



Jerusalem Presbyterian Church Newsletter

A Letter From Pastor Andy

Dear JPC family,

This year, this Christmas, is a rare one. December 25 falls on a Sunday. That is rare (statistically speaking it should happen once every seven years, but leap years throw off the math); this is my 19th Christmas as a pastor and the fourth time Christmas has fallen on a Sunday (2005, 2011, and 2016 being the others). I have seen many comments online lately about what to do about this situation. Many churches around the country, in all sorts of denominations, are choosing to not have worship on Christmas morning. “Christmas morning is a time for families,” some argue. “It’s a time where people need one less thing,” others say. “Churches can offer their families a gift by telling them to stay home,” is another common refrain.

The JPC worship committee, however, has decided to go in the opposite direction. Instead of offering the gift of telling people to stay home, we are offering the gift of a family-friendly-light-hearted-festive-fun service Christmas morning. I can think of no better place to celebrate the joy of the season than at church.

We recognize the Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service (*starting at 7:30pm*) is the formal Christmas service complete with the choir and the lighting of the candles, *Silent Night*, and *Joy to the World*. What will make Christmas morning different? **First of all, we are asking people to wear their pajamas. (Yes, we are serious about this.)** I will trade in my suit and tie for flannel pants and lounge wear. My robe for Sunday morning will be a bath robe. There will be no sermon, but I will read a Christmas story for the children and all who are young at heart. We will have a carol sing and enjoy each other’s company. (continues on page 2)

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Weekly Happenings

Mondays

9:00 am Women’s Coffee @ Black Canyon

Wednesdays

8:00am Men’s Breakfast @ Sunnyside Restaurant in Dousman

Thursdays

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service

10:45 am Children’s Sunday School

A Letter From Pastor Andy (cont. page 1)

Will you join us for worship on Christmas morning? Will you give an hour of your morning on Christmas Day to be with your church family? To reflect the joy of Christmas with each other? To celebrate our savior's birth with fun and festivities? I hope so.

May the Peace of Christ be with you this holiday season,

Pastor Andy



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering provides financial support through the Board of Pensions to church workers and their families. It also supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to provide education and leadership skills to communities of color. We will collect this offering on Christmas Day, December 25th.

During worship in this Advent Season, we will learn more about this offering with some "Minutes for Mission."

We have been generous in our support for the Presbyterian Special Offerings of the One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global witness this year. Consider "going to the well" one more time to support our retired church workers and provide a good education for students of color.

Financial Notes...

regular October income was 13,469

regular expenses were 19,224



ATTENTION Cookie Bakers....

To all the cookie bakers... a BIG THANK YOU for signing up to bake cookies for the Cookie Sale. If you haven't signed up you can still bake cookies!

All cookies should be brought to the church kitchen on **Friday, Dec. 9th between 9 -11 am**. If that does not work for you the church will be open on **Thursday, Dec. 8th between 7 – 8 pm**.

Be sure your cookies are **tightly covered** and are **labeled with your name and the name of /what kind of cookie**. Please check off your name on the sign-up sheet when you bring your cookies.

We will have a group at church on Friday morning arranging the cookies on trays to prepare for Saturday morning. ***If anyone is still interested in helping at the sale on Saturday, December 10th please check the sign-up sheet on the clipboard in the back of church. The more the merrier!***

If you have questions, or suggestions please contact Deb Bennett at 262-719-9425 or tdzfam3@yahoo.com.

Mission Committee 2022 Grants

At our November Committee Meeting, the Mission Committee decided to send grants again this year from the Jerusalem Mission Budget and Mission Trip Budget. It also allocated grants from the Book Sale Receipts (\$1639) and \$500 from the Benevolence Fund.

The following is a list of organizations which received grants this year:

1. \$1000 to be used to buy materials for Presbyterian Disaster Hygiene Kits which we will assemble in 2023 as we did this year.
2. \$400 to the Apostle Presbyterian Church in West Allis for their "Food for the Journey Project". They continue to provide food and clothing to those in need in their neighborhood throughout the year. We support their "Garden Project" with food grown at the plots at Kettle Moraine Presbyterian and our gardens.
3. \$400 for "Seed Money" for the 2023 "Food for the Journey Project". This money will be used to buy seeds and supplies for next year's garden plots. (continues on page 4)

Mission Committee 2022 Grants (continues)

4. \$500 for the Adaptive Community Approach Program (ACAP) in Waukesha.
5. \$500 for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission
6. \$500 for the Women’s Center in Waukesha.
7. \$1500 to the Waukesha Food Pantry (\$1000 from the Mission Budget and \$500 from the Benevolence Fund)
8. \$1000 to Presbyterian Mission to purchase animals for the people in third world countries to help them feed themselves. We purchased 1 Bee Keeping Kit, 2 families of 25 chickens each, 3 goats, and 5 piglets.

