

THE SERVANTS' LIGHT

Monthly publication from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

DINNER OUT GROUP

February 12th at 6pm

La Dolce Vita Della
Piazza in Frankfort.
21 Old Frankfort

Contact Carol Kline to
be included in the
reservation.

THE FOUNDATION OF FPJ

The start of a new year typically inspires change, a new beginning. Often we forget to consider the foundations we stand on when we look towards the future. Pastor Bo has just begun guiding us through a reconnection to the heart and vision of First Pres. Joliet through a special sermon series.

These values are represented at FPJ in the form of banners in our Sanctuary, and the folks who sit between them each Sunday. We are S.E.R.V.A.N.T.S.: Spirit-Filled, Empathy, Renewal, Visibly Seeking Out, All Together, Nearing God, Teaching, Submission.

PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays at 10am

Join together in prayer.
All are welcome.



SUNDAYS WITH FIRST PRES JOLIET

Life Group:
Young adults and
up, Sundays
9-9:45am
in Hoffman Hall

Nursery Care:
opens 9:00am
through worship.
Facilities are open use
as well.

Worship Service:
Each Sunday
@ 10am
and Online
anytime

**Children's
Worship:**
After Time with
Children Sunday
(ages 3 to 11)

**Coffee
Fellowship:**
Coffee before and
after worship,
snacks after

SESSION NOTES

- January Session is about welcoming the new Session members and orientation.
- Session has nominated and approved Jen Gabl as Treasurer, Helen Steinberg as Financial Secretary, and Sandi Zang as Clerk of Session for 2026.
- Session is calling for all church officers and deacons to meet on February 28th at 9am for a meeting for training and planning for the year ahead.
- Session is asking for continued prayers for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue the search process.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th is Ash Wednesday.

- Drop-in Imposition of Ashes 9-10am
- Ash Wed. Dinner at 5:30pm
- Ash Wed. Worship at 6:30pm
(nursery care available during worship)

Please Note: The church office will be closed on Monday February 16th in observance of President's Day.

SOAR HIGH/MIDWEEK

**Wednesdays 5:30-7:25pm
through April 29th**

5:30-6:10pm: MUSIC (kids)
6:15-6:45pm: DINNER
6:50-7:25pm: BIBLE

No registration required for dinner or the adult Bible study.

PANCAKES AND PRAYERS

Our dedicated Thursday morning Prayer Group will be expanding their ministry in combination with our Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfasts each month.

Each first Saturday the Pancake breakfast runs from 8:30-10am.

Starting in February the Prayer Group will be present at breakfasts from 9-11am receiving prayer requests and welcoming everyone to join in prayer.

PROJECT LINUS

**every 4th Monday of the month
9am**

Join together to make blankets for kids in need in our community. All you need is to be able to tie a knot. There is plenty of time for chatting while we work.

SPRING FEVER CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

March 14th

Forms submitted by March 5th

CALL FOR VENDORS

Vendor spaces \$50 each

First come first serve **Pre-approval REQUIRED**

815-258-8617 or tkkhay@yahoo.com

MISSION OF THE MONTH

2026 Mission Trip: Hope 27

Hope 27 is an expansion of the mission of Grassroots - From the People, For the People into a new community, in western Kenya. This is the same organization that runs Angel House orphanage in Tanzania that we have supported for many years. Their guiding verse is James 1:27.

They are using a different model for orphan care in Kenya. Their sixteen scholarship students live with their extended families and they meet together on Saturday mornings for encouragement, character development, and discipleship training.

During school holidays, which in Kenya are April, August, November, and December, they host an enrichment camp for their own scholarship students as well as a number of additional vulnerable children from the community. Hope 27 has an awesome team of seven local teachers who run seven classrooms for K-12 students. They teach and review content in Mathematics, English, Kiswahili, and Science as well as sharing breakfast and lunch together, playing soccer, singing, and making arts and crafts.

Hope 27 is developing a farm, which is their long-term plan for funding the orphan scholarships. This past year, God has provided Hope 27 with the ability to drill a well and construct a poultry unit on the farm. A variety of vegetables and fruits are already planted.

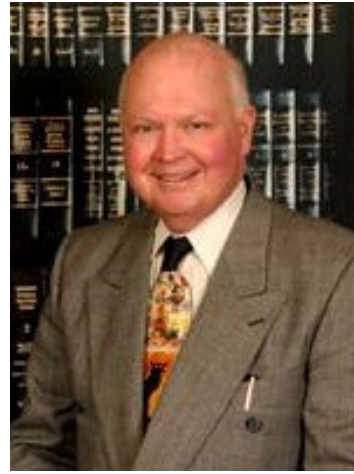
How do we help?

In 2025 our Vacation Bible School Mission project was in support of Hope 27. Kids were sent home with plastic tubes to bring back filled with change/donations towards the mission. These were donated to Hope 27 and dedicated to their farm that will sustain their program. Rosie the Chicken was our friend who we were raising money to help feed her and her family. In thanks Hope 27 sent us our very own stuffed-toy Rosie. In total our loving VBS families raised \$495 towards the health and feeding of 'Rosie' and her family.

A Prayer for this Mission:

In a world where it is harder and harder to show Christian love, and to live out the call to feed the poor and the needy, Lord help us to remember that we too are the poor and needy. Help us go out of our way, to make room for your ways, as we serve and give not just to our own but to those you call yours. Help the church to love, indeed, all the people from all the corners of the world. Make us your ambassadors of love. Amen.

FPJ Member Spotlight



Finding a New Home at First Pres. with Thomas Lee Murphy

I was born in Topeka, KS on November 1, 1945 and moved to Illinois when I was two years old. God has been present in my life since my birth and especially since my baptism at the age of fifteen. Since 1981, I've lived in Homer Glen. My wife, Martha, and I have been married for 30 years, and are the proud parents of two sons. I have a son, Steve, and a daughter, Melissa, from a prior marriage.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Elmhurst University in 1967 and a Law Degree from DePaul University in 1971. Currently, I have a law practice concentrating in Corporate Law, Probate Law, Real Estate Law and Estate Planning in Mokena, IL.

Previously, I was a member of Christ Lutheran in Orland Park, but they disbanded their Church Choir. I'm a strong believer in the importance of heralding and glorifying God, so I needed to find another church home that had the same belief. Last summer, my son, Steven, and his wife, Mindy, who were attending First Pres., invited me to attend along with them. Soon after, I started singing in the Summer Choir and became a permanent member of the Chancel Choir in September. I've enjoyed getting to know our fellow choir members and the rest of the congregation. We appear to share the same love for giving all the glory to God.

We are planning to attend the monthly nights out with the Dinner Group. My favorite parts of the worship service include the music which I think is well chosen and directed by our Choirmaster, Ken Myers. I also appreciate Pastor Bo's sermons. My favorite service has been the Christmas Eve service. I really enjoyed singing the "Christmas Jubilate" as an uplifting way to close the service.

We haven't been involved in the mission work of the church as of yet, but my wife is the daughter of missionaries. She lived with them and grew up in Africa until she moved back to the States to attend High School. I would encourage others to come and visit First Pres. because it is a solid Christian place. They will find that the church is steeped in the word of God. My prayers have been answered and blessings (known and unknown) conferred over my entire life.