

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church

May 2026 Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Andy

Dear JPC members and friends,

Welcome to May! May is a wonderful time in worship with a different celebration almost every week. This May has five Sundays, and four of the five have celebrations or commemorations of some kind. May 10 is Mother's Day and May 17 is Confirmation Sunday. On May 24 we will celebrate Pentecost and remember those in our church family who have died in the past year. On the final day of May, we will celebrate our graduates. *(If you know of any graduates connected to the JPC family, please let either Education Elder Cindy Barder or me know.)*

With the hectic, wonderful intensity of May worship also comes big feelings. All these events mark life changes: from childhood into adolescence (confirmation), from adolescence into adulthood (baccalaureate), to becoming a parent (Mother's Day) to how our time in this world ends (Memorial Sunday). All of these can include feelings of joy, and yet they also can include feelings of pain and grief.

This dichotomy is most pronounced on Mother's Day. On that Sunday I make a point of celebrating all women, as all have nurtured others in many ways. Many people struggle with Mother's Day from either fertility issues to strained or absent relationships with their mothers or their children. Family can be tough. Life can be tough. The last thing I want is for the church to unintentionally add to the burdens of people who are already hurting.

I hope we have a wonderful month of worship and celebrations at JPC. And I want us to honor each other; honor those who celebrate, those who grieve, and those who are in between. For all of worship goes to the glory of God.

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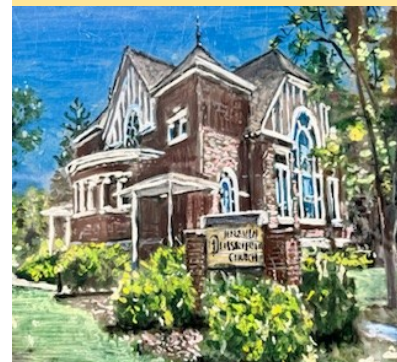
Weekly Happenings

Mondays: 9am Women's Coffee at Black Canyon in Wales

Wednesdays: 8am Men's Breakfast at Sunnyside Up in Dousman

Sundays: 9:30am Worship Service

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A Message from Pastor Andy continued

See you in worship,

Pastor Andy

PS. The one Sunday I did not mention—this Sunday, May 3—is the day of the listening session after worship. The session hopes people stick around to give input regarding the future priorities and mission of JPC. We will also be talking about the current financial realities facing the congregation, especially the replacement of the roof.

The Annual JPC Chicken BBQ

Fire Up the Grills — It's Barbecue Time!

Our **Annual Chicken Barbecue** is right around the corner, and we're gearing up for one of the biggest, tastiest traditions of the year!

For just **\$18**, guests will enjoy a hearty plate featuring **½ chicken, homemade potato salad, fresh coleslaw, a dinner roll, and a slice of homemade pie**. It's comfort, community, and classic JPC hospitality all in one meal.

But to make this event shine, **we need volunteers** — and lots of them!

Here's where you can jump in:

- **Grillers & Chicken Crew** – Early risers unite! Fire-up begins **Saturday, June 20 at 6 AM**
- **Potato Salad Team** – Chopping, mixing, assembling on **Friday, June 19**
- **Coleslaw Makers** – Help prep one of our signature sides **Saturday June 20th at 9am**
- **Pie Bakers** – Homemade pies are the heart of this meal
- **Pie Slicers & Packers** – Bring pies to church **Friday, June 19** for slicing & container prep
- **Cleanup Crew** – The unsung heroes who help us finish strong

Serving Day: Saturday, June 20 • 11:00 AM – 4:30ish (Rain or shine!) Come for an hour or stay for the day — every pair of hands makes a difference.

This barbecue is more than a fundraiser; it's a celebration of fellowship, teamwork, and the joy of serving our community. If you can lend your time, your recipe, your grill skills, or your elbow grease, we'd be grateful to have you on the team.

Let's make this year's barbecue our best (and most delicious) yet!



