



e-News

December 17th, 2025

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

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

1 Corinthians 12: 8 -Love never fails.

This coming Advent Sunday is the reminder that God is Love, and we are called to love. The whole season can be overpowered by this one Sunday, because in the end, love never fails. It is not the expensive gift that gives you the feeling of being seen and appreciated. It is not the perfect meal that speaks to being loved. Love is not transactional. Love is. Let me say that again: LOVE IS.

As we worship on Sunday, I pray we will all rediscover that love that the scriptures speak about, a love that not only calls us into God's presence but also sends us out to love the world.

Looking forward to another Advent filled Worship service. See you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- Don't forget **Christmas Breakfast this Sunday** - from 8:30 - 9:45 come and grab breakfast before worship, and sit at a table with someone that you might not know that well. Sometimes, all you need to break the ice is sharing a meal.

- **Christmas Eve** - 4 pm and 11 pm with 10:20 pm Musicale- Plenty of options for your Christmas Eve. Grab the family for a child friendly service at 4, or join in the more traditional spirit of the Midnight Candlelit Service at 11pm. Let us celebrate the beauty of God's love in this season.

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, and Lynnette Hopwood.

Sympathies and prayers for Russ Brown and his family after the sudden loss of his son, Mark.

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 Musicale

Our talented musicians' gift to the New Born King

11pm: Traditional Candlelit Worship Service

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

TONIGHT IS OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY! (12/17)

SOAR HIGH/MIDWEEK HOLIDAY DATES

Soar High and Midweek will be on a break for Christmas and New Years 12/24 & 12/31. There will be a Parent Soar High Idea Meeting 1/7 from 5:30-6:10pm, with dinner and Bible Study to follow.

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

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.

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)

Donations will be delivered on December 22nd.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 21st 8:30-9:45am

French toast, scrambled eggs, ham, and Fellowship!

December 17th, 2025 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$385,340
Year to Date Expenses	\$392,389
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

12/21—Christmas Breakfast 8:30-9:45am

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

12/24—Christmas Musicale at 10:20pm

Attention all Youth Group Alumni (including Adult Leaders)

We are having a youth group reunion at Cemeno'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. 12/21: The Shepherds Visit Jesus
—Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING

The Worship Council would appreciate your help taking down our Christmas decorations! We must think about taking the decorations down after the Christmas holidays. We'll be meeting Saturday, January 3rd at 9am to complete this task. There is a FREE pancake breakfast that day as well, so you can come early and have breakfast beforehand! Please consider helping—putting away these decorations doesn't take very long, so we should finish well before noon with YOUR help!

-With sincere gratitude, First Pres Worship Council

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 12/21/25

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott, Pat Haldorson

COFFEE:

LITURGIST: Karol & Nola Boyd

ACOLYTE: Rylie Blaser

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Nic Sanchez, Jackie Brooks