These grants are in addition to those made from the receipts from the Art Fair. At JPC we continue to support those in need in our local communities as well as those in the world.

Thank you for your support of the “Least of These”.



Happy Birthday!

4 Donna Mickle	13 Jim Morris
4 Michael Bjorgaard	15 David Carr
4 Stacey Bjorgaard	16 Linda Ravelo
6 William Agathan	17 Jim Chermak
8 Carolyn Harms	21 JoAnn Mayo
9 Tom Smith	23 Bill Schueller
11 Cindy Barder	25 John Kalix
11 Betty Schneible	27 Bill Peterson

Please let us know if you or someone else is not on the birthday list. We would like it to be as up to date as possible.

Meet the KIA's By: Jane Bauer

We know that Jerusalem Presbyterian is a small church in terms of congregation numbers, but we also know that it has a BIG heart, not just within the fellowship, but in the community and beyond into the world. I don't think this is just an accident, but is something baked into the very bones of members from their earliest years. It was reflected in the words of the Kids in Action (ie.KIAs) when they described JPC as small, but friendly, close knit, having great people, and quite a number of "old" people (Ha!). I can see that I need to educate them as to what constitutes "old" (ie. something that happens around age 100, right?).

As a group, the six of them have been raised in the faith as shown by their parents who have made a concerted effort to teach them the value of belonging to a loving community through Christian education and church attendance. This commitment has been further shown in parent effort to make sure that their children were baptized.

These are all things we know about the group, as a whole, but what do we know about each of these youth as individuals? After working with them for more than a year, I thought it was high time I introduced them to you.

Our sole Kettle Moraine High School student is Sydney Parsons. You would probably recognize her as having served as liturgist on a couple occasions, and helping serve refreshments at coffee hour (with coffee cake she made). You may be less aware that she also has served breakfast at the Hope Center and sold books at the church book sale. As all of the KIAs do, she has distributed treats for the Sunday school class, and worked with the receipts from Sentry to provide most of the money that the group uses to donate to outside organizations. When she isn't busy at JPC, Sydney is VERY active in sports, playing hockey, softball and lacrosse. She also participates in dance, work at Lifestriders, and in her spare time from all that, she plays piano and clarinet in the band. Sydney is someone you would want to have on your team when there is a competition. She's been a very able player when we have had Bible knowledge games with very little getting past her.

Three of the KIAs are middle schoolers. Chase (notice, Chase, that I remembered to use your correct name) Parsons is at Kettle Moraine Middle School. You will also have seen him in the pulpit as liturgist and hosting coffee hour. He has participated in the Christmas Eve service along with his brother Reece, who also attends KMMS. Although he has not been liturgist, you will recognize Reece as the one who announced to the congregation when together we put together \$1,500 for Restavek Freedom and as a coffee hour host. Both of these young men, like their sister, are heavily involved in hockey and baseball. Chase adds lacrosse to his resume and Reece volunteers at Lifestriders.

(continues on page 6)

Meet the KIA's (continued from page 5)

Both are involved in music, with Reece on the saxophone and Chase on the piano and trombone. It occurs to me that this family could have their own little trio going on. Guess we should ask them...

Our other middle schooler is Lily Schultz. Lily is part of the contingent at JPC that comes from Waukesha where she attends Les Paul Middle School. You will have seen her in the pulpit with me as liturgist, working, delivering food to people's cars at a church event and as hostess at coffee hour. She has participated in a little play put on for the congregation when we were looking for money for repairs to the church building and she played a significant role in the Christmas play for the congregation. She has currently joined the bell choir, a role that has her working regularly with adults in the congregation. Outside of JPC, Lily has played tennis and participated in dance. If you want someone who will notice changes, Lily is your person. And questions? That girl is a veritable repository for questions...and I love it! She makes me be sure that I have done my homework.

