



# JERUSALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## February Newsletter

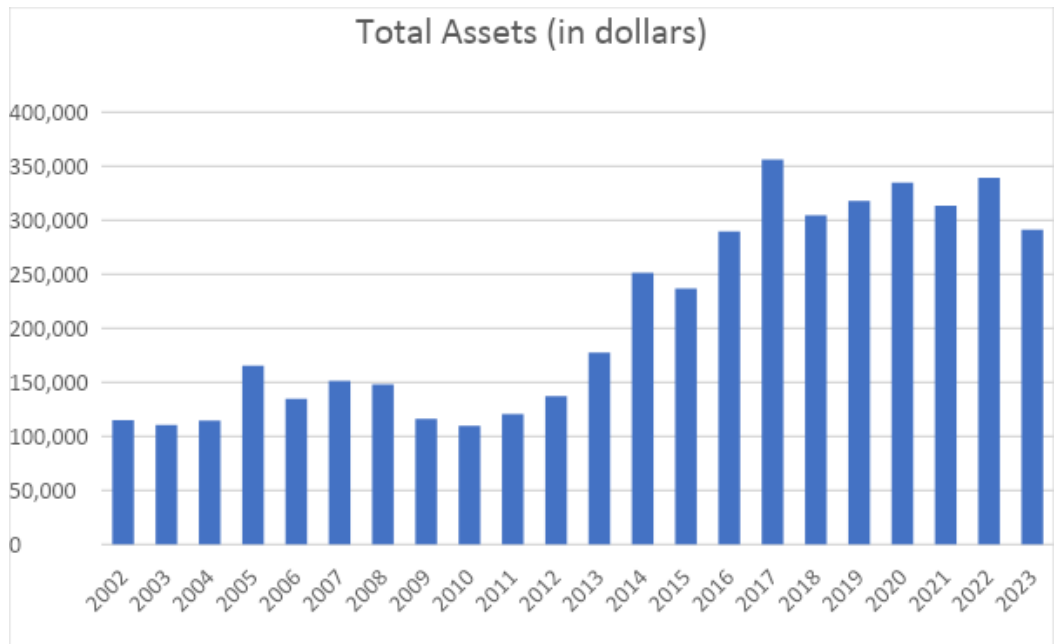
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### A Letter From Pastor Andy

Dear JPC Family and Friends,

Over the past few days, I have reflected upon the financial conversation from last Sunday's annual meeting. Paul Beil commented on the amount of JPC reserves (or total assets), specifically that it had fallen below \$300,000 for the first time in a number of years. I thought our reserves had been relatively consistent during my pastorate, but to be sure I read through the stack of annual reports in the office. Once I had started, I found digging deeper helped give the recent historical context. Here is a chart showing the year-end assets from every year between the end of the six-point parish to today:



### 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* Continued

As I look over this chart, I see a few things that stand out. First, Paul was correct: the assets had not been below \$300,000 in over half a decade. Secondly, there seem to be three distinct eras of JPC reserves, post-parish: when the assets were flat in the low \$100,000's (2002-c. 2010), a dramatic rise in assets (2010-c. 2016), and a time of flat assets around \$300,000(2016-current). Third, this chart shows that the assets are not static from year to year. There are trends, to be sure, but the number bounces around, too. Up and down, up and down. I do not look at this and see a trend line down. 2023 could be the start of a negative trend, but it might not be.

More importantly, in putting this chart together I have a greater appreciation for what this chart does not reveal: a global pandemic. Two capital campaigns. Three installed pastorates with two interim pastorates along the way. Many baptisms and funerals, Easters full of balloons and candlelight Christmas Eves, confirmation classes and mission activities, Christmas parties and fundraisers of all shapes and sizes. And—possibly most significant—this chart only encapsulates 12% of JPC's 182-year (and counting) existence.

Yes, we spent a fair amount of assets in 2023: we finished the window restoration and put a new rubber roof on the 1990's edition. The window framing should be good for the next generation—hopefully 30-50 years—and the rubber roof should be good for at least 20 years. These projects were part of the latest capital campaign, along with replacing the air conditioner and resealing the parking lot in 2022. Most of the monies given for that campaign were donated in 2021 and 2022 (with the original seed gift given in 2019 if my memory recalls); the year-end assets chart does not reflect that because the capital campaign was a project that ran almost five years total.

