



Jerusalem Presbyterian Church

November Newsletter

A Letter From Pastor Andy

Dear JPC family and friends,

“We should use AI to write the stewardship letter,” Larry said. I was confused and hesitant. *“How did the finance chair know anything about artificial intelligence? Where did this idea come from? He knows I write things all the time, right?”* were the initial thoughts in my mind.

But Larry Bartz then explained that earlier in the year, when he was on an Honor Flight, he received a stack of letters from people writing about how his military service was important to them. One such letter was from Larry’s son-in-law, who had used AI to help him draft the letter. Larry was so impressed and curious he suggested using AI to write the letter for our annual campaign.

The letter going out this week is rooted from ChatGPT, a prominent open-source artificial intelligence program, though it is heavily edited. I understand some of the ethical challenges with using such technology, and yet I appreciate that the church needs to stay relatively current with possible advancements. I’m not sure what uses we will have for AI going forward—I cannot see ever using it for sermon writing—but it is another tool to have in the ministry toolbox.

When I look around at how the church has been changed by technology, I see mostly blessings. Our YouTube worship videos have brought visitors to JPC and have connected those members and friends who cannot attend worship to their church family. The choir begins learning new music by using web links for choir members to hear the music as they practice at home. The weekly eblast communicates information easier and faster than just the monthly newsletter. Our social media presence on Facebook does the same.

Many people, me included, give electronically to JPC through the website by using the technology provided by the Presbyterian Foundation. We also collect funds at events through a Square card reader, and in the next few weeks we will be registered as a non-profit through PayPal to collect using Venmo.

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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

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service

A Letter From Pastor Andy (cont. page 1)

Our new Technology and Marketing Committee, in connection with the Deacons, will be rolling out volunteer sign-ups over Signup Genius in the coming months so people who don't visit the clipboards in the narthex regularly can sign up for church events.

We are living in different times than even a decade ago (not to mention thirty or forty years ago) and we have many new avenues available to us. Some uses of technology will fade, but others will permanently change the fabric of JPC. The only way of knowing what category things fit in is by trial and error. If you have any suggestions for technology or questions, you can ask me, Office Admin Bruce Parker, or our Technology and Marketing chair, Karen Potratz.

May this month be one of giving thanks and peace,

Pastor Andy

Get Ready For SignUpGenius

Many of you have already heard about a new option to sign up online for church events and volunteer opportunities. Work is underway to make this option a reality. Our traditional "clipboard" system still will be available in the back of the church. But starting this month, you will have the opportunity to sign up through SignUpGenius, an easy-to-use website and mobile app. By using this online system, you can sign up for activities even if you are unable to come to church. If you forget what you signed up for, you can easily check online. SignUpGenius also incorporates email reminders of what you signed up for.

Want to know more? After church on Sunday, Nov. 19, Deb Bennett will be available to answer your questions and help you create a SignUpGenius account.

Want to get started now? Download the mobile app or go to this page on [SignUpGenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com). Then enter this email address under [Search for a Sign Up](#): jpcoffice207@gmail.com. If you don't see "Search for a Sign up" click the magnifying glass icon at the upper right of the screen.

Soon you can expect to get emails inviting you to sign up for specific events through SignUp Genius. Several church members report that SignUpGenius is an easy way to volunteer for Three Pillars and other community activities. We're confident you'll have the same experience signing up for JPC events.

If you have questions please contact Deb Bennett (262-719-9425) or Karen Potratz (262-470-3709). Thank you!

Session Notes From October 2023

The following is an abbreviated recap of some of the business items discussed at the last two session meetings (hybrid Zoom/in person) on September 13 and October 11.

September 13 motions:

- To approve the minutes of the July 12 session meeting. Approved.
- To accept Linda Coakley's resignation from the session. Approved with regret.
- To remove 33 individuals from the active membership list. Approved.
- To approve ministry descriptions for 1) organist/pianist, 2) choir accompanist, and 3) director of music. Approved.
- To apply for a not-for-profit PayPal account for JPC. Approved.

September 13 other business:

- Communion served in August was 60 and in September was 56.
- Deceased: Frank Badciong.
- Deacons will serve an after-service lunch on October 1 and provide information about what the deacons do.
- Session committees are reminded to start budget preparations.
- Pastor Andy will meet with prospective confirmation parents.
- The JPC Golf Outing and Picnic held in August was successful.
- Efforts to improve the website were discussed. Continued discussion of securing a Venmo account to help handle money at the fundraisers. The use of SignUpGenius was proposed to be used for volunteer sign up in addition to the clipboard system.
- Five binders of church records were sent to Philadelphia for safe storage in the Presbytery Historical Record Archive.
- The 2022 session records were approved by the Presbytery.
- Dave Carr will attend the September Presbytery as the commissioner for JPC.
- Four listening sessions will be held to gather input from members with a focus on fundraising and mission efforts.

