



# e-News

April 8th, 2026

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

## A Note from Lead Pastor Bo Mircea

The first Sunday after Easter is normally regarded as the Doubting Thomas Sunday. Don't get me wrong, but that sounds like a lot of creative freedom in taking a person's faith struggles and making an example out of it. There is no doubt in my mind (see what I did there?), that Thomas, in his struggle, is a great example of being given permission to doubt and struggle in our own faith. I would like to encourage you in the light of this coming Sunday, to join me and Thomas as we look at exploring the doubt and questions that grasp our faith or unfaith.

Looking forward to worship with you on this coming Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo.

## Happening at 805 Western:

- **Midweek** has three more weeks before Summer Break. So, do not miss the chance for a good meal and fellowship.
- **Dinner Out Group** is going to Vai's In Naperville on Thursday April 9 at 6pm. Reach out to Carol Kline to be included in the reservation. This is a fun group of people you want to get to know.
- **Big thank you** to all of you for your help and participation in the Lent and Holy Week services and ministry. It is always good to see 1st Pres being 1st Pres, and sharing and serving together.

## 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 Redman family on the passing of George. His memorial service will be here at First Pres on Saturday, April 11 at 11am with visitation prior at 10:30am.

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

## 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

- 4/8—Soar High and Midweek return
- 4/9— Dinner Out Group: Vai's Italian, Naperville @6pm
- 4/29—Last Soar High and Midweek for Spring
- 5/3—Oasis Brunch and Sister Act at Lewis University
- 6/15 -19— Vacation Bible School—Registration is Open!

## DINNER OUT GROUP

April 9th  
Vai's Italian  
In Naperville  
At 6pm

Contact Carol Kline to be included in the reservation.

## Children's Church Corner

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

**Lesson for Sun. 4/12:** The Emmaus Encounter  
—*Luke 24:13-35*

## April 8th, 2026 Stewardship Report

2026-2027 Budget	\$731,600
Year to Date Income	\$10,935
Year to Date Expenses	\$963
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 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."

## 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 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 4/12/26

**USHERS:** Ed Schultz, Reed Mott, Scherrie Sanchez

**COFFEE:** Sue Fordyce

**LITURGIST:** Marvin Balsley

**ACOLYTE:** Lillian Pritz

**VIDEO:** Todd Hayden

**SOUND:** Keith LeVasseur

**GREETERS:** Larry & Sanne Whitford, Jane Ferguson