



# e-News

April 15th, 2026

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

## A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

In Luke 24:13-35, we get to see what some will call “a walk to remember”. Jesus, unbeknownst to them, walks on the road to Emmaus with two of the men that are trying to make sense of what just happened. It is on this little walk that we get to observe the living word at work. It is in the presentation of the promises of God, in the questioning, and in the wonder that one’s heart is changed and transformed. It is not just about having the right information, but the way you process that information, the way you allow it to transform you. The saying that goes: “Garbage in- Garbage Out” comes to mind especially when I think about how important it is for the ones that have faith to keep an open mind, be open to conversation, and not just crystalize on the “old time religion”.

I know there are way too many “Quotation Marks” for a short message but I hope that this will stir up your curiosity for this coming Sunday.

Looking forward to being in worship with you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## Happening at 805 Western -

Too much for a regular week -that’s my headline for today. Midweek, Session, Funerals, Sunday Preparation, and a Mission trip coming up - this week has it all.

-**Summer Lunch Program** is coming. Please talk to Scherrie Sanchez about it at (815) 302-2752. More information further in this newsletter.

-**VBS** has a new week this year June 15-19th. Registration is open for participants and volunteers, link on our website homepage.

And much more to come... See you around!

## SOMETHING NEW COMING SOON

This May we will be debuting our new FPJ website. The new website will have all the same needed information as our current website, but in a way that more accurately reflects who we are as a church.

## 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 the Bossen family on the passing of Joyce. Her memorial service will be here at First Pres on Saturday, April 18 at 11am with visitation prior at 10:30am.

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 are extended to the Torres family upon the passing of their son Isaak. Isaak’s younger brothers are part of our Soar High program.

Congratulations to Nathan & Carol (Randolph) Wilhelms on the birth of Elijah Daniel on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 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

**4/29**—Last Soar High and Midweek for Spring

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

**5/27**—Graduate forms due

**6/3-8/13**—Summer Lunch Program (*pending volunteers*)

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

## GRADUATES BOARD

We are continuing our tradition of celebrating the graduates in our community. We collect submitted information and display a board in the Narthex to honor the accomplishments of these grads. We welcome those who graduate this spring, those who graduated last winter, graduates of any age, and those celebrating any sort of graduation including programs, certifications, trades, anything. You can submit graduate info via the form on our website homepage.

**Forms are due by May 27th.**

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

This is one last opportunity for you to submit your own photo for the new pictorial directory (upper body poses only). The fee for submitting is \$15. Photo submission form is on our website. Everyone who had a photo taken or submitted a photo will receive a free directory. If you did not do either, there will be an option to pre-order directories. More information soon.

## Children's Church Corner

**Faith Focus:** RESURRECTION— Jesus Gives Us New Life

**Lesson for Sun. 4/19:** Breakfast at the Beach

—John 21:1-19

**April 15th, 2026**

### Stewardship Report

<b>2026-2027 Budget</b>	\$731,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$26,012
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$33,125
<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.**

## SUMMER LUNCHES

June 3rd—August 13th

The Summer Lunch Program is in need of general volunteers, one for Mondays, and more food handling certified volunteers. Becoming certified just involves one virtual 3-hour class.

**Volunteers are crucial to this ministry continuing here at First Pres, so please pray and consider donating your time.**

Reach out to Scherrie Sanchez at (815) 302-2752 for more information or to join.



## 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?

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

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/19/26

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Lynn Kosowski, Pat Haldorson, Jasmine Keir

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Carol Kline

**ACOLYTE:** Jillian Penhale

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

**SOUND:** Rich Pool