



# e-News

April 22nd, 2026

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

## A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

Let me share with you something that just filled my heart with joy. Last Sunday after the service, someone came to me and said: Good sermon, I do not think I have heard that story in that way before. Now my first reaction was: I hope I did not ruin a good story. But then the more I thought about it, I found myself walking on that dusty road to Emmaus once again, and considered how easy it is for us to get lost in the familiar, and miss the wonder of Jesus.

This coming Sunday we will look at John 21, with the question: If Jesus was to speak to me today what would he say? Do you have fish? Are you ready for the work ahead? Do you know who I am? Looking forward to sharing with you this coming Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo

## Happening at 805 Western:

- **APNC** continues to meet and look at potential candidates. APNC will ask for your continued prayers as this process is proving once again that ministry is calling at times.

- **VBS registration** is live. both for kids and volunteers. Remember this year it is a week earlier in June, from the 15th-19th.

- The **Mission trip** is fast approaching. May 16th is around the corner, and I am happy to report that the team has a shopping day scheduled for purchasing the remaining things needed for the trip. We are looking forward to treating the kids to a birthday party and show them a little 1st Pres love :)

- On **May 10th** we will celebrate Mission and the Great Commission as the life line of the church.

## 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 and family as he has entered into hospice care, Sherry Jones, Nicole Celios (Scherrie Sanchez's daughter), and Barb Rodgers.

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>.

Andrea Warren appreciates the prayers on behalf of her daughter-in-law Nicole. She knows they have made an impact in Nicole's recovery.

## 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. 4/26:** The Great Commission  
—*Matthew 28:16-20*

## April 22nd, 2026 Stewardship Report

<b>2026-2027 Budget</b>	\$731,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$52,936
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$37,445
<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,
- Monetary donations are always welcome to help cover supply costs

## SUNDAY SERVANTS 4/26/26

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Jeff Lundeen, Maddox Lundeen, Nola Boyd

**COFFEE:** Al Brooks

**LITURGIST:** Bill Penhale

**ACOLYTE:** Isabella DaMassa

**VIDEO:** Drew Penhale

**SOUND:** Cliff Stepina