 29th at 7 pm

See you in church on Sunday, Blessings, Bo

Thank you to all the Soar High kids who gave us such a beautiful performance, and showcase of



e-News

November 19th, 2025

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

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

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

Sympathies to Bob Smietanski and family on the passing of Jean on November 14. Services will be private.

Sympathies to Jim and Michele Purcell and Brandi Cavitt and families on the passing of Jim's mom/Brandi's grandmother, Evelyn Purcell on November 9.

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.

Items can be donated in the marked box in Hoffman Hall.

FPJ DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY

If you could not 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.

CONCERTS AND COOKIES: HARVEST ARTS

November 29th at 7pm

This month we will be hosting Harvest Arts once again for a celebration of Christmas music performed by the Harvest Arts Chamber Ensemble. What a great way to start the excitement and celebration of the Advent season. Cookie reception to follow.

Nursery care will be available during the performance.

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

NOTE: Soar High and Midweek will take a break 11/26 for Thanksgiving, no classes or dinner.

Children's Church Corner

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

<u>Lesson for Sun. 11/23:</u> Josiah Leads as King —2 Kings 22:1-23:23

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

November 19th, 2025 Stewardship Report

 2025-2026 Budget
 \$707,600

 Year to Date Income
 \$348,069

 Year to Date Expenses
 \$348,097

 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.

SAVE THE DATE - COMING UP

11/23—Congregational Meeting

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

12/21—Christmas Breakfast

12/24—Candlelit worship services at 4pm and 11pm

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 21st

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday November 23rd

To approve nominations of Elders and Deacons

NOTE: The church building and office will be closed 11/27 and 11/28 for Thanksgiving.

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!

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.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 11/23/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott

COFFEE: Nola Boyd
LITURGIST: Ken Graham
ACOLYTE: Raegan or Emmy Palmer
SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

OUND: Keith LeVasseur **VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

GREETERS: Larry & Sunny Whitford, Georgene Venske