October 11 motions:

- To approve the minutes of the September 13 session meeting. Approved.
- To remove eight names from the active membership list. Approved.
- To allow the clerk access and use of the church computer. Tabled.
- To accept the snowplowing proposal for the upcoming winter. Approved.
- To hire Bruce Parker for the position of office administrator. Approved.

October 11 other business:

- Quaint Restoration anticipates finishing the windows by the end of October.



Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County

This year there are 3000 Waukesha County children qualifying for Christmas Clearing Council sponsorship. The need is higher than ever. Jerusalem Presbyterian Church congregation will sponsor 10 children. In mid November, look for a small Christmas tree in the rear of the church, with paper ornaments specifying the gifts requested for children we are sponsoring. We commit to purchasing a minimum of \$75 in gifts for each sponsored child. Each gift request will have a value of \$25, so each child will receive 3 gifts. These gifts will need to be wrapped, tagged and returned to the church by Sunday, December 3. Additional cash gifts can be used to purchase grocery cards for the families, or for gift cards for older children. Refer questions to Cindy Freer (262)370-8787.

Ernie Glenn Toy Store

In memory of Pastor Ernie Glenn, Christ Church in Milwaukee organizes and runs a free “shopping” experience for needy families in Milwaukee. The families can come and choose gifts for their children aged birth to 12. Jerusalem Presbyterian always enjoyed when Pastor Ernie came to preach at our church. We honor the memory of Ernie Glenn, and help our Milwaukee community by supporting the Christ Church toy drive. In 2022, 600 children received gifts from the toy “store”. The families expressed much appreciation for the ability to provide gifts for their children.

Please bring **NEW UNWRAPPED** TOYS, GAMES, MITTENS OR HATS for ages birth to 12 years. These items can be placed into the bin marked “Ernie Glenn Toy Store” located in the back of the narthex. If you’d prefer to contribute money and want others to do the shopping, that is an option also.

All donations are due by Sunday December 3.

Any questions can be directed to Sue Snyder (262)370-8144

Using the Phone:

The church office hours are Tuesday sand Thursdays from 9AM to 1PM

The church phone number is: **262-968-3408** or Rev. Andrew Holmes at **(414) 544-2188**.

Using the Post:

Our Location Address is:
Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
207 W. Main St.

Wales, WI 53183

Our Mailing Address is:

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 88

Wales, WI, 53183

Using the Web:

To send an email to the pastor
revandrewholmes@gmail.com

To send an email to the church secretary:
jpcsec@jerusalemprbyterian.org

Visit our website for more information:
jpcwales.org

CALLING ALL BAKERS ...We need YOUR help!!

Last year we sold more than 300 dozen cookies by 11am! JPC's Annual Christmas Cookie Sale will be held on Saturday, December 9th in correlation with "Christmas in Wales." Cookie drop off will be Thursday, Dec. 7th in evening and Friday, Dec. 8th in morning. Many homemade Christmas cookies are needed, so now is the time to get out your cookie recipes and choose your favorite to share. All bakers are asked to bake 6-7 dozen cookies of the same kind, not three dozen of one kind and two dozen of another.

Please sign up on the clipboard at church to be a baker be sure to take an "Important Information for Cookie Bakers" sheet. Everyone's participation allows us to offer a large selection of wonderful Christmas cookies to the community and send 100% of the proceeds to the Kettle Moraine Food Panty.



If you have questions, or suggestions please contact Deb Bennett at

262-719-9425 or tdzfam3@yahoo.com.



Ready to get into the holiday spirit? Want to spend some time with your church family? Then Hanging of the Greens is the event for you! We are excited to have our annual pizza and decorating party on Friday, November 24th at 5:00. It is fun for the whole family. The children will help decorate the "Children's Christmas Tree," while others will hang wreaths and other holiday cheer. Please rsvp so we are able to have plenty of food for all of our JPC elves.

The JPC Deacons created and donated a basket for the Hope Center Gala silent auction. If you attend the Hope Center Gala (November 16), look for the basket featuring fun makings for Bloody Marys. Proceeds go to the Hope Center for outreach to women, children and men in need in Waukesha County.



1 Andy Holmes

1 Jack Muzzey

1 Marion Rees

2 Dave Kilpatrick

3 Dan Potratz

5 Doris Murphy

6 Dick Meloy

16 Dave Christanson

16 Devon Copeland

16 Pete Peterson

25 Janet Madden

25 Herthel Stephens

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