

THE SERVANTS' LIGHT

Monthly publication from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

DINNER OUT GROUP

March 12th at 6pm

Backroads Burger & Bar

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA 2026

Spring is hopping our way, and with it comes our annual Easter Egg-Stravaganza! 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!

PROJECT LINUS

every 4th Mon of the month at 9am

Tie knots to make blankets for kids in need

HOLY WEEK

Here are some dates for your calendar: March 29th is Palm Sunday, April 2nd is Maundy Thursday, April 3rd is Good Friday, and this year April 5th is Easter.

Join us early on **Palm Sunday** for a delightful breakfast at 8:30 a.m., featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, and ham, courtesy of our Night Deacons. On **Maundy Thursday**, enjoy a catered dinner at 5:30 p.m. by the Jacob Henry Mansion, organized by our Day Deacons, followed by worship at 6:30 p.m. The **Good Friday** worship service will take place at 6:30 p.m. On **Easter Sunday** we join together in worship to celebrate the resurrection at 10am.

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

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

February 19th, 2026

SESSION NOTES

- Session has approved the 2026-2027 budget at \$731,600.
- Session, at the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, has approved moving the endowment funds from Ameriprise to Charles Schwab, known as Northrock, in order to keep working with our financial advisor team.
- Session has called a Congregational Meeting March 8th at the worship service to approve Pastor Bo's revised terms of call.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

The Maundy Thursday dinner is hosted by the Day Deacons. This year the meal will be catered by the Jacob Henry Mansion and freewill donations will be collected to fund our ministries, including: providing Christmas gifts to shut-ins, kids that have been baptized during the year, and those who have been recently widowed; mailing get well and sympathy cards to congregation members as needed; and financially assisting the Helping Hands ministry which provides meals to those who have recently been ill. Thank you for supporting the Day Deacons as we strive to care for our church family!

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.

SERVE DAY - ST. JOHN'S

March 21st

Arrive at 7am, usually done by 10am

All are invited to join this group going to volunteer at St. John's Food Pantry distributing food goods to those in need.

Contact Reed Mott or Lynn Kosowski to join.

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

COME AND SHOP!

Over 40 vendors and crafters expected!

EGG HUNT VOLUNTEERS

3/27 and/or 3/28

We need volunteers to make this year's Egg Hunt as fun as it can be. We need helping hands the evening before the event to set up our stations and decorations 3/27 at 6:30pm. Of course we need happy helpers on the day of as well, 3/28 at 9am. We have many tasks for volunteers to help with.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

2026 Mission Trip: Angel House

Angel House Orphanage is located in Gamasara village, 5km outside of Tarime town, in the northwest corner of Tanzania.

Angel House opened in January 2005 with 28 children. Today Angel House cares for over 60 children (with an additional 22 graduates) from over 10 different villages and representing several tribes. All of the children are nurtured by a caring Tanzanian staff and are enrolled in school from preschool to college.

Their goal is to provide their children with a quality education and a family environment where they can develop the skills and faith necessary to be productive and successful citizens when they return to their villages and communities.

Angel House, through sponsorship, provides these young people with shelter, food, education, nurture, and medical care. Once they are ready, Angel House even provides support and guidance as someone graduates from the program into a more independent life.

How do we help?

FPJ established a relationship with Angel House in 2013, and we have supported this ministry continuously since. We have provided funds to establish and maintain an internet connection at Angel House. Our Quilt Group has made and donated dresses. Funds were raised to support their Sewing Education Program. A Mission trip was organized in 2014, and another is scheduled for May 2026. Perhaps most notably, First Pres has sponsored seven students at Angel House, through the years, three of which have successfully graduated. Currently we sponsor a highschool student named Baraka Charles Joseph.

In May a team of 5 people from 1st Pres, will go and visit Angel House, with the main goal to encourage the local staff, and bring a little joy to the kids now present in the care of Angel House. Our relationship with Angel House is not just about sending funds, but about being an active partner that actively invests in the long term future of this ministry. Of course, the highlight is the kids we have sponsored that are now graduated and some returning to serve and help in their communities. And yet at the end of the day it is about the Gospel being practiced and alive in the many lives impacted by our partnership.

Praying for Angel House

From the hearts of your children, Lord, let your love speak louder. Transform not just the lives of those under the care of Angel House, but their families and communities. Let us be prayer partners, let us be visionaries and encouragers, and may our partnership speak to God changing our future. Amen.

A letter from the student we sponsor, Baraka.

FROM: BARAKA CHARLES JOSEPH.

Dear Sponsors

I hope you are fine by the grace of God and you are well you and your family back to me I am fine by grace of God and I am well me and My family of Angel house

Intention of writing this letter is to thank you because you have been with me since I started baby class until now I am in advance I am studying for politics and laws May God be with you so that you may continue supporting me so that I can achieve my goals back to me are make sure that I am praying for you in my all life because you are my family members.

May God be with you and your all family members and May I wish you a Happy new year. I promise you that are continue praying for you and your all family

WELCOME 2026
year of success.



* my family *
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The team that is going to Tanzania are bringing gifts with them. Below is the list of requested items they will bring, and donations of these items are welcomed.

- kids athletic socks
- teen/adult socks
- underwear (kids size Medium through adult)
- watches (specifically just the one on Amazon listed below)
- financial donations to be used to buy the items listed above

 **Viecaelo**
Visit the Store

4.5 ★★★★★ (641)

Kids Digital Watch for Boys Girls, Waterproof LED Colorful Lights Sports Watch Suitable for 5-17 Years Old Teenagers (with Gift Box)