The two remaining KIAs are Makenzie Zywicki and Zachary Schultz. Makenzie attends Hawthorne Lab Elementary School and Zach goes to Hillcrest Elementary School. Both are fifth graders. You will have seen them in the same short play asking for money for church repairs and serving at coffee hour. Both are quite seasoned at working with Sentry receipts, collecting offering and passing out treats at class. Makenzie played the role of Mary in the Christmas play last year, (and spoiler alert) will play a big role in this year's play too. Interestingly, she never mentioned her acting in our survey, but she's got that going BIG TIME. Like Lily, Makenzie now plays in the bell choir, but outside of JPC she has been active in Tae Kwon Do and is loving to cook, much like her mom. Zach has that curious thing going for him. He can appear to be on another planet, but then he asks that inciteful question that lets you know he wasn't as far away as you thought. Athletically, Zach participates in track and field and admits to playing the guitar.

Impressed yet? If not, just ask any one of these young folks who Elimelech was and what the heck he and Naomi were doing in Moab. Now, you should be impressed!

Session Notes and Updates for November

The following is an abbreviated recap of some of the items that were discussed at the last session meeting (hybrid Zoom/in person) on November 9. Some related updated will be included.

Building & Grounds

A bid was secured from Meyer’s Electric to install a quad outlet in the Narthex. This was approved and has been completed.

Bids for replacement of the flat roof (addition) are between \$30,000 and \$35000. That least one more bid is expected. This project was not part of the Renewal initiative.

Suggested remediation for the boilers will be approximately \$1,200 and is scheduled to be done in December. The floor in the kitchen is heaving. This is not a new problem. Recommendations will be sought.

Although delayed, Norbert (Quaint Window Restoration) anticipates that some of the windows will be back in place soon. He will do some extra insulating in the meantime.

Personnel. The following items were presented by the personnel committee as a single motion which was passed.

Session form an IT committee.

Access to the computers in the pastor’s study and the office is to be limited exclusively to the pastor and the office assistant.

Purchase of a special speaker for the organ.

Develop a solution for storage of the digital storage of the music library.

An 8% increase for all JPC staff.

In addition, the need for job descriptions was discussed. Job descriptions for staff will be developed early in 2023.

Finance/Stewardship. The committee has reviewed several items that were presented at the previous meeting in the financial review committee report. Most of these items did not need formal action but rather needed clarification. A revised financial expenditures protocol was adopted. The committee recommended approval of the 2023 budget as proposed. Motion was approved by session.

Dave Carr will attend the next Presbytery Gathering at Living Hope PC on November 19 as JPC’s representative.

Using the Phone:	Using the Post:	Using the Web:
<p>The church office hours varies so please call first.</p> <p>The church phone number is: 262-968-3408 or Rev. Andrew Holmes at (414) 544-2188.</p>	<p><u>Our Location Address is:</u> Jerusalem Presbyterian Church 207 W. Main St. Wales, WI 53183</p> <p><u>Our Mailing Address is:</u> Jerusalem Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 88 Wales, WI, 53183</p>	<p>To send an email to the pastor revandrewholmes@gmail.com</p> <p>To send an email to the church secretary: jpcsec@jerusalem Presbyterian.org</p> <p>Visit our website for more information: jpcwales.org</p>

Advent 2022 Greetings From Sarasota

Dear friends and family

Biggest News-We relocated from Independent Living to Assisted Living here.

Barbara J. Stephenson

Dr. Margaret E. Towner

Our new address: 7377 Scotland Way, Apt. 6203, Sarasota, FL 34238

A tumultuous year adjusting to life's many changes:

a nation recovering from Covid;

major disruption of life-moving May 4th;
downsizing decisions what to keep and what to donate;
still trying to find where the movers put things;
the loss of independence upon selling Toyota Siena Van-
fortunately Barb's grand nephew needed a larger car;

two tragic hurricanes-Ian and Nicole/ a month without telephone;

increasing loss of civility in general communications;
rise of hate groups fueled by a sore loser President who neither
understands nor honors our Constitution
seeking to overturn the election of 2020
by inciting an attack on the Capitol Jan. 6;
learning a new way of communicating-Zooming-
P.E.O., Presbytery, Clergywomen, Families;
using Amazon for essentials;

For 2023 sing *What the world needs now is love... that*
all may follow the Old Testament Prophet Micah's challenge in 6:8:-
What does the Lord require of you, O Mortal, do justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with our our God.

Blessing Peace Hope Love

Barb

Marg

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 88 207 Main St.
Wales, WI 53183