



e-News

March 25th, 2026

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

A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

John 12:12-13

12 The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!"

You know when Palm Sunday is this Sunday that everyone is ready for that joy that comes from everything springing to life. For the kids you get the egg-citement of the Easter Bunny and chocolates and all, but underneath that there will always be our desire to explain life triumphant over death. For the adults it comes down to following the king, of being part of the crowd and yet finding our own personal belief in the king that is to come. There is so much to unpack in this one Holy Day. Yet we will fall short of understanding the feelings, the joy and amazement that captured Jerusalem in that day. I pray that on Sunday we will capture at least a fraction of that.

See you on Sunday Morning for Breakfast and Worship. It will be a glorious day to share in the Lord.

Blessings,
Bo M

DO NOT FORGET-

Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday 9 am for the kids and families. For volunteers, please join us at 6:30 pm on Friday and 8 am on Saturday. Thank you so much for helping.

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. A memorial service will be held at First Pres. on Saturday April 18th at 11am.

Sympathies to Sherry Buffington and family on the passing of Joel. Private family services will be held.

If anyone would like to send a note of encouragement to Sherry Jones her address is:
Avantara: Sheryl Jones, room 180
210 Springfield Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435

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

- 3/28—Easter Egg-stravaganza
- 3/29—Palm Sunday
- 4/2—Maundy Thursday
- 4/3—Good Friday
- 4/5—Easter
- 4/9— Dinner Out Group: Vai's Italian, Naperville @6pm

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. 3/29: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

—Luke 19:28-40

March 25th, 2026 Stewardship Report

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 2025-2026 Budget | \$707,600 |
| Year to Date Income | \$534,264 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$543,977 |
| 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.

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

If you are interested or just want to know more, reach out to Scherrie Sanchez and she will help you.

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 should arrive by 8am on Saturday. Please join us on Friday, Saturday, or both days.

REMINDER

There is no Soar High or Midweek dinner or classes today 3/25 or next week 4/1. There will also be no Life Group Sunday morning for Palm Sunday 3/29 or Easter Sunday 4/5.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15-19th 9am-Noon

This year for VBS we will be adventuring into Rainforest Falls! We need brave explorer volunteers to help us have the best time we can. Registration is open for both participants and volunteers. This link is on our website.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/29/26 PALM SUNDAY

USHERS: Scherrie Sanchez, Dale Mullen, Ed Schultz
COFFEE: No coffee after church, breakfast at 8:30am

LITURGIST: Hasen Qi

ACOLYTE: Raegan Palmer

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

GREETERS: Tim & Lynn Reyes, Karol & Steve Boyd