



e-News

February 4th, 2026

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

A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Matthew 9:13

Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.

"Visibly seeking out"- is this week's value, prayer, and sermon for Sunday morning. If you have ever taken a safety driving class, one of the things that they try to teach is defensive driving. Protect yourself by watching those around you. I was thinking about that and the church. And, I do not think this is a stretch: If we want the church to thrive, to grow, to be alive, we should always be "looking/seeking/finding" those outside the walls. Maybe, in the list of Servanthood values, this should be the one that speaks the most to the heart of this church, both as a confirmation and a constant reminder of who we are. Called to be sent. Called to serve. Called to welcome.

Can you do me a huge favor, and as you pray for this Sunday, wrestle with the words of Jesus: I desire mercy, not sacrifice. Let those words speak to you, as they spoke to the disciples, and captured their hearts for ministry.

Looking forward to worship with you on Sunday.
May we all find mercy in the days ahead.
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- This Saturday we have, not just the **Night Deacons Breakfast**, and their famous pancakes, but also a **Praying For Peace** meeting from 9:30 am-11:00 am. If you would like to stop by at any time, please do so. You do not need to stay for the whole time, just come and spend a little time in prayer. We all need that.
- Next Thursday the 12th- **Dinner Out** group is inviting you to join them for dinner and fellowship. Details and information for the reservation are to the right.
- **This Month's Mission** project is Hope 27, the sister ministry of Angel House. At Hope 27 - chickens, vegetables, and much more - speak about Hope, Love, and Grace. Please continue to pray for God's hand at work in the whole world, and especially in places like Tanzania and Kenya, where Christian missionaries work so hard to make an impact in the lives of many.
- Just a quick reminder that **Ash Wednesday** is on February 18th, and as we start the Lent season we will gather for a time of fellowship around the table at 5:30 pm and then service at 6:30pm, nursery care will be provided. In the morning you are welcome to receive the sign of the cross in ash, in the quiet of the sanctuary from 9 am -10 am.

Church Family

Prayers of health and healing for:

Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Sherry Jones, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), Pam LeVasseur, and Joyce Bossen.

Sympathy to the family of Pastor Roy Backus, former Interim Pastor at First Pres., upon his passing. The visitation will be February 6th from 12:30-2:30pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Joliet. The funeral service will follow from 3-4pm, also at Westminster.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your sympathy cards, messages, prayers, and loving support during the loss of my brother. Your kindness has comforted me more than words can express. Thank you for standing with me in my time of sorrow. May God bless each of you for your kindness and love. —Hasen Qi

Oasis Women's Ministry: BUNCO Night

Monday March 2nd 6:30

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

DINNER OUT GROUP

February 12th at 6pm

La Dolce Vita Della Piazza
21 Old Frankfort

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

2/7—Free Pancake Breakfast & Prayer group
2/12—Dinner Out: La Dulce Vita in Frankfort
2/28—Officer Training and Planning
3/2—Oasis: BUNCO Night
3/7—Free Pancake Breakfast & Prayer group
3/14—Spring Fever Craft and Vendor Fair
3/15—Soar High performance

PRAYERS AND PANCAKES

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 of the month, the Pancake breakfast runs from 8:30-10am.

Starting in February the Prayer Group will be present at breakfasts from 9:30-11am receiving prayer requests and welcoming everyone to join in prayer.

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

February 7th , 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: POTLUCK: God's community includes everyone.

Lesson for Sun. 2/8: Jesus Shows a New Way to Love
—*Matthew 5:43-48*

February 4th, 2026 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$470,203
Year to Date Expenses	\$479,161
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

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.

SOAR HIGH/MIDWEEK

Wednesdays

5:30-6:15pm—Soar High Music Classes

6:15-6:45 pm—Free Fellowship Dinner for all

6:45-7:15 pm—Bible Classes for kids, youths, and adults

SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/8/26

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Jeff Lundeen, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Sue Fordyce

LITURGIST: Marie Blunk

ACOLYTE: Lillian Pritz

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

GREETERS: Dave & Helen Steinberg, Steve & Karol Boyd