Deacon Update

With grateful hearts, we share the ways our Deacon Ministry has been blessed to serve throughout this past month. Your generosity, prayers, and steady encouragement continue to strengthen the care we offer to our congregation and our neighbors. We were honored to serve 55 guests at the Hope Center Breakfast, offering a warm breakfast and a warm welcome to each person who came through the door. We sent 14 cards of support and encouragement to members of our congregation, reminding them that they are held in love, prayer, and community. We also reinvigorated our Prayer Chain, renewing this vital ministry of intercession and connection within our church family. We extend our deepest thanks for your enthusiastic response to our “Spring Into Action” Hope Center Drive. Because of your kindness, we collected:

13 deodorants	36 pairs of women’s socks	1 pair of women’s shoes	5 insect repellents	8 body washes
14 rain ponchos	28 pairs of men’s socks	4 toothbrushes	8 bars of soap	7 travel shampoos
2 umbrellas	4 pairs of men’s shoes	18 tubes of toothpaste	2 sunscreens, 2 creams	1 laundry detergent



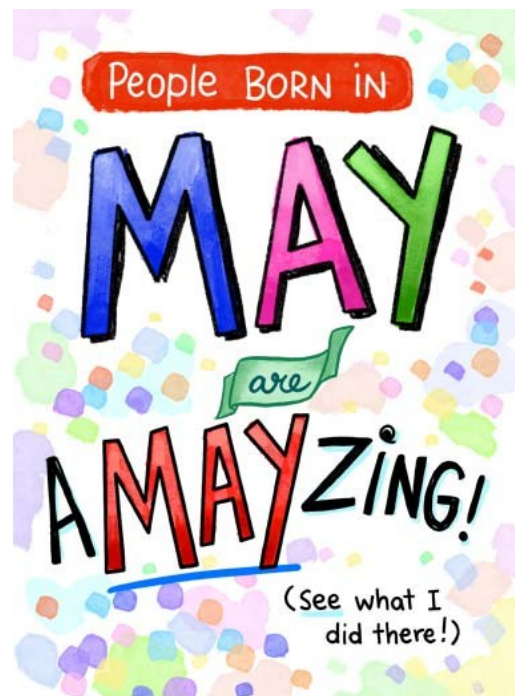
These gifts will directly support individuals facing hardship, offering comfort, dignity, and hope in very real and practical ways. Thank you for stepping forward with such generosity.

As always, we are profoundly grateful for the compassion, faithfulness, and joyful spirit that shine so brightly in our church family. If you or someone you know is in need of care, prayer or support, please reach out—we are here to serve.

With heartfelt appreciation, The Deacon Team

May Birthdays

3rd Patti Bjorgaard	16th Nettie Sadler
3rd Wayne Bjorgaard	17th Nancy Rees
5th Marnie Roberts	17th Bev Wilke
7th Lily Schultz	21st Kyle O’Connell
10th Thea Ragatz	25th Laura Pogorzelski
11th Claudia Schueller	29th Bruce Parker
16th Larry Bartz	



H4H ReStore Happenings

Come join in the fun, and meet the community!
ReStore Center: Saturday May 9th from 10:00am-1:00pm

Jerusalem has signed up to work at the Habitat for Humanity Restore Center on the second Saturday of each month from 10am until 1pm. Our duties include stocking donated items out on the sales floor, unloading donated items as they are brought in, helping customers load purchased items into their vehicles and straightening out items on the sales floor. To sign up and volunteer, go to the site below or speak with Jerry Gapinski.

<https://vhub.at/jpc>



Million Dollar Quartet at The Fireside



June 21, Sunday, Mid-day, dinner 3:00 PM, show 5:00 PM
Come listen to the music of Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis. Entrees include: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Grilled Red Snapper, Beef Short Ribs and Vegetarian Stuffed Bell Peppers.

If you are interested in attending this dinner/show at the Fireside, please fill out the following attachment sent with this newsletter and email it to Christi Kilpatrick at cdkilpat@gmail.com.
A payment of \$82 per ticket is due to Christi no later than May 24th.

Artist Applications Open

Applications are now open for artists who wish to exhibit at the 2026 Donna Lexa Memorial Art Fair on Sat., Aug. 22 at Wales Community Park. If you know any artists in our local area and beyond, please encourage them to apply. The application form can be found at www.donnalexamemorialartfair.org or contact Pam MacArthur for more information. Deadline to apply is May 15.



