



# e-News

March 18th, 2026

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## A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Do you know the story of Lazarus? John 11 makes a very interesting and emotional read. You see I have been thinking about his story for a while, in part because the last few months have challenged all of us as we think about life, making sense of it, dealing with loss, and grief. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance - speak to our approach to dealing with grief in life. In the many conversations I have with people about the stages of life, I come across that list time and time again. I feel like there is one thing missing in the list that will help the whole process - FAITH! Jesus asks Martha- 'Do you believe?' Do you?

This Sunday, we will explore that question, and seek faith in what life brings to us.

A quick thank you to all the folks that helped with the Craft Fair, and Soar High on Sunday morning. Last week was a good example of this church at work. This coming Saturday the Night Deacons are out at St. John's Food Pantry. Pray for their work and the many people benefiting from this ministry. I also want to thank you for your response so far for the Mission Trip to Tanzania. I am looking forward to seeing the smiles on the kids faces as they get to wear their watches and new socks, and all the goodies. The mission team is in the 'Applying for Visas' stage, and we will take your prayers along the way. Remember very soon it will be time for the Easter Egg-stravaganza and Holy Week. Please look at your calendar and if you can help, let us know.

Looking forward to Sunday, to sharing with you in worship and life. This is a great time to invite someone to church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## GIFTS FOR ANGEL HOUSE IN TANZANIA

The team that is going to Tanzania is 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 ones linked on our website*)
- financial donations to be used to buy the items listed above

## Church Family

### Prayers of health and healing for:

Mary Jane Johnson, Mark Fumagalli, Sherry Jones, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), Pam LeVasseur, Barb Rodgers, Steve Reyes, Nicole Warren (daughter-in-law of Andrea Warren), George Redman, and Jeannette Miller.

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.

Sympathies to Rick, Keith, and Suzy and their family after the passing of Joyce Bossen.

## EASTER FLOWERS

If you'd like to help decorate our sanctuary with flowers for Easter, please fill out the form below and place it with your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. They are \$15 each.

Checks should be made payable to: First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday March 29th.**

How many? (at \$15/pot):

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ Mums \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

\_\_\_ to the Glory of God

\_\_\_ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones

\_\_\_ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This form is also available on our website.

## SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

**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. 3/22:** Jesus Prays in the Garden  
—Mark 14:32-42

## March 18th, 2026 Stewardship Report

<b>2025-2026 Budget</b>	\$707,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$527,477
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$539,775
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$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.***

Pledge cards for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year which begins on April 1 have been mailed out. Please return your card to the church office or put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Thank you for your commitment to the ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

## 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 God’s 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.

- Barb Rodgers

## 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.*

## 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.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/22/26

**USHERS:** Scherrie Sanchez, Ed Schultz, Lynn Kosowski

**COFFEE:** Nola Boyd

**LITURGIST:** Jill Strimel

**ACOLYTE:** Rylie Blaser

**SOUND:** Rich Pool

**VIDEO:** Matt Blaser

**GREETERS:** Dave & Sharon Cavanaugh, Lynn Kosowski