



e-News

December 3rd, 2025

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

A letter from Lead Pastor, Bo Mircea

This coming Sunday's reading is from Micah 5:2-5
"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace."

The Second Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Peace. I am sure each one of us has our own understanding of what peace means to us, and yet I feel like we all have one thing in common when it comes to peace: we all are in a continuous chase of it. This coming Sunday, let us take on that chase as one, seeking to find God's peace as we worship and remember the Lord as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Happening at 805 Western:

Many thanks are in order for everyone that came out this past weekend to help with decorations, and helping bring a little of Christmas in this old Church. Also, Thanks to all of you for your understanding and grace as we worshiped on Sunday. Harvest Arts, was so gracious in making adjustments after the weather canceled our plans for Saturday. At the end of the day, we could see the grace of this season, even more than I can say.

This month there is a new mission focus: Hope Manor Veterans Community here in Joliet. You will find details on the Monthly Mission focus in this newsletter.

See you all on Sunday.
Blessings,
Bo M.

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.

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

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia orders are now open! 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

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

December 21st before worship

French toast, scrambled eggs, and Fellowship!

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 17th

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)

December 3rd, 2025 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$360,366
Year to Date Expenses	\$363,318
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

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!

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday December 6th, 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.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 12/7: Matthew Prepares Us for Jesus
—Matthew 1:1-17

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 12/7/25

USHERS: Sherrie Sanchez, Ed Schultz, Mark Dykema

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Don & Mary Caisley, Marissa & Thomas Sutton

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Rich Pool

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Helen & Dave Steinberg and Nik Sanchez