Where does this leave my thoughts on this? Church finances are important, and I am grateful for people who keep a watchful eye. I am also very grateful for all of us who give financially to the church. But through all of this I am reminded that the mission and ministry of JPC is more than what the financial numbers can articulate. They are one metric of church health and sustainability, but they are not the only one. Sometimes I think the annual meeting focuses too much on finance and not enough on the other parts that make Jerusalem Presbyterian Church the wonderful family, community, and place that it is. As we begin a new year of church leadership, the session will continue this conversation of what the finances mean, how to assure JPC's sustainability, and how to place these things on the broader context of what God is calling and claiming for us.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Andy



## *Music Opportunities at JPC*

The JPC Ding Dongs will begin rehearsing on February 11th after the worship service and every Sunday after that until we perform in March. Don't know how to read music? No worries! Nathan will teach you along the way.

The Chancel Choir has started rehearsals, but that does not mean that you cannot join in on the fun! Rehearsals are every Thursday at 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

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## *First Annual Indoor Clean Up & Purge*

is on Saturday March 2nd



We'll start at 9:00AM until we are finished. Sally and I will bring donuts and make coffee. I'm recruiting "team captains" for: Kitchen, Pantry, Nursery, Storage room (where old paint is).

If you have something at JPC come and get it by the end of Feb or it will be thrown away on March 2nd. (just don't move it to another location at JPC)

Please contact Dave Christiansen if you have any questions or want to be a team captain.

# Session Notes From January 2024

The following is an abbreviated recap of some of the business items discussed at the last session meeting (hybrid Zoom/in person) on January 10, 2024.

## January 2024 Motions:

- To approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023, session meeting. **Approved.**
- That the chair of the Finance Committee and the Treasurer be authorized to reinvest JPC funds as they come due. **Motion passed.** (Paul Muzzy will no longer be managing the reinvestments of JPC funds.)

## January 2024 Other Business:

- Paper ballots were requested for the Annual Meeting voting.
- The Statistical Report was submitted to the Presbytery.
- The Financial Review Committee report is not complete. Hopefully, it will be available for the February Session Meeting. It was suggested that this process be started much sooner in the year.
- The date for the inside cleanup event has not yet been set.
- Two youths are participating in the confirmation program.
- The directory (PDF format) will be out within the week. Please forward corrections to Nathan.
- The Habitat for Humanity work group continues to be active with onsite building work and commitment to working at the Restore center.
- Hygiene kit preparation will be in February after Sunday service.
- Lisa Heckman, Transitional Executive Presbyter of the Milwaukee Presbytery joined the Session meeting. She asked the following questions at the end of the meeting: 1) One word to describe JPC? 2) Where do you see God? 3) What do we (JPC) need?

Next session meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024.

# Habitat for Humanity Happenings

We have two HFH events scheduled for February:

Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> we will be volunteering at the Restore Center from 10 am to 11 pm. (This is an indoors activity)

Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> we will be volunteering at the HFH construction site. (This is an unheated indoors activity at the HFH construction site)

Habitat for Humanity has created a special site for JPC volunteer registration.

<https://habitatwaukesha.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/jpc>

New volunteers should go to the site, register, go to the activity calendar, select the activity you want to register for and click on the blue registration box.

Repeat volunteers should go to the site, sign in, go to the activity calendar and choose the activity(s) you are registering for.



*Habitat impacts every area of a family's life – health, safety, educational outcomes, and financial opportunity. The impact grows with each generation. Similarly, affordable homeownership opportunities contribute to the local workforce allowing businesses to grow and help the county, regional, and state economy flourish.*

*Local businesses, churches, and individuals like YOU are vital partners in our work to build our community and help empower our homeowners to achieve a hand-up, not a hand-out.*



8 Chase Parsons  
8 Reese Parsons  
15 Kelly Parsons  
23 Karen Brewer

23 Sue Chandler  
26 Karen Csavoy  
27 Maragret Wieland

<b>Using the Phone:</b> The church office hours are Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:30AM to 12PM The church phone number is: <b>262-968-3408</b> or Rev. Andrew Holmes can be reached at <b>(414) 544-2188.</b>	<b>Using the Post:</b> <u>Our Location Address is:</u> Jerusalem Presbyterian Church 207 W. Main St. Wales, WI 53183 <u>Our Mailing Address is:</u> Jerusalem Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 88 Wales, WI, 53183	<b>Using the Web:</b> To send an email to the pastor <a href="mailto:revandrewholmes@gmail.com">revandrewholmes@gmail.com</a>  To send an email to the church Office Administrator Bruce Parker at <a href="mailto:jpcsec@jerusalempresbyterian.org">jpcsec@jerusalempresbyterian.org</a>  Visit our website for more information: at <a href="http://jpcwales.org">jpcwales.org</a> and also view YouTube for past Sunday Worship Services and other special life events.
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