



e-News

January 7th, 2026

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435

815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Greetings from the other side of the world. As I am writing this, my bags are packed, and I am finishing a couple of last chores for my parents before I leave on Friday. Being here this time around has been that classic bittersweet feeling that we all get from time to time. It is good to hear my parents in the other room, chatting or bickering, and seeing them perk up because of my visit. And yet, when I think of our church family and the loss of some dear ones in our midst, my heart is heavy. In a very short amount of time Mary Lynn Keir, Lynnette Hopwood and Tom Cawley have joined in glory with the rest of the saints before them. As I was praying for their families, this Bible verse came to mind:

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

These are some of the last words Jesus speaks to his disciples, and I believe these words would be words that Mary Lynn, Lynnette and Tom would share with their dear ones and with you. You see for a person of faith, there is a grace, a comfort, and a peace that indeed the world would not understand, and yet it is the share of those who believe. I would ask you to pray those words in your devotions in the coming days, for the families, relatives, and friends of Mary Lynn, Lynnette, Tom, and our church as well. May we all find peace at this time.

Looking forward to see you in church on Sunday, and share in the peace that the promise of God brings to us. This Sunday Rev. Heinekamp will share the word with us.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Ps. There will be Romanian treats for coffee hour on Sunday. Mom and Dad say Hi too.

DINNER OUT GROUP

January 8th at 6pm

Jameson's Pub in Joliet

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

Note: there is a 3% fee for credit cards

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), Judy Bartels' sister Sharon, and Pam LeVasseur.

Sympathies to Harriet O'Malley on the passing of her daughter, Lynnette Hopwood. Funeral service will be Monday, January 12 at 11am at Dames Funeral Home (3200 Black Rd, Joliet) with visitation prior at 10am.

Sympathies to Kathy Cawley on the passing of her husband, Tom. Memorial service will be here at First Pres on Saturday, January 17 at 11am with a celebration following at the Jacob Henry Mansion Victorian Ballroom.

Prayers for Emma Sticklen and family as her husband Chuck is in hospice care.

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



THOMAS CAWLEY

Saturday, January 17th, 2026

Service at 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

805 Western Avenue, Joliet, IL

Celebration of Life reception immediately following at the Victorian Ballroom on the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate.

15 Richards Street, Joliet, IL

PLEASE JOIN US TO GATHER, JOIN IN A MEAL,
SHARE STORIES, AND CELEBRATE TOM.

ALL ARE WELCOME

SOAR HIGH/MIDWEEK

Soar High and Midweek are back! There will be a Parent Soar High Idea Meeting 1/7 from 5:30-6:10pm while the kids and youth are in music class, with dinner and Bible Study to follow.

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: UNDER CONSTRUCTION: God's community grows and changes.

Lesson for Sun. 1/11: The Israelites Rebuild the Temple
—Ezra 3:8-13

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

1/8—Dinner Out Group

1/26—Project Linus

3/14—Spring Fever Craft and Vendor Fair

3/15—Soar High performance

FPJ DIRECTORY PHOTOS

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.

January 7th, 2026

Stewardship Report

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 2025-2026 Budget | \$707,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$429,094 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$438,272 |
| Per Capita | \$45.00 |

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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

The mission of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog is to connect people as neighbors with others experiencing needs, supporting projects and friendships that grow gardens and generations, bring water and watch for corruption, share education, tools and training, and link each of us, more closely with one another and with God.

As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation and peace.

Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

Gifts through the Giving Catalog include, but are not limited to: sewing machines, various livestock, school supplies, agricultural tools, heat, food, emergency assistance, clean water tools, hygiene and health services, access to education, and faith experiences. This mission is dedicated to responding to need when and where it is most needed, nationally and internationally.

How do we help?

First Presbyterian Church of Joliet has a proud tradition of ministry through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Over the past several years First Pres has purchased many gifts through the Giving Catalog to help ease suffering around the globe. A non-exhaustive list of gifts include Mzuzu drills for clean water access, Moringa tree seeds which are nutritious and drought-resistant, various livestock, famine relief food vouchers, refugee food baskets, and emergency life packs.

A Prayer for this Mission:

When you created the world, Lord, you said it was good. As we try to serve you today, Lord we ask for that good to be evident as we reach out to our neighbor. We ask for good to come alive as we partner with people around the world. As we plant the seeds of love and faith, may those seeds bloom in the lives of many that receive it, and their lives be changed for good. Help us Lord, to serve the world in the way of Jesus. Amen .

SUNDAY SERVANTS 1/11/26

PREACHING: Eric Heinekamp

USHERS: Mark Fumagalli, Ed Schultz, Al Brooks, Lynn Kosowski

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Jen Garlitz

ACOLYTE: Jacob and Otto Pritz

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Matt Blaser

GREETERS: Dave & Helen Steinberg, Larry & Sunnie Whitford