



e-News

March 11th, 2026

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

A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

This coming Sunday is one special Sunday for us, as we get to celebrate the children of this church and everyone that participates and makes Soar High such a meaningful and good program for so many families. In the past when we've had such a celebration of the ministry for the kids, there were a few people who joked that the pastor should take the day off, no sermon, maybe a quick prayer, and a nap. While I love the idea, I am sorry to let you know that there will be a sermon this Sunday. We will take a look at the words of Jesus from Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, as he talks about true fasting, prayer, and the right attitude of the heart when it comes to alms and helping people. I have found this passage to be challenging especially in the Lent season, in part because it speaks to our hearts in a very direct and effective way.

Looking forward to sharing with you in worship and celebration of the Lord on this coming Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Bo

Happening at 805 Western:

- This Friday (4-8 pm) and Saturday (7:30am-3pm) if you have a few hours to spare and share we need a little extra **help with the Spring Craft and Vendor Fair**. Greeters, helping in the kitchen, or just being around, no job is too small. If you can help please call Kris Hayden and let her know at (815)258-8617.
- This Saturday from 9 am, come and shop, visit and say hi during the **Spring Craft and Vendor Fair**. Your support goes a long way. The money raised from the tickets, café, and rentals will go towards the Tanzania Mission trip to help purchase things from the children's wish list and help Angel House.
- Remember the **Easter Egg-Stravaganza** is coming on March 28th from 9 am-10:30am. Spread the news!

Craft and Vendor Fair Donation Requests

To keep costs down and contribute more funds to the mission we are asking for Café donations of the following:

- Drinks: Coke/Diet Coke, Pepsi/Diet Pepsi, Root Beet, Sprite/7 Up/Starry, bottled water
- Snacks: Individual servings of chips, Frito chips (individual for walking tacos), donuts (for morning coffee)
- Condiments: French Vanilla Creamer, Half & Half creamer, Ketchup/Mustard/Relish

PLEASE DROP OFF BY 5PM THIS FRIDAY

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, Barb Rodgers, Steve Reyes, Nicole Warren (daughter-in-law of Andrea Warren), and George Redman.

Sympathies to Raelene Barnes and the whole Barnes family after the recent passing of Don Barnes. A celebration of life service will take place Saturday, March 28th at the Western Springs Presbyterian Church at 2pm.

PROJECT LINUS

March 23rd 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.

DINNER OUT GROUP

March 12th at 6pm

**Backroads Burger & Bar
13717 US Rt 30 in Plainfield**

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

Spring Fever Craft & Vendor Fair At First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

Saturday March 14th 9am-2pm

Over 40 crafters and vendors anticipated onsite.

\$3 Entry Donation (under 12-free)

Special prize drawings, Café and Coffee Barista onsite

Proceeds benefit our May 2026 Mission Trip to Tanzania (supplies and shipping)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday Night 4pm-8pm set up

Saturday Morning 7:30am and packing up at 2pm

contact Kris Hayden (815)258-8617

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

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
3/23—Project Linus
3/28—Easter Egg-stravaganza
3/29—Palm Sunday
4/2—Maundy Thursday
4/3—Good Friday
4/5—Easter

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.

Children's Church Corner

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

Lesson for Sun. 3/15: Jesus Teaches the Lord’s Prayer
—Matthew 6:5-15

March 11th, 2026 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$519,510
Year to Date Expenses	\$524,067
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.

A Note from Barb Rodgers

I don’t even have the words that would be required to thank all the people who helped save my life on Feb 12 when I experienced Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Then during my 2 week hospital stay and my first week at home, your visits, cards, food, and offers to provide anything I needed, has been overwhelming. You have all been amazing! Please accept my great gratitude for all your love and support.

Summer Lunches

This is the 10th year of 1st Pres’ participation in the Northern Illinois Food Bank Summer Lunch Program. The application to the program has been completed and I plan, with Gods help, to do a Focus in April. In the meantime, I’m asking that you, please, prayerfully consider volunteering at least 1 day a week during the Summer. We may need more volunteers this year if my health is still compromised. More details to follow in April.

SERVE DAY AT ST JOHN’S FOOD PANTRY

March 21st arrive at 7am—usually done by 10am
Contact Reed Mott or Lynn Kosowski to join.

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

We will set up and prep on Friday at 6:30pm. Volunteers will arrive by 8am on Saturday. Please join us on Friday, Saturday, or both days.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/15/26

USHERS: Dale Mullen, Nola Boyd, Pat Haldorson

COFFEE: Jasmine Keir

LITURGIST: Dee Mullen

ACOLYTE: Jillian Penhale

SOUND: Keith LeVasseur

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Joe & Nola Boyd, Jackie Brooks