



# e-News

March 4th, 2026

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## A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

The simplicity of one image that speaks to the heart of God, is captured in one verse- John 13:4 *“so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.”*

A servant before everything else. A servant before being a king. A servant before power. A servant...

In his submission to the Father, Jesus showed us the way of the Kingdom come. In his actions, there was no need for words. It is in that spirit that we come to look at Submission as our foundational value for this Sunday's sermon. There is a lot that people can argue over on this matter, and yet a faith-driven life starts on this foundation: Submit to God before everything else.

Looking forward to sharing in worship with you.  
See you around this week,  
Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## Happening at 805 Western:

- **Pancakes and Prayers** - This Saturday the Night Deacons and the Thursday Prayer Group are inviting you for a morning at church, feeding both your body and soul. Stop by and say Hi.
- **Tanzania Mission Trip Update**- Please join us on March 14 starting at 9 am for the Vendor & Craft Fair. Even if you do not shop, stopping by and saying hi is a huge support to all of us. If you can help, please contact Kris Hayden (815)258-8617. More details below.
- Please do not forget Session has called a **Congregation Meeting** for this coming Sunday to approve the Terms of Call for Pastor Bo.

## 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, and Nicole Warren (daughter-in-law of Andrea Warren).

Sympathies to Raelene Barnes and the whole Barnes family after the recent passing of Don Barnes.

## 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.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday March 8th  
During the 10am worship service

Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held 3/8 to approve Pastor Bo's revised Terms of Call.

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

### 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

### 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 -2pm

-contact Kris Hayden (815)258-8617-

## SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

- 3/7—Free Pancake Breakfast & Prayer group
- 3/8—Congregational Meeting
- 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

## 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.

## 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. 3/8:** Jairus trusts Jesus  
—Mark 5:21-24,35-43

## March 4th, 2026 Stewardship Report

2025-2026 Budget	\$707,600
Year to Date Income	\$515,497
Year to Date Expenses	\$521,776
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. The House Family actually have an alert at their home that I can press a button and they show up to walk my dog or help in any way needed. You have all been amazing! I am leaving this week to continue my rehabilitation at my sister's home in Florida but I hope to return in April, if the Lord allows. 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.

## PRAYERS AND PANCAKES

Our dedicated Thursday morning Prayer Group has expanded 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. The Prayer Group will be present in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11am receiving prayer requests and welcoming everyone to join in prayer.

## 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**

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 3/8/26

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Lynn Kosowski, Dale Mullen, Jasmine Keir

**COFFEE:** Pat Haldorson

**LITURGIST:** Marie Penhale

**ACOLYTE:** Abel DeNieuwe

**SOUND:** Rich Pool

**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

**GREETERS:** Dave & Helen Steinberg, Judy Garrison