



e-News

December 10th, 2025

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

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

I just realized this morning that I have not been too Grinchy this year, or as someone will say "Not Yet". So here is the annual reminder that in order to be a joy for others, in order to provide comfort and peace for everyone in your life - YOU, YES YOU! - you need to be in a good place. And that my friend, might be easier said than done, but not impossible. So please, be kind to yourself, take your time to drink your coffee in quiet, maybe say no to a thing or two, and finish or not finish those tree decorations. If I am to be a real Grinch, remember - It is about PRESENCE, not presents. Ok, then, I feel much better now.

This Sunday I will be sharing a few thoughts about Joy, and I pray that we all can learn together what Joy, Christ's Joy, Advent Joy is. The promise and prophecy of this week comes to us from Isaiah 61:1-3 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

The Good News of Deliverance

*61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.*

See you Sunday, as we will seek the Lord's grace and joy as one.
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 -

-It is a special Sunday ahead of us - Soar High Kids are leading us in worship, and Kari and Michael Endres are preparing a **special music** offering. But it is not just the music, I hear that the preacher this Sunday is quite OK too.

-Sunday December 21st 8:30 am - 9:45 am - The Night Deacons are inviting you to a special **Christmas Breakfast**. Hope to see you there.

- Make plans for **Christmas Eve** services 4 pm and the 11 pm with Musicales at 10:20 pm. It is never too early to plan ahead.

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), Mary Lynn Keir, and Judy Bartels' sister Sharon.

Please remember in your prayers, the people who are experiencing this holiday season in a place of loneliness, worry, anxiety, or grief. May they feel God's presence in a special way.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FPJ

4pm: Family Worship Service

Child-friendly, for all ages, nursery care provided

10:20pm Christmas Musicales

Our talented musicians' gift to the New Born King

11pm: Traditional Candlelit Worship Service

POINSETTIAS

Donate a pot of Poinsettias for \$15. Orders are due by December 14th. Forms are available on our website and as an insert in your Sunday bulletin. Flowers will be beautifying our church for the Advent season, but will be available for pick-up afterwards.

DINNER OUT GROUP

December 11th at 6pm

La Dulce Vita
16108 Route 59, in Plainfield
RSVP to Dee Mullen (757) 777-6918

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Hope Manor Veterans Home Community

Hope Manor Joliet is one of the first large scale, supportive housing developments specifically designed for Veterans with families. Hope Manor Joliet provides a comprehensive response to the challenges facing all Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness – especially female Veterans and Veterans with children. Hope Manor Joliet is a campus-style community that provides a flexible continuum of housing and supportive services to individual Veterans and Veterans with families through unique combination units.

As the name implies, Hope Manor Joliet is about much more than simply providing housing for Veterans who are struggling – the goal is to help Veterans change and improve their lives over the long-term by promoting self-sufficiency, building new skills, creating strong support networks and integrating Veterans more positively into community life.

Residents live in fully furnished units, there are community resource centers with access to computers and a library as well as a playground, and program events and activities.

COLLECTION FOR JOLIET HOPE MANOR

*Collecting until December 14th**

Morningstar Mission's Christmas 'Stars of Hope' program has been set aside this season as they work with another organization to help the needs of our community - So in place of the MSM Stars of Hope - Oasis will be collecting needed items for the Joliet Hope Manor - A Veteran Resident Housing in Joliet, in memory of long-time friend of First Pres, Kevin Breitbarth.

The Joliet Hope Manor Veterans will be celebrating Christmas on Dec 17. They have asked Oasis about having the gifts/supplies ready for that night, If at all possible, we are hoping the bulk of supplies can be brought in this week and Sunday Dec. 14th.

*Anything that comes in after Dec 14 - will still be delivered on the 22nd as originally planned.

Donations requested: toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, toothpaste/mouthwash, body wash/lotions, deodorant, candy/chocolate, and snacks (chips, granola bars, breakfast bars, crackers, fruit rollups)

December 10th, 2025 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$368,818
Year to Date Expenses	\$365,079
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

12/11—Dinner Out Group –6pm—La Dolce Vita

12/14—Poinsettia order due date

12/21—Christmas Breakfast 8:30-9:45am

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

12/24—Christmas Musicales at 10:20pm

Attention all Youth Group Alumni (including Adult Leaders)

We are having a youth group reunion at Cemen's Pizza in their bar area on Saturday, Jan 3 at 3pm. This is a casual hang session for anyone who was ever in the youth group or worked with the youth group - feel free to bring your family or whatever! Please text/call James Burkey at 815-685-2531 and let him know you are coming OR go to our Facebook page - First Pres of Joliet Youth Group Alumni and find the event posted on the page. SPREAD THE WORD!

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: THE BIG PICTURE: God's community celebrates Jesus.

Lesson for Sun. 12/14: Mary Prepares for Jesus
—Luke 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 21st 8:30-9:45am

French toast, scrambled eggs, and Fellowship!

What Will We Give God this Christmas?

The wise men followed the star to the baby Jesus where they worshipped and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is the season for gift giving and receiving. We try to find the perfect gift for those in our lives. What will we give to God this Christmas season? Will we give Him our time, talents, and resources? What if, during this Christmas season and the upcoming year, we give to God through prayer and worship, our entire heart and life?

- Dave Steinberg

SUNDAY SERVANTS 12/14/25

USHERS:

COFFEE:

LITURGIST: DaMassa family, Steve & Mary Gajcak

ACOLYTE: Jillian Penhale

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Marie & Suzanne Penhale, Barb Rodgers, and Mary Kinney

SPECIAL MUSIC: Soar High kids