



# e-News

February 25th, 2026

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## A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

At times I get frustrated with Christian faith, in part because our approach to faith skips from infant to faith giant, or at least that is what we would like to believe. Faith is nothing like a super growth formula that one gets and overnight becomes a giant. Not at all. Faith is forged in the long hours of prayer, study, and meditation. Faith is forged in the service that no-one sees. Faith is forged in the doubt, questions, and answers that one seeks in their daily life. Yes, faith is a seed that needs nourishment, and it will grow when it is watered in the word, cared for in the fellowship of saints, and pruned in acts of service. Then faith becomes light that shines in the darkness brighter than anything else. Because faith speaks not just to the nature of God, but to what God is doing in the ordinary lives of people like you and I. This Sunday we will be looking at "teaching" as the foundation for your life. I would encourage you to reflect on your life and answer the following question: How is my discipleship going? Am I still growing, learning, and serving? Is the Light still shining in me?

Looking forward to worship on Sunday,

See you there.  
Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## HOLY WEEK

### 3/29—PALM SUNDAY:

Breakfast at 8:30, Worship at 10am

### 4/2—MAUNDY THURSDAY:

Dinner at 5:30pm, Worship at 6:30pm

### 4/3—GOOD FRIDAY:

Worship at 6:30pm

### 4/5—EASTER:

Worship at 10am

Nursery care will be available during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services. Childcare and nursery care will continue as usual for Sunday worship services.

## Church Family

### Prayers of health and healing for:

Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Sherry Jones, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), Pam LeVasseur, Joyce Bossen, Estella Jurkovich, Barb Rodgers, Steve Reyes, and Nicole Warren (daughter-in-law of Andrea Warren).

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday March 8th

During the 10am worship service

Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held 3/8 to approve Pastor Bo's revised Terms of Call.

### Happening at 805 Western:

-**Officer's Retreat and Vision Day** - This Saturday at 9 am - elders, deacons hear the call to a time of prayer and dreaming and planning. Coffee and donuts will make this a sweet fellowship time.  
- **March is a busy month** and we will need your help. From the Craft and Vendor Fair on March 14th (please Call Kris Hayden at (815) 258-8617), to the Easter Egg-Stravaganza (please call the office) or going out to St. John Food Pantry, March will give us plenty of opportunities to serve in so many areas of this church. I am looking forward to seeing you and your friends and family around these events.  
-**Please continue to pray** for the many needs in our congregation, from health or navigating hard life decisions, to God's provision and direction for the many things we are trying to accomplish in the year ahead. The APNC is working on finding the right candidate to join our ministry team, The Tanzania Team is working on finalizing planning for their trip, soon the Children's Ministry Team and many volunteers will be working on VBS, which is set for the last full week of June. And did I mention the Summer Lunch program?  
-As I say frequently on Sunday morning: **This church is at its best when we step outside the sanctuary.** Let us serve the Lord with joy and let his light shine through.

## SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

- 2/28—Officer Training and Planning
- 3/2—Oasis: BUNCO Night
- 3/7—Free Pancake Breakfast & Prayer group
- 3/8—Congregational Meeting
- 3/12—Dinner Out Group—Backroads Burger & Bar
- 3/14—Spring Fever Craft and Vendor Fair
- 3/15—Soar High performance
- 3/21—Serve Day at St. John’s Food Pantry
- 3/28—Easter Egg-stravaganza
- 3/29—Palm Sunday
- 4/2—Maundy Thursday
- 4/3—Good Friday
- 4/5—Easter

### Oasis Women’s Ministry: BUNCO Night

Monday March 2nd 6:00

Coldwell Banker Realty Group—Party Room  
925 Rt 59—Shorewood

First Pres. Church Joliet - Oasis Women's Ministry invites ladies out for a night of BUNCO fun and fellowship, with snacks, refreshments and prizes!

6pm - 8pm - Bunco starts promptly at 6:30pm

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Focus:** SOAR: Jesus shows us how to trust.

**Lesson for Sun. 3/1:** Jesus Trusts God in the Desert  
—Luke 4:1-13

### February 25th, 2026 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$495,619
Year to Date Expenses	\$501,139
Per Capita	\$45.00

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*Thank you for your generosity.*

## 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.

#### **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.

### EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

March 28th—9am  
Set-up 3/27 @ 6:30pm

Everyone's welcome to join in this FREE festive celebration. We've got breakfast to fuel your egg-citing adventures, a delightful telling of the Easter story, photo ops with the one and only Easter Bunny, and more than 1,000 eggs just waiting to be discovered! Kids will be egg-sploring in age-matched squads. So, round up the family, don't forget your basket, and let the egg hunt begin!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE**

### SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/1/26

**USHERS:** Dale Mullen, Maddox Lundeen, Jeff Lundeen, Pat Haldorson

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Carla DeYoung

**ACOLYTE:** Isabella DaMassa

**SOUND:** Keith LeVasseur

**VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

**GREETERS:** Judy Garrison, Nic Sanchez

**COMMUNION PREP:** LuAnn Stepina