

THE SERVANTS' LIGHT

Monthly publication from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet

DINNER OUT GROUP

April 9th at 6pm

Vai's Italian in Naperville

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

PROJECT LINUS

every 4th Mon of the month at 9am

Tie knots to make blankets for kids in need

PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays at 10am

Join together in prayer. All are welcome.

CHRIST IS RISEN...

...is the proclamation throughout the church that was, and is to come for many, many years. While the faithful will be in a church celebrating the resurrection, some people will miss the promise of the day. Perhaps they do not know where to go, or maybe they are feeling too shy to be in church after a long absence.

Would you help them find 1st Pres as the place where they can celebrate this day? A simple question along the lines of: "How do you celebrate Easter?" might be an easy door to open. See you all on April 5th at 10 am for a special service.

HOLY WEEK

On Maundy Thursday, enjoy a catered dinner at 5:30 p.m. from the Jacob Henry Mansion, organized by our Day Deacons, followed by worship at 6:30 p.m. The Good Friday worship service will also be held at 6:30 p.m. On Easter Sunday, we will come together in worship to celebrate the resurrection at 10:00 a.m.

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

There will be no Sunday morning Life Group meeting on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

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

March 19th, 2026

SESSION NOTES

- In order to keep the cost as low as possible for families using the FPJ columbarium, Session approved keeping the same cost for reserving at \$850 for one and \$1500 for two. However the cost of the bronze plaque will now be charged when it is ordered.
- Session received Scout Kientop's resignation via HR Council effective at the end of may/early June. Session thanks Scout for their time serving at First Pres. Session approved listing job positions for Office Ministry Assistant and a Childcare position.

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 Midweek/Soar High 4/1

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15th - Jun 19th M-F

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.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

**Dates TBA
M-F during the summer**

Over school summer break FPJ hosts a program that provides free healthy lunches to all kids under 18, who may typically rely on school-provided lunches. We ask that you consider volunteering even just 1 day a week during the summer.

If you are interested or want to know more, reach out to Scherrie Sanchez.

OASIS: SISTER ACT PLAY

Sunday May 3rd

Lunch and seeing 'Sister Act' at the Phillip Lynch Theater at Lewis University.
Tickets are \$15.

If you're interested reach out to Kris Hayden.

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.

What is the Mission Trip all About?

I have been part of this church for almost 16 years, and for as long as I can remember Angel House has been a part of our mission, prayer, and life here at church. This mission trip speaks to our commitment and is a celebration of our long history with the children we sponsor and the team in Tanzania that does the hard work. 12 years ago, a team from church teamed up with a dentist/medical team and did a lot of fantastic work while they were there.

This year our mission work is focused on the kids and the team there. To encourage, bring a smile, and remind them of love from across the ocean. Emma Desiderio will teach dance. Sue, Christa, and Jen will be in charge of a huge party, from good American Betty Crocker cake and frosting, to balloon animals, and sharing with the kids and the staff the gifts we are bringing with us (watches, socks, and so on). I hope that I can teach a few Bible lessons, and experience again the joy that comes from teaching a children's class.

But maybe the most important thing will be focusing on the Angel House staff, and encouraging them, praying with them, and helping around as much as we can. I hear that some brick work might be available .

Thank you to all of you for supporting this mission of 1st Pres., providing for the education and shelter for the kids, and for your kind donations and prayers along the way.

Praying for the Angel House Mission Trip

Lord, open the right doors for the people traveling, while watching over their safety as they travel. May the time they spend in Tanzania be filled with your Life-Giving Spirit.

May they bring with them peace, joy, and hope as they share our hearts for the kids.

Amen.

FPJ Member Spotlight



Loving Everything about First Pres with Carmen Montenegro

We have been living in Joliet for 10 years, having lived previously in Little Village, Chicago. In May of 2018, we participated in the summer lunch program. Mark Morrison and Barb Rogers were so welcoming and invited us to Sunday Service. We kept coming back because we felt welcomed and accepted.

I love everything about First Pres. I love that the sermons preach love in faith, and I've never had a service where any of the pastors preached fire and brimstone. I love how First Pres. is involved in the community, and it's always doing something for it. I love our dinners and our togetherness.

As a working mom, I try to get involved at church as much as I can. My son, Paulie, helps out at church as much as he can. He has participated in VBS, and he usually helps out with the little kids at the Easter Egg Hunt.

"Trunk and Treat" has meant so much to us and has become a family tradition. Paulie's birthday is on Halloween, so "Trunk and Treat" is something that we look forward to doing with him every year. The Wednesday night dinners and Bible Study have become a place for my children and I to come together and have dinner and learn the word of God.

We really have too many great memories to count. Any time that we are at church we're having a good time. My favorite part of worship is the "Time with Children." Our church has a great way of introducing God to children in a way that they can understand. My two favorite church services are Easter and Mother's Day.

Last year, I was able to get off work for the Easter Service, and I was grateful to be able to attend with my sons. I look forward to everything that the church does. Sometimes I may not be able to attend, but my sons get to go, and that makes my heart warm. This church and the people in it mean the world to me. I have made a family here.

I would encourage others to attend First Pres because this Church is warm and accepting. Plus, there are always great desserts. I love everyone at First Pres. It's Family. It's Home.