The Donna Lexa Memorial Art Fair is a wonderful community event sponsored each year by Jerusalem Presbyterian Church. It is dedicated to the memory of Donna Lexa, a JPC member and art therapist who died in a car accident. The event is a joyful remembrance of Donna's spirit, built around fine arts and crafts, music, food and fun!

Summer Garden Party



You're Invited to our first Church Garden Party!

June 24, 2026 • 5–7pm at the home of Dave & Dawn Carr

Come enjoy a summer evening surrounded by friends, flowers, and good times! Bring your own food, drinks and chairs and settle in for a couple of hours of easy conversation, laughter, and community. It's a simple gathering with a simple goal: to enjoy God's creation and one another.

We'd love to see you there and hope you'll join us for this lovely night in the garden.

General Assembly Luncheon at JPC

The 227th Presbyterian General Assembly will be in Milwaukee June 22 through July 2, 2026. The members of JPC will be hosting a luncheon for Presbyterian Church USA on Sunday June 28th. There will be more details about how you may assist this event coming up this month.



Session Update

Here is a summary of the business items discussed at the April 8 session meeting.

April 8 motions:

- To approve the minutes of the March 11 session meeting. **Approved.**
- To approve the minutes of the March 22 special session meeting. **Approved.**
- To approve the minutes of the March 22 Congregational meeting. **Approved.**

April 8 other business:

- Twelve people have been contacted inquiring about their interest in remaining on the JPC active membership list.
- Second reading of a draft of the required anti-racism policy. Discussion will continue at the next regular meeting.
- Roof replacement is expected to start near the end of April.
- A listening session is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2026, following Sunday service.

Next session meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2026.

Journey Garden Facelift

The early April preparations to ready the Journey Garden for another season of bountiful harvests of fresh vegetables have been completed. Nitrogen fertilizer was added following soil tests at the UW-Madison Laboratory. Eighteen bags of mushroom compost was also added to amend the soil. A newly installed underground drip watering system will help supplement the weekly watering done by volunteers. Tomato plants have been started in peat pots and the seeds have been purchased. Members from all the Presbyterian churches in our area joined seven members from JPC to complete these crucial tasks.

We would like to invite some new volunteers for phase two which begins on May 15th and 18th to help plant (weather permitting). Please contact Dave Carr or Linda Ravelo with questions. Thank you.



JPC Garden Gossip

Our church gardens vibrates with the joy as the season begins. Have you smelled the hyacinths? The magic happens this time every spring when three things transpire.

1. The temperature soars to 80 degrees and cools down overnight.
2. The rain comes (but not normally fourteen inches in a week).
3. The Green Thumb volunteers put on their gloves and remove the winter debris

Thank you to the twelve members and friends who help to make the magic come alive during the spring clean up on April 11th.

Hope Center Breakfast & Dinner in June



Monthly we are looking for volunteers to help out with the Hope Center Breakfast that is the first Thursday of every month. This also includes two evening events that we supply homemade desserts and beverages.

We have two opportunities in June where you can help serve those less fortunate who live in our communities: The Hope Center Breakfast on Thur., Jun. 4th at 8:30am and The Hope Center Dinner on Wed., Jun. 10 at 5pm.

Please sign up on both sign sheets located in the narthex to help out. Thank you.

Our Location Address:

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
207 W Main St., Wales, WI 53183

Our Mailing Address:

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
PO Box 88, Wales, WI 53183

Our Phone Numbers:

Church Phone 262-968-3408

Rev. Holmes 414-544-2188

Our e-Mail Addresses:

Pastor Andrew Holmes:
revandrewholmes@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Bruce Parker
jpcoffice207@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Pastor Andrew Holmes: Wednesday's 9am-12 noon and Thursdays 10am-1pm

Admin. Bruce Parker: Tuesdays 9am-11am and Thursdays 9am-Noon

JPC Website & YouTube

JPC Website: Visit us for more information on the web at jpcwales.org.

YouTube Steaming Live Church Services:

Every Sunday morning starting at 9:30am with a posting every Monday.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jerusalem+presbyterian+church)

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