



e-News

April 1st, 2026

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

A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Just a reminder to you all today: It is April Fools' Day! And because I care for you I will say this: be careful when someone is offering you some extra yummy dessert - it might be a prank.

Now on to serious things. It is Holy Week, and as always, as a church we want to be there with you in your journey towards Easter Sunday. So please remember the Maundy Thursday Dinner is tomorrow at 5:30 pm followed by Lord's Supper and Worship at 6:30 pm. And Friday at 6:30 pm is our Good Friday service which always brings a different understanding to the meaning of 'Good Friday'.

This coming Sunday, before the family dinner and celebrations, start your day with your faith family at 10 am. There is no Life Group this Sunday. I ask for you to be in prayer for the people joining us this weekend, that the Lord will speak to them in ways that only He can. On Sunday I will be preaching on a Love that speaks to us still. If you would like to read John 20 in preparation of Sunday I encourage you to do so. Resurrection Sunday is a reminder of God's love that we can understand in plain view. A love that we are called to live out. A love that always wins.

Have a great Holy Week, see you around,
Blessings,
Pastor Bo

HOLY WEEK

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.

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

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

Sympathies to the Redman family on the passing of George Redman. A memorial service will be held at First Pres on April 11th, time TBD.

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

Thank you for the generosity already shown so far in preparation for this Mission Trip. Your love makes a difference.

SAVE THE DATE – COMING UP

4/2—Maundy Thursday

4/3—Good Friday

4/5—Easter

4/9— Dinner Out Group: Vai's Italian, Naperville @6pm

5/3—Oasis Brunch and Sister Act at Lewis University

6/15-19— Vacation Bible School—Registration is Open!

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 soon.

Barb Rodgers

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

Easter Sunday we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This offering helps support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Presbyterian Committee for the Self Development of People.

REMINDER

There is no Soar High or Midweek dinner or classes today 4/1. There will also be no Life Group Sunday morning on Easter Sunday.

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.

How can you help?

- Sign up participants,
- Register to volunteer
- Stop by to help decorate /make decorations,
- Donations are always welcome to help cover costs

Children's Church Corner

Faith Focus: RESURRECTION— Jesus Gives Us New Life

Lesson for Sun. 4/5: The Empty Tomb—*Luke 24:1-12*

4/2 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVANTS

USHERS: Ed Schultz, Scherrie Sanchez

LITURGIST: Joan Schultz

COMMUNION PREP: Gwen Pelech

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

SOUND: Rich Pool

GREETERS: Judy Garrison, Karol Boyd

4/3 GOOD FRIDAY SERVANTS

USHERS: Scherrie Sanchez, Ed Schultz

LITURGISTS: Emma Sticklen, Marie Blunk, Sue Fordyce, Jen Garlitz, Dee Mullen, Hasen Qi, Bill Penhale, Kris Hayden

VIDEO: Todd Hayden

SOUND: Cliff Stepina

GREETERS: Karen Luebbe, Jasmine Keir

SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/5/26 EASTER SUNDAY

USHERS: Dale Mullen, Reed Mott, Scherrie Sanchez

COFFEE: Pat Haldorson

LITURGIST: Diane Milosevich

COMMUNION PREP: Tandy Penhale

ACOLYTE: Isabella DaMassa

VIDEO: Drew Penhale

SOUND: Rich Pool

GREETERS: Dave & Helen Steinberg, Nic Sanchez

April 1st, 2026 Stewardship Report

2026-2027 Budget	\$731,600
Year to Date Income	\$850
Year to Date Expenses	\$952
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.

Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge card committing to support the ministries and mission of First Pres. in the year ahead. We pray for God's blessings as we seek to "Love God